



MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Introduction to Tibetan Studies Įvadas į tibetologiją	

Teacher	Unit
Co-ordinating: dr. Vladimir Korobov	Vilnius University, Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies, Universiteto 5, LT-01513 Vilnius

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
1st cycle	1/1	Optional

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language of instruction
Lectures / seminars	Autumn semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: none	Additional requirements (if any): none

Module volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Independent study hours
5	133	32	101

Aim of module: competences developed by the study programme		
<p>The course focuses on historical, religious, philosophical and cultural heritage of Tibet. The course is aimed at development of professionals in area of Tibetan studies, and value-oriented understanding of and critical engagement with culture and society of the area studied. Students will be capable to identify and resolve basic problems relevant to social, historical and ethnographical issues of Tibetology that require interdisciplinary approach and demonstration of international and intercultural attitudes. Students are expected to take active part in discussions.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods
Knowledge of relevant scholarship on Tibetan Studies by integrating knowledge from several disciplines and interdisciplinary approaches.	Lectures, seminars, reading	Discussions, seminars, short essays writing
Understanding of aims and goals of various explorations of Tibet in 18 th –20 th centuries and of diversity of Western interests in this area.	Discussions, lectures, reading	Discussions, seminars, short essays writing
The ability to be critically engaged in Tibetan studies from the corner of a number of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, including anthropology, art history, history, politics, literature, philosophy, and religious studies	Lectures, seminars, visual presentations, reading, short essays writing	Discussions, seminars, short essays writing
The ability to use and critically interrogate a range of primary (in translation) and secondary written and visual sources on Tibetan issues.	Lectures, visual presentations, short essays writing	Discussions, seminars, short essays writing
Skills to write the paper, to read and use materials both incisively and with sensitivity to compare and contrast ideas and concepts found within different disciplinary surroundings.	Consultations of the written work, written work	Evaluation of the written work: correctness and validity of the raised problem and the aim of work, clear structure and fluency of the text.

Topics	Contact hours							Independent study time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	Total contact hours	Independent work	Assignments
1. Short introduction to Tibetan history. Tibetan empire. Introduction of Buddhism. Buddhism and Tibetan history. Origin of Tibetan theocracy. Dalai-lamas institution. "Big game". Tibet and China in the 20 th century	2		2				4	14	Van Schaik 2012; Stein 2003; Gray 2013
2. Short introduction to the history of Western explorations of Tibet. Main Western expeditions to Tibet. Main Western interests in Tibet (political, economic, mystical, etc.)	2						3	10	Stein 2003, BAAB [s.d.]
3. Origin and basics of Tibetan language. The role of language in Tibetan Buddhism. Structure of Tibetan language	2		2				3	4	Schaeffer 2013; Kapstein 2009; Cabezon 1996
4. Tibetan literature. A formation of Tibetan Buddhist Canon (<i>bKa' 'gyur and bsTan 'gyur</i>). Translations and commentaries. Literary genres	2						2	8	Smith 2001; Cabezon 1996
5. Tibetan Buddhism. A formation of four main schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Differences and similarities of the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Special features of Tantric Buddhism. Origin and basics of <i>bön</i> . Tibetan mythology. Tibetan Buddhism and philosophy	2		4				6	10	Kapstein 2009; BAAB [s.d.]; Schaeffer 2013
6. Domestic life and customs in modern and medieval Tibet. Life circles, birth and death rituals. Tibetan family	2		2				4	6	Schaeffer 2013; Stein 2003
7. Tibetan arts. Painting scrolls, sculpture, architecture. Influence of Buddhism. Symbolical meaning of Tibetan arts	2		2				4	7	Gray 2013; Kapstein 2009; BAAB [s.d.]
8. Written work		6					6	10	Collecting of the material for written work
Total:	14	6	12				32	101	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Assessment time	Assessment criteria
Final written examination	70	During the session time	10 point scale and accumulative assessment system will be applied. The work of the student (contact hours and independent work) made during the semestre be marked by the sum estimation. Student will be examined after the audition of the whole course. During the examination students will answer the theoretical questions and solve problematic propositions. Evaluation is based on the judgement how student are able to assimilate the theory, their knowledge of concepts and skills to utilize them, on their ability to prove and argue, to provide the examples, and to apply the theoretical and methodological issues in solving the tasks. Examination will compose 70 % of the

			accumulative assessment.
Written work	30	Presented during the session time	In the written work one aspects of the chosen subject of Tibetan studies will be analyzed by applying the particular methodological approach. Work has to fit the requirements for this kind of analytical studies, to reveal the ability of student to conceptualize the problem, to utilize and critically analyze the literature, processing the contradictory information, to present in an argumentative way its position and to defend it effectively. It has to display the ability to synthesise information, to identify and resolve problems, to adopt critical appraisals and develop reasoned argument based on such appraisals. Size of written work is around 6 thousand characters (with spaces, footnotes and bibliography).

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or a web link
Compulsory reading list				
Van Schaik, Sam Samuel	2012	<i>Tibet. A History</i>		London: Yale University Press
Smith, E. Gene	2001	<i>Among Tibetan Texts. History and Literature of the Himalayan Plateau</i>		Boston: Wisdom Publications
Schaeffer, Kurtis R. (ed.)	2013	<i>Sources of Tibetan tradition</i>		Columbia University Press
Stein, R.A.	2003 (1972)	<i>Tibetan Civilization</i>		Stanford [Calif.]: Stanford University Press
Tuttle, Gray	2013	<i>The Tibetan History Reader</i>		New York : Columbia University Press
Kapstein, Matthew	2009	<i>Buddhism Between Tibet and China (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism)</i>		Boston: Wisdom Publications
Cabezon, Jose Ignacio (ed.)	1996	<i>Tibetan Literature: Studies in Genre</i>		Snow Lion Publications http://www.thlib.org/encyclopedias/literary/genres/genres-book.php#!book=/studies-in-genres/a2/ (full text)
BAAB – The Buddhist Archives of Dr. Alexander Berzin	s.d.		online	http://www.berzinarchives.com/web/en/index.html
Additional reading list				
Bu-sTon	1999	<i>A History of Buddhism</i>		Delhi: Paljor Publications
Snellgrove, David L., Hugh Edward Richardson	2006	<i>A Cultural History of Tibet</i>		Bangkok: Orchid Press