

Kathmandu University

Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Buddhist Studies with Himalayan Language

Program Course Description

Approved 2007



Kathmandu, Nepal

Kathmandu University

Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Buddhist Studies with Himalayan Language

DURATION OF STUDY

Three or four years (six or eight semesters)

Semester I – first week of September to third week of December

Semester II – second week of January to fourth week of April

Semester III – first week of May to third week of August

ADMISSION

Candidates with second division in any Intermediate or equivalent degree (High School) are eligible to apply for the program.

Eligible candidates may apply to Kathmandu University - Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, by filling in the appropriate online application forms. (www.cbs.edu.np)

VENUE

The program is administered at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, Boudhanath, Kathmandu.

COURSES

To be awarded the BA degree, students must complete a total of 90 credit units¹ from the following categories:

Buddhist Religion and Philosophy - a minimum of 51 credit units from the following courses:

- ◆ Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I-II - 6 credits each.
- ◆ Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I-IV - 6 credits each.
- ◆ Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine I-IV - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I-II - 3 credits each.
- ◆ History of Buddhism in Asia - 3 credits (*compulsory*).
- ◆ Buddhism and Development - 3 credits.
- ◆ Nepalese Religious Cultures - 3 credits.

Himalayan Language - a minimum of 30 credit units from the following courses:

- ◆ Nepali I - 3 credits (*compulsory*).
- ◆ Nepali II - 3 credits.
- ◆ Classical Tibetan I-IV - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Colloquial Tibetan I-IV - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Sanskrit I-IV - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Translation Project I-II - 3 credits each

¹ Student credit expressed as a mathematical fraction of the full student workload per academic year equivalent to 30/30. The individual figures correspond to the numerator of the fraction x/30.

To be awarded the BA (Honours) Degree, students must complete an additional total of 30 credit units from the following categories:

Buddhist Religion and Philosophy - a minimum of 24 credit units from the following courses:

- ◆ Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics
- 6 credits each.
- ◆ Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Himalayan Buddhist Ritual and Meditation Practices - 6 credits.
- ◆ Buddhist Philosophical Discourse III - 3 credits.
- ◆ Buddhist Art - 3 credits.
- ◆ Political History of the Himalayan Region - 3 credits.
- ◆ Methodology - 3 credits (*compulsory*).
- ◆ BA Dissertation - 12 credits (*compulsory*).

Himalayan Language - a minimum of 3 credit units from the following courses:

- ◆ Nepali II - 3 credits.
- ◆ Sanskrit I-V - 3 credits each
- ◆ Classical Tibetan I-IV - 3 credits each.
- ◆ Colloquial Tibetan I-IV - 3 credits each.

Please Note: Not all courses are offered each semester.

SUGGESTED COURSE OUTLINE - BA PROGRAM

Year 1

	Code	Course	Credits
Semester I	BSTD 102	Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I	6
	TLAN 101	Classical Tibetan I	3
	TLAN 103	Colloquial Tibetan I	3
	BSTD 101	History of Buddhism in Asia	3
		Total credits	15

Semester II	BSTD 103	Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II	6
	TLAN 102	Classical Tibetan II	3
	TLAN 104	Colloquial Tibetan II	3
	NLAN 101	Nepali I	3
		Total credits	15

Year 2

	Code	Course	Credits
Semester III	BSTD 201	Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I	6
	BSTD 203	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine I/ Nepalese Religious Cultures	3
	BSTD 205		
	TLAN 201	Classical Tibetan III	3
	NLAN 201	Nepali II	3
	SLAN 201	Sanskrit I	
TLAN 203	Colloquial Tibetan III		
		Total credits	15

Semester IV	BSTD 202	Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II	6
	BSTD 204	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine II	3
	TLAN 202	Classical Tibetan IV	3
	SLAN 201	Sanskrit I	3
	SLAN 202	Sanskrit II	
	TLAN 204	Colloquial Tibetan IV	
		Total credits	15

Year 3

	Code	Course	Credits
Semester V	BSTD 301	Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics III	6
	BSTD 303 BSTD 307	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine III/Buddhism and Development	3
	BSTD 305	Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I	3
	TRNS 301	Translation Project I	3
		Total credits	15
Semester VI	BSTD 302	Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics IV	6
	BSTD 304	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine IV	3
	BSTD 306	Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II	3
	TRNS 302	Translation Project II	3
		Total credits	15

