Academic Year 2021-22

Centre of Buddhist Studies

The University of Hong Kong

BSTC2015 Tibetan Language I (6 Credit)

(The course is open to students from all faculties as an elective course)

Course Description: This is an introductory course on learning how to read Tibetan Buddhist texts and does not require prior knowledge of literary Tibetan. It is run for the first academic semester. The students will learn to read and write Tibetan, while acquiring a practical understanding of grammar and the ability to translate sentences and short passages mainly from Tibetan to English, but also from English to Tibetan.

Course Learning Outcomes: At the end of this course, the students are expected to understand Tibetan grammatical functions, and to gain the ability to read and write simple sentences in Tibetan.

Teaching and Learning Method: Lectures, class discussions and tutorials.

Offering Semester: First Semester
Lecturer: Phuntsok Wangchuk
Office: 4.13, 4/F Jockey Club Tower, Centennial Campus
Email: wangchuk@hku.hk
Schedule: Every Wednesday 10:30 – 12:20
Classroom: CPD 2:19

Course Assessment: Quiz, attendance and assignments (40%), Final exam (60%). (Weekly lectures and lesson plans will be made available on Moodle)

Grade Expectations in Faculty of Arts:
http://arts.hku.hk/grade_expectations.pdf

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. The University upholds the principle that plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and any student found plagiarizing is liable to disciplinary action in addition to failing the assessment concerned. Please read the following webpage on "plagiarism" for details:
http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment/plagiarism
Course Outline (tentative)

| Lesson 1 | 30 Alphabets and 4 vowels  
|          | Romanization (Wylie system)  
|          | Pronunciation (following Central Tibetan dialect)  
|          | Punctuation markers |

| Lesson 2 | Superfixed letters (*mgo can yi ge*)  
|          | Suffixes (*rjes ’jug*)  
|          | Prefixes (*sngon ’jug*)  
|          | Practice pronunciation |

| Lesson 3 | Subfixed letters (*’dogs can yi ge*)  
|          | Post suffixes (*yang ’jug*)  
|          | Identification of root letter  
|          | Practice pronunciation |

| Lesson 4 | Nominal particles (*bdag sgra*)  
|          | Forming nouns (*ming tshig sgrub tshul*)  
|          | Forming adjectives (*ming tshig gi khyad chos ston pa’i tshig srgub byed*)  
|          | Gender markers (*pho dang mo’i khyad par ston pa’i rtags*)  
|          | Forming verbal infinitives and verbal nouns (*bya tshig ming tshig tu sgyur tshul*) |

| Lesson 5 | Plural particles (*mang tshig*)  
|          | Personal pronouns (*ming tshab*)  
|          | Demonstrative pronouns (*tha snyad gsal bar ston pa’i ming tsab*)  
|          | Possessive pronoun (*bdag sgra’i ming tshab*)  
|          | Possessive particles (*dngos po gang la ldan par ston pa’i sgra*)  
|          |Linking verbs/ verb to be (*mtsam sbyor byed kyi bya tshig*)  
|          | Possessing expression (*dngos po and khyed chos sogs ldan par ston byed*)  
|          | Declarative particles (*rdzogs tshigs*)  
|          | Locative particles (*la don gyi phrad*) |

| Lesson 6 | Cardinal/ Ordinal number (*gzi grags dang rim pa bstar chags kyi grags*)  
|          | Conjunctive particles (*dang sgra*)  
|          | Genitive particle between two nouns (*ming tshig gnyis kyi bar gyi’brel sgra*)  
|          | Genitive particle between noun and adjective (*ming dand khyad tshig bar gyi brel sgra*)  
|          | Genitive particle between adjective and noun (*khyad tshig - ming tshig bar gyi ‘brel sgra*)  
|          | Genitive particle between verb and noun (*bya tshig dang ming tshig bar gyi ‘brel sgra*) |

| Lesson 7 | Agentive particles (*byed sgra*)  
|          | The source particles (*’byung khungs kyi sgra*) |

| Lesson 8 | Connective particles (*lhag bcas kyi sgra*) |
| Lesson 9 | Concessive particles (rgyan sdug kyi sgra) |
| Lesson 10 | Conditional particles (ni sgra)  
Interrogative pronouns (dri ba ’i tsab tshig)  
Verb tenses (dus gsum) |
| Lesson 10 | Relative pronouns (’brel sgra ’i tsab tshig)  
Agentive verbal particle (byed pa ldan pa ’i tshig)  
Clause connective: (brjod pa mtsham sbyor byed) |
| Lesson 11 | Reading: Four immensurable prayer (tshad med bzhi)  
Quotation particles (lung ’dren gyi srga)  
Review: previous lessons |
| Lesson 12 | Vocative particles (’bod sgra)  
Review: previous lessons |

**Textbook:**


**Reference Sources**

**I. Dictionaries / Glossaries**

II. Grammars


III. Other