

Advanced Classical Tibetan Reading Seminar

June 13 to August 10, 2018

Includes 8 weeks of classes plus 4 days of Orientation

The Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer a graduate-level intensive Classical Tibetan Reading Seminar for international students. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays, and although the course is quite intensive, weekends are generally left for students to explore the Kathmandu Valley and mingle with the local Tibetan community of Boudhanath. Also, several times throughout the program, the Centre for Buddhist Studies will arrange guided tours of major cultural sites of the Valley.

Instructors for the program are visiting PhD faculty from universities around the world.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for advanced-level students with a minimum of two years of prior study of Classical Tibetan. The course also assumes familiarity with the basic outline of Buddhist history and the general principles and debates of Buddhist philosophy. This course is designed primarily for those already enrolled in graduate degree programs, although BA students with the requisite background will be considered. Students read texts with a scholar who is an expert in the topic at hand, so as to advance their knowledge of both the language and the philosophical, doctrinal, or historical issues under study. The course offers three hours of readings of Tibetan texts each day, including some study and discussion of academic works in English. An additional optional hour is available each day that can be used for one-on-one spoken language classes with RYI's language partners, focussing either on ordinary spoken Tibetan or Dharma Tibetan.

The course is divided into two four-week seminars, with two different professors. There are three hours of seminar work each day. The first four-week seminar will be taught by Prof. Yaroslav Komarovski, Associate Professor in the department of Classics & Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who will focus on the texts of the renowned Tibetan scholar Serdok Penchen Shakya Chokden (*gser mdog pan chen shakya mchog ldan*), 1428–1507. The second four-week seminar's topic is still to be announced.

In addition to satisfactory grades, students must maintain an attendance rate of 80% for the main part of the course in order to pass. The level of intensity of the program is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements and academic expectations. Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for RTIB 501, Advanced Readings I (6 credits total).

This course covers two full semesters of material and therefore earns six credits. Students spend three to four hours each day in class and the expected work time outside of class ranges between two and four hours per day depending on student interest and ability.

Additional Features and Services

- Orientation program with introduction to Nepal
- All classes are held in a traditional monastic setting near the Boudhanath Stupa
- Opportunities to meet and receive teachings from resident Buddhist teachers
- Cultural visits to ancient sites of the Kathmandu Valley
- Efficient medical referral system
- Access to the full facilities of the CBS campus including wireless Internet access at selected campus locations, assistance from our full-time Student Services Coordinator, and on-site library facilities.
- Good links to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies

Price

Price includes tuition, lunch at the Institute's restaurant on school days, and tours.

Admission Criteria

This program has a maximum intake of 12 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

Application

To apply for the program, fill in the application form found at the registration page of this Website.

Course Description

This course focuses on reading Tibetan literature in the professor's area of expertise or current research in order to improve students' reading and research skills. Students will read and discuss Buddhist literature in Tibetan, and also familiarize themselves with related secondary literature. This class is expected to help students further develop both their language proficiency and the research skills needed to conduct research at the MA or PhD level.

Optional Language Partner Sessions

Students may choose to spend one hour per day with either a colloquial Tibetan Language partner or a Dharma language partner.

Course Materials

The course materials will be available for purchase at the CBS office.