Year 4 - BA (HONORS) PROGRAM

	Code	Course	Credits
Semester VII	BSTD 401	Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy & Hermeneutics V	6
	BSTD 403	Himalayan Buddhist Ritual and Meditational Practices	
	BSTD 402	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine V	3
	SLAN 201 SLAN 202 NLAN 201	Sanskrit I Sanskrit II Nepali II	3
	BSTD 404	Buddhist Philosophical Discourse III	
	BSTD 406 BSTD 405	Political History of the Himalayan Region/ Buddhist Art	3
		Total credits	15
Semester VIII	BSTD 407	Methodology	3
	BSTD 408	BA Dissertation (Individual research project)	12
		Total credits	15

philosophical topics and their relations to the broader field of Buddhist studies. The courses allow students to deepen the understanding developed in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics I & II and apply more nuanced analyses of the primary source texts studied. Course readings in Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics are primarily classical Indian treatises and their Indo-Tibetan commentaries in areas such as Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra thought. While studying specialized topics of Buddhist philosophy, students are encouraged to relate the material to larger perspectives within the context of contemporary philosophical issues.

Prerequisites: BSTD 103 - Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II.

Course Requirements: Each course requires two written tests and one paper at the end of the term.

BSTD 203	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine I	3 Cr.
BSTD 204	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine II	3 Cr.
BSTD 303	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine III	3 Cr.
BSTD 304	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine IV	3 Cr.
BSTD 402	Specialized Studies in Buddhist Doctrine V	3 Cr.

These courses approach the topic of Buddhist philosophy from a contemporary perspective emphasizing the historical development of philosophical ideas and schools of thought. The courses introduce the nature and development of classical Buddhist philosophy, such as the early Abhidharma theories, the schools of Madhyamaka, Yogācāra, and the related dialectical literature while discussing them in light of modern cross-cultural perspectives and methods.

Prerequisites: BSTD 103 - Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics II.

Course requirements: Two oral presentations and two papers.

BSTD 205	Nepalese Religious Cultures and History	3 Cr.
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This course investigates the rich history of Nepal in its multifaceted religious and cultural aspects. The various unique cultural zones of Nepal are studied and the particular religious landscape of Nepal is treated in its relationship to classical religious expressions of the Hindu and Buddhist religions. Through field trips to historical and cultural areas of significance within the Kathmandu valley this course offers an experiential dimension to complement the literary study of Nepalese history and culture.

Prerequisites: None.

Course requirements: One paper at the end of the term.

BSTD 305 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I 3 Cr.

This course develops students' ability to participate in philosophical discussions in a traditional Tibetan format. The objective of the course is for the students to gain proficiency in communicating philosophical ideas by means of the classical Tibetan idiom in a clear and structured manner. This course employs actual debate practice to demonstrate models of philosophical discourse and provide for assimilation of the material covered in other philosophical courses.

Prerequisites: TLAN 202 - Classical Tibetan IV.

Course requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

BSTD 306 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II 3 Cr.

This course is a continued practical application of Tibetan philosophical discourse, increasing the complexity of polemical structures and subject matter. Students debate Buddhist philosophical material in Tibetan on topics of gradually increasing difficulty and complexity.

Prerequisites: BSTD 305 - Buddhist Philosophical Discourse I.

Course requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

BSTD 404 Buddhist Philosophical Discourse III 3 Cr.

The aim of this course is to further develop the capacity for philosophical analysis in Tibetan and gain further familiarity with the articulation of logical reasoning in Tibetan. Building on the abilities acquired in Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II students examine central issues raised in Advanced Studies in Buddhist Philosophy and Hermeneutics.

Prerequisites: BSTD 306 - Buddhist Philosophical Discourse II.

Course requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

BSTD 307 Buddhism and Development 3 Cr.

This course considers "development" as it has been historically practiced in developing countries, the philosophy behind it, and recent critiques. It examines the juxtaposition of the Buddhist emphasis on internal development with the post-1950's emphasis on economic and social development. Students design a community service internship within an existing service organization in collaboration with a faculty advisor. Weekly class meetings integrate readings and internship experiences. Emphasis is put on ongoing group discussion and assessment of work progress. The first two weeks of the semester are spent in classroom lectures that introduce the theory of development studies and its relation to Buddhist notions of internal development. During the remainder of the semester students perform a minimum of 4 hours per week of

Prerequisites: BSTD 101 - History of Buddhism in Asia.

Course requirements: Two written tests and one paper at the end of the term.

BSTD 407 Methodology 3 Cr.

The aim of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the methodological tools found within the study of Buddhism. Particular emphasis is placed on students being able to analyze various methods both in light of the claims they make as well as the implications of their practical application. Students are introduced to methodological approaches found in both the Asian and Western traditions of Buddhist scholarship and the debates surrounding their employment. The methodological knowledge achieved in this course is an important preparation for work on the Bachelor of Arts Honours Dissertation.

Prerequisites: none.

Course requirements: Two oral presentations and two papers.

