

Buddhism in the Himalayas and Tibet: Seminar

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30
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Course Description

This advanced seminar will explore the Buddhist traditions found in the Himalayas and Tibet, covering the elite philosophical, artistic, and soteriological traditions as well as popular literatures and devotional practices. Course materials will include philosophical and ritual texts, story narratives, historical textbooks, films, and experiential practice. The central focus will be on the Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhist traditions found there, and examine these in relation to both shamanic and Bön traditions. The seminar will utilize case studies to sample religion in the southern Himalayan region, focusing on Ladakh, the Kathmandu Valley, the Langtang Valley and Marsyandi Valleys of central Nepal. The course will conclude with Tibetan Buddhist history, meditation, and ritual. Presentations by guest scholars who are leading figures in Nepal studies, Tibetology, and Himalayan art will be part of this course. Extracurricular class activities will be held in conjunction with the “Pilgrimage” exhibit at the Cantor Gallery and include a weekend trip to New York.

Requirements:

Attendance.

Field trip to the Rubin Museum and Karmapa monastery in Woodstock, NY.

Extracurricular lectures.

Required Textbooks:

John Powers, *Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism*. 2nd ed. Ithaca: Snow Lion, 2007.

Donald Lopez, ed. *Religions of Tibet in Practice*. Abridged edition. Princeton Univ. Press, 2007.

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal: Narratives and Rituals of Newar Buddhism*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2000.

Lama Yeshe, *Introduction to Tantra*. Revised ed. Boston: Wisdom, 2001.

Melvyn Goldstein, *The Snow Lion and the Dragon*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1997.

Melvyn Goldstein, et al. *The Struggle for Modern Tibet: Autobiography of Tashi Tsering*. Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, 1997.

Stan Mumford, *Himalayan Dialogue*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1990.

Readings on Electronic Reserves [ERE-s] , Password= RELS399

Grading:

Participation	15
Art Case Study Paper/presentation.....	15
Religious Practice Paper/presentation.....	15
Final term Paper	35
Oral Final.....	<u>20</u>

100 pts



Schedule of Seminar Sessions

1/26. Class 1: Geology, Geography, Orientalism FILM “Himalayan Herders”

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 19-27; 137-139; 233-236

Peter Molnar and Paul Tapponnier, “The Collision between India and Eurasia,” [ERE-s]

Martin Brauen, excerpt from *Dreamworld Tibet* [ERE-s]

Donald Lopez, *Prisoners of Shangri-La.* [ERE-s]; Peter Bishop, *The Myth of Shangri-La* [ERE-s]

2/2. Class 2 Later Indic Mahayana Buddhism FILM “Cycles of Interdependence”

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 31-80; 101-134

Gregory Schopen, “Mahayana” [ERE-s]

2/9. Class 3 Tantric Buddhism: Belief and Practice The *Cakrasamvara Tantra*: A Text in Translation

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 81-99; 249-323

Lama Yeshe, *Introduction to Tantra.* Revised ed.

David Gray, *Cakrasamvara Tantra: First Four Chapters* [ERE-s]

2/16. Class 4 Tantric Art

Guest Scholar: Prof. Dina Bangdel, Virginia Commonwealth University

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 236-248

Dina Bangdel, “The Circle of Bliss: Buddhist Meditational Art” [ERE-s]

Michael Hutt, *Nepal: A Guide to the Art and Architecture of the Kathmandu Valley* [ERE-s]

Janet Gyatso, “In the Sacred Realm: The Image as Presence” [ERE-s]

2/18. Lecture: “Jesuit on the Roof of the World: Ippolito Desideri Tibet”
4 PM in Rehm Library by Professor Trent Pomplun, Loyola University Maryland

Required Reading:

Donald Lopez, "Foreigner at the Lama's Feet" [ERE-s]



2/23. Class 5 Newar Buddhism (Licchavi, Malla, Shah Eras)

Required Reading:

Theodore Riccardi, Jr. "Buddhism in Ancient and Medieval Nepal" [ERE-s]

Brownen Bledsoe, *Written in Stone: Inscriptions of the Kathmandu Valley's Three Kingdoms*. [ERE-s]

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*, 1-20

---------- Spring Break ----------

3/9. Class 6 Newar Buddhism II: Texts in Context

Required Reading:

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*, 21-118

Svayambhu Purana [ERE-s]

3/16. Class 7 Newar Buddhism III: *Samyak, Ratha Jatra-s*

Films: "Samyak1993" and "On the road with the Red God"

Required Reading:

Todd T. Lewis, *Popular Mahayana Texts from Nepal*, 119-164

3/23. Class 8: Newar Buddhism IV:Rituals

Guest Scholar: Prof. Naresh Bajracarya

Required Reading:

John Locke, "The *Uposatha Vrata* of Amoghapasa in Nepal," [ERE-s]

Naresh Bajracarya, "The *Guru-mandala-Arcana*" [ERE-s]

Todd Lewis, "*Nepāl Jana Jīvan Kriyā Paddhati*, a Modern Newar Guide for Vajrayāna Life-Cycle Rites," [ERE-s]

3/24. Special Program: Stupa Making (*Dyah Tayegu*)

Cantor Art Gallery 5-9 PM

Ritual with Naresh Man Bajracarya

3/25. Special Lecture: "Buddhist Pilgrimage"

Rehm Library 4-5 PM

Professor Todd Lewis



3/30. Class 9 Tibet: Ancient History [700-1650]

Guest Scholar: Leonard van der Kuijp, Harvard

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 137-162; 367-398; 399-466

4/6. Class 10 Tibet History II (1650-Present)

Guest Scholar: Elliot Sperling, Indiana University

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 163-180; 181-218; 467-498

Melvyn Goldstein, *The Snow Lion and the Dragon.*

4/13. Class 11 Tibetan Buddhism in Practice

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 219-232

Donald Lopez, ed. *Religions of Tibet in Practice, assigned case study*

4/20. Class 12 Modern Tibet; Himalayan Dialogue I

Required Reading:

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. 497-514

Melvyn Goldstein, et al. *The Struggle for Modern Tibet: Autobiography of Tashi Tsering Stan*

Mumford, *Himalayan Dialogue* 1-166

Naomi Bishop, excerpt from *Himalayan Herders* [ERE-s]

4/27. Class 13 Himalayan Dialogue II

Required Reading:

Stan Mumford, *Himalayan Dialogue*, 167-256

5/4. Class 14 Term Papers Presented

Exam Period: Oral Final