

Modern Tibetan Studies at Columbia

LANGUAGE COURSES, Fall 2013

MODERN TIBETAN

Elementary Modern Tibetan I

(Tibetan G4600; Call Number: 17984; 5 points)

This course introduces students to conversational and basic written skills in modern Tibetan, Lhasa dialect. Students are also introduced to modern Tibetan studies through selected readings and guest lectures.

Mon Tues Wed Thurs 10:10am-11:15pm

Check with instructor for the location

Instructor: Tenzin Norbu Nangsal

Intermediate Modern Tibetan I

(Tibetan G4603; Call Number: 13805; 3 points)

Introduces students to conversational and basic written skills in modern Tibetan, Lhasa dialect. Students are also introduced to modern Tibetan studies through selected readings and guest lectures.

Mondays & Wednesdays 2:40pm-3:55pm

Check with instructor for the location

Instructor: Tenzin Norbu Nangsal

Advanced Modern Tibetan I

(Tibetan G4611; Call Number: 14933; 3 points)

This course introduces students to conversational and basic written skills in modern Tibetan, Lhasa dialect. Students will also be introduced to modern Tibetan studies through selected readings and guest lecturers.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:40pm-3:55pm

Check with instructor for the location

Instructor: Tenzin Nangsal

CLASSICAL TIBETAN

Elementary Classical Tibetan I

(Tibetan W4410; Call Number: 67286; 3 points)

An introduction to Classical Tibetan. The class meets at Room 352c in the SIPA building - Mondays, Wednesdays 11:00am-12:50pm.

Instructor: Paul Hackett

Intermediate Classical Tibetan I

(Tibetan W4412; Call Number: 72832; 3 points)

The class meets at Room 303 at 80 Claremont Ave – Mondays, Wednesdays 1:10am-2:25pm.

Instructor: Paul Hackett

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CULTURE & HISTORY COURSES

Fall 2013

Introduction to East Asian Civilizations: Tibet

(East Asian V2365; Call Number: 62797; 4 points)

This course provides a comprehensive survey of the evolution of civilization and culture in Tibet from ancient times to the twentieth century, with attention to important individuals, though, and literature and the arts.

The course consists of lectures offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:10pm to 5:25pm in Room 413, Kent Hall. No approvals or prerequisites are required for this course.

Instructor: Gray W. Tuttle

Rise of Modern Tibet: 1600-1913

(East Asian History W4700; Call Number: 74909; 4 points)

This course covers a broad view of Tibetan history from the 1600-1913 by examining the institutional history of major Tibetan state structures and their rivals in the Tibetan borderlands. The three main themes to be explored are the cosmopolitan aspects of Tibetan culture, the central role of Buddhist religion in Tibet, and the social and economic world which shaped the experiences of Tibetans.

This course is a colloquium that meets on Thursdays from 2:10pm to 4:00pm in Room 522c, Kent Hall. Completion of Introduction to East Civilization: Tibet is recommended, but not required.

Instructor: Gray W. Tuttle.

Film & TV in Tibet and Inner Asia

(East Asian W4557; Call Number: 11748; 3 points)

The course uses films and television dramas made in China or Inner Asia about Tibet, Mongolia, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and other nationalities to study the history and the cultural politics of those areas. It looks at the ways the state, nation, culture, and politics of these areas are represented at different times through film and other visual media in the region. .

The course is a seminar that meets on Mondays 4:10-6:00pm in Room 522c, Kent Hall, with film viewings on Tuesdays from 7:10pm to 9:30pm. No approvals or prerequisites are required for this course.

Instructor: Robert Barnett

Buddhism and Islam in Tibet and China

(East Asian W4015; Call Number: 03855; 4 points)

The history of Buddhist and Muslim interactions in Asia is far more complex than a single tale of the “conflict of civilizations” might suggest. This course explores the long history of Buddhist / Muslim interactions in Tibetan and Chinese regions of Inner and East Asia. We will examine how both Tibetan Buddhist and Inner Asian Muslim societies have managed their relationships with a

succession of Chinese states, with special focus on the Qing era into the present day. We will explore a range of cross-cultural encounters, including mutual influences; discourses of violence, conversion, and tolerance; economic, literary, and cultural exchanges; and political rivalries, alliances and conquests.

Course materials include historical, ethnographic, and sociological studies, and Tibetan, Uighur, Chinese, Mongolian, Persian, and Arabic poetry, songs, religious writings, philosophical works, auto/biography, and travelers' accounts, plus art, film, and field trips. All readings will be in English translation; no previous knowledge of Asian languages is expected.

A seminar course that meets on Tuesdays, 2:10–4:00pm, in Room 201 in Lehman Hall (Barnard).
Instructor: Annabella Pitkin

Women Visionaries in Tibet and East Asia

(East Asian W4560; Call Number: 03887; 4 points)

This course explores the role of gender, religious inspiration, and social power in the lives and creativity of Tibetan, Chinese and Korean Buddhist women. How have gender norms, social practices, Buddhist ideals, and non-Buddhist indigenous traditions intersected to shape women's opportunities as activists, teachers, authors, artists, healers, and patrons? The women we encounter this semester include famous leaders and little-known farmers and students; meditators, shamans, oracles, nuns, and yoginis. Our materials will include first-person lifestories, biography, poetry, art, and film. A syllabus with readings is posted on Courseworks. All materials will be in English. There are no language or other prerequisites.

This is a seminar course, meeting on Wednesdays at 11am–12:50pm in Room 405, Barnard Hall.
Instructor: Annabella Pitkin

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RELIGION COURSES

Fall 2013

Indo-Tibetan Buddhism

(Religion V2005; Call Number: 12125; 3 points)

Historical introduction to Buddhist thought, scriptures, practices, and institutions. Attention given to Theravada, Mahayana, and Tantric Buddhism in India, as well as selected non-Indian forms.

This is a lecture class that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40pm-3:55pm, in Room 310, Fayerweather.

Instructor: Robert Thurman

Buddhist Texts

(Religion G9031; Call Number: 27629; 3 points)

Prerequisites: Instructor's permission. Knowledge of Tibetan preferred. Selected readings in Sanskrit and Tibetan texts, original and translations. Knowledge of Tibetan and Sanskrit preferred.

Tuesday 10:10am-12:00pm 303 80 Claremont Ave.

Instructor: Robert Thurman

Research in Religion I

(Religion G9031; Call Number: 85996; 1-6 points)

Prerequisites: Instructor's permission. Guided individual research.

Instructor: Robert Thurman.

Guided Reading and Research

(Religion V3901; Call Number 61502; 1-4 points)

Independent study. Prerequisites: Instructor's permission.

Instructor: Robert Thurman