BSTD 408 Dissertation (BA Honours) 12 Cr.

The purpose of the Bachelor of Arts Honours Dissertation is for the student to demonstrate capacity to carry out academic research of considerable complexity. The student chooses the topic for the dissertation in consultation with a faculty adviser. The topic should have central relation to the field of Buddhist Studies and must be approached with a well-articulated thesis. In the dissertation the student should demonstrate a grasp of the methodological tools of the field and show ability to work with relevant primary sources in their original languages.

Prerequisites: 90 credits towards the Bachelor of Arts Honours degree.

Course requirements: A dissertation of approximately 10000 words. This paper is evaluated by two faculty members (including the advisor).

Himalayan Languages

NLAN 101 Nepali I 3 Cr.

This course introduces students to basic patterns of spoken Nepali centering on various situational examples. Students learn basic sentence structure and begin building a vocabulary of colloquial words and phrases. Basic grammatical concepts of spoken Nepali are introduced and illustrated. Emphasis is placed upon active learning, with students using techniques such as role-playing in order to develop confidence in speaking. During classes students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Nepali speaker.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

NLAN 201 Nepali II 3 Cr.

Building on Nepali I, this course aims to develop students' ability to communicate in spoken and written Nepali. More complicated sentence structures and further vocabulary are introduced and students engage in role-playing to further develop their skills in basic communication. As in Nepali I, students have access to a native Nepali speaker with whom to practice conversation skills.

Prerequisites: NLAN 101 - Nepali I.

Course Requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

SLAN 201 Sanskrit I 3 Cr.

This course covers the devanagari script and the rules of euphonic combination. Students are introduced to the general principles of Sanskrit word construction, syntax and grammar. Although this course focuses upon understanding and memorization of the rules of declension and conjugation, students additionally begin building a Sanskrit vocabulary of Buddhist terminology.

Prerequisites: None.

Course requirements: One midterm test and one written exam at the end of the term.

SLAN 202 Sanskrit II 3 Cr.

This course continues the methods of Sanskrit I, building a solid structural knowledge of Sanskrit word construction, syntax and grammar. Increasing their vocabulary of Sanskrit philosophical terminology in the Buddhist context, students relate their grammar studies to examples of original Sanskrit philosophical discourse.

Prerequisites: SLAN 201 - Sanskrit I.

Course requirements: One midterm test and one written exam at the end of the term.

SLAN 301	Sanskrit III	3 Cr.
SLAN 302	Sanskrit IV	3 Cr.
SLAN 401	Sanskrit V	3 Cr.

These courses focus on furthering the ability to read classical Sanskrit texts with an emphasis on Buddhist literature. In reading from a wide spectrum of literary genres, such as that found in poetry, dramatic literature, epics, and philosophical discourse, students gain familiarity with the variety of style and grammar used in written Sanskrit. Through in-depth analysis of the grammatical systems employed in this literature, the courses increasingly consolidate the understanding of Sanskrit grammar gained in Sanskrit I-II.

Prerequisites: SLAN 202 - Sanskrit II.

Course requirements: Two written tests and one oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 101	Classical Tibetan I	3 Cr.
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This class develops students' ability to read the Tibetan script and precisely analyze and understand Tibetan grammar. The course covers the principal topics of classical Tibetan grammar using handbook material as well as text passages from classical Tibetan Buddhist literature. Study of grammatical explanations from both Tibetan and Western traditions constitute the foundation for discussions in class where active student participation is of primary importance. Although the topic of grammar is central for this course students are also introduced to the basic vocabulary of classical Tibetan philosophy.

Prerequisites: None.

Course requirements: One midterm test and one written exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 102	Classical Tibetan II	3 Cr.
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This course focuses on applying the principles of Tibetan grammar and on building vocabulary, reading and translation skills in the context of studying excerpts from original Tibetan texts. Students are introduced to text examples from a variety of Tibetan literary genres and time periods. In translating original text material from Tibetan to English, the methodology and principles of translating Buddhist text is discussed and analyzed. Students are expected to contribute actively to the class by means of presentations and discussions of home assignments.

Prerequisites: TLAN 101 - Tibetan I.

Course requirements: One midterm test and one written exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 201 Classical Tibetan III 3 Cr.

This course focuses on the terminology of classical Buddhist philosophy as found in the literary genres of Abhidharma, Madhyamaka, and Yogācāra thought. The students further develop knowledge of grammar within scholastic literature and increase their ability to read texts from a wide variety of genres and time periods.

Prerequisites: TLAN 102 - Classical Tibetan II.

Course requirements: Two written tests and one oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 202 Classical Tibetan IV 3 Cr.

This course works with the terminology and structure of Buddhist logic. Building upon the foundation of the technical terminology in the subject matter of Classical Tibetan III, the focus turns to reading technical Tibetan philosophy in syllogistic discourse. The course introduces the types of reasoning used in logical argumentation and integrates technical vocabulary of Buddhist philosophy into the formal structures of Buddhist logical debate.

Prerequisites: TLAN 201 - Classical Tibetan III.

Course requirements: Two written tests and one oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 103 Colloquial Tibetan I 3 Cr.

This course introduces students to the basics of spoken Tibetan. Basic sentence structure is taught and students begin building a vocabulary of colloquial words and phrases. Basic grammatical concepts unique to spoken Tibetan are introduced and illustrated. Emphasis is placed upon active learning, with students using techniques such as role-playing in order to develop confidence in speaking. In classes students are given the opportunity to practice their skills privately or in small groups with a native Tibetan speaker.

Prerequisites: None.

Course requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 104 Colloquial Tibetan II 3 Cr.

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I. The aim of the course is for students to develop confidence in simple colloquial dialogue. More complicated sentence structures and further vocabulary are introduced and students engage in role-playing to further develop their skills in basic communication. As in Tibetan I, students have access to a native Tibetan speaker with whom they can practice conversation.

Prerequisite: TLAN 103 - Colloquial Tibetan I.

Course requirements: One oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 203 Colloquial Tibetan III 3 Cr.

The aim of this course is to bring students to the point where they are able to communicate comfortably in spoken Tibetan. A wide variety of techniques, including the use of audio material, are employed to ensure that students are able to understand more complicated sentence structures and express complex ideas. The use of honorific language is explained in detail, and there is a thorough review of the grammar of spoken Tibetan. Students engage in translation exercises and written compositions in the style of spoken Tibetan.

Prerequisites: TLAN 104 - Colloquial Tibetan II.

Course requirements: One written exam and one oral exam at the end of the term.

TLAN 204 Colloquial Tibetan IV 3 Cr.

This course further develops the skills acquired in Colloquial Tibetan III, while preparing students for the more advanced classes in Tibetan language, such as Translation Training. Students are introduced to the various forms of spoken Tibetan, such as regional variants. Audio material is used to introduce the form of spoken Tibetan found in the Tibetan news media. In acquainting students with a wide range of topics related to popular Tibetan culture they develop their vocabulary and general speaking proficiency. Homework includes translation and composition exercises, and preparing short talks and presentations.

Prerequisites: TLAN 203 - Colloquial Tibetan III.

Course requirements: One written exam and one oral exam at the end of the term.

TRNS 301 Translation Project I 3 Cr.

This course aims to develop the ability to translate classical literary Tibetan into modern languages. In weekly meetings selected readings on translation method and theory are introduced and discussed in relation to the field in general and to the area of Buddhist Studies in particular. Furthermore, based on translating a previously un-translated manuscript issues of translation method and policy are introduced.

Prerequisites: TLAN 203 - Classical Tibetan III.

Course Requirements: One written exam at the end of the term.

TRNS 302 Translation Project II 3 Cr.

Building on the translation abilities acquired during Translation Project I, students work with text material in various genres and from different historical periods.

Although the emphasis shifts towards practical translation training, issues of translation method and theory continue to be studied as an significant part of the course.

Prerequisites: TRNS 301 - Translation Project I.

Course Requirements: One written exam at the end of the term.

EVALUATION SCHEME

The academic performance of the students is judged through:

- Continuous in-semester assessment
- End-semester examination

The continuous in-semester assessment of the student is made by the concerned faculty member using any or a combination of the following:

- ◆ Written tests
- ◆ Assignments
- ◆ Seminars
- ◆ Term papers
- ◆ Any other deemed suitable by the concerned faculty member

The end-semester examination will normally be conducted according to the examination schedule notified by the concerned office.

The mode of evaluation in a given course is decided by the concerned faculty member who may assign varying weights to one or more of the evaluation modes. The faculty member will announce such weights at the beginning of the course.

Grading Mode:

In each course, the student will be evaluated on a 4-point scale as follows:

LETTER GRADE									
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.00	Fail
GRADE VALUE									

The grades used to indicate the quality of a student's performance are as follows:

- A = Excellent
- B = Very good
- C = Good
- D = Fair
- F = Failure

Apart from the letter grades mentioned above, the following letter grade **may** also be awarded:

- W = Withdrawn
- INC = Incomplete
- NC = Non-credit course
- 'S' = Satisfactory
- U = Unsatisfactory
- AU = Audit

GRADUATION

To graduate, students must complete the minimum number of required course credits with not less than a D-grade in each course. Additionally, a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2 in every semester and a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 2.0 is required.

NOTES