



## MODULE SYLLABUS

Module title	Code
History of Tibet	

Teacher	Unit
Co-ordinating: assistant Dr. Vladimir Korobov	ATSI

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
First	1/1	

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

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites:	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>It aims to acquaint students with Tibetan historical issues starting with a formation of Tibetan empire in Yarlung Valley in 7th c. A.D. The course is aimed at training of specialists in area of Tibetan studies, and value-oriented understanding of and critical engagement with various aspects of history of Tibet. Students will be capable to identify and resolve basic issues relevant to the role of Tibetan civilization in the history of Central Asia that requires treatment of history based on interdisciplinary approach and demonstration of international and intercultural attitudes. Students will be able to identify political aspects of Tibetan history and analyse a specific role of Tibet in political history of Central Asia.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods
Understanding of the role (aims, goals and interests) of the Western explorations of Himalayan Plateau. Ability to identify various aspects (cultural, religious, geopolitical, economical) of the Western attitude towards Tibet.	Lectures, seminars, reading	Discussions, activity during seminars, short essays writing
In-depth understanding of the main events in Tibetan history in connection with the history of Inner Asia and the Western World. .	Lectures, seminars, visual presentations, reading, short essays writing	
Understanding of national specifics of a state formation and social stratification in Tibet.	Discussions, lectures, reading	
The ability to use and critically interrogate a range of primary (in translation) and secondary written, oral and visual sources concerning the specifics of China-Tibetan historical relations. Ability to discuss on the Tibetan problems in the modern world.	Lectures, seminars, reading	

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 the history of Western explorations of Tibet. Main Western expeditions to Tibet. Main Western explorers of Tibet. Basic Western interests in Tibet (political, economic, spiritual, etc.) Early empire (c. 600-842). Srong brtsan sgam po (d. 649). Conquest of Zhang zhung; creation of Tibetan script. First Tibetan expansion into eastern Turkestan. Khri srong lde brtsan (756-797). Foundation of Bsam yas monastery.	2						2	10	Reading
2. Second Tibetan colonial expansion in eastern Turkestan (790-860). Khri lde srong brtsan, (Sad na legs) increasing influence of Buddhist monks in state government. Ral pa can (815-838): increase of clerical influence and translation of Buddhist scriptures. Glang dar ma (841-842): eclipse of monastic Buddhism in central Tibet. Loss of imperial territory in Tarim Basin and internal disorder in Tibet (842-1249). The dispersal of surviving members of the royal family. Three great peasant revolts.	4		2				6	6	Reading, short essay
3. Ye shes 'od - king of western Tibet. Initiating the second introduction of monastic Buddhism. Marpa, Milarepa. Atisa arrives in Tibet (1042). Origins of Bka' gdams pa school. Foundation of the Sa skya Monastery. The first Bka' brgyud monasteries were founded in middle of 12th century.	2						2	10	Reading
4. Mongol pressure (1249-1349). Tibetan authorities submit to Mongols to avoid invasion. Sa skya Pandita appointed Tibetan viceroy by Mongols (1249). Byang chub rgyal mtshan of the Phag mo gru Myriarchy establishes his power over central Tibet (Dbus & Gtsang), ending rule by Sa skya Dpon chen. End of the Mongol Yuan dynasty in China; beginning of Ming dynasty. Tsong kha pa (1357-1419). Foundation of dGelug school and Dga' ldan Monastery.	2						2	10	Reading
5. Foundation of Dalai-lamas institution. Dge 'dun rgya mtsho, to be recognized as the 2nd Dalai Lama. Ngag dbang blo bzang rgya mtsho, the 5th Dalai Lama (1617-1682). Centralization of Tibetan theocracy. The Khoshot Khan and his dynasty remain as protectors of Tibet. Beginning of Dga' ldan Pho brang Government. Lha btsun chen po enthrones the 1st Dharma-King of Sikkim, Phun tshogs nram rgyal.	2						2	10	Reading, short essay

6. China and Tibet in XVII - XVIII century. The 5th Dalai Lama visits China and the emperor K'ang hsi. Manchu pressure (1720-1912). Manchu representatives called Ambans established in Lhasa.	2		2					4	10	Reading
7. Nepalese invasions to Tibet. Second Nepalese invasion defeated with help of Manchu army. Policy of excluding foreigners. Decline of Manchu military power.	2							2	5	Reading
8. British influence on Sikkim and Tibet. Battles between British and Tibet. Younghusband Expedition to Lhasa. Flight of 13th Dalai Lama to Mongolia, then his visit to Peking. Anglo-Tibetan treaty (1904). Sino-British treaty on Tibet (1906). Declaration of independence of Mongolia in 1911.	2							2	10	Reading
9. Tibetan independence 1914 – 1950s. Tibeto-Mongolian Treaty of mutual recognition (1913). Simla Convention between Britain, China and Tibet (1914). India undertakes to continue the British relationship with Tibet. The Rwa sgreng conspiracy. Revolt of the Se ra Byes College. Tibetan Trade missions to China, US and UK.	2							2	10	Reading
10. People Republic of Cina Rule (1950s-present). Chinese People's Liberation Army enters Tibet. Seventeen Point Agreement (1951). 14th Dalai Lama escapes to India, followed by about 80,000 Tibetans. Tibetan Autonomous Region of China in nowadays.	2	2						4	10	Reading, short essay
11. Examination	4	2						4	10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>					<b>32</b>	<b>101</b>	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Assessment time	Assessment criteria
Grade point average (GPA) for participation in discussions	20	September – December	2 points: Understanding of readings, ability to make conclusions and to be critically engaged in historical and political issues of Tibetan area. 1 point: Understanding of readings, ability to make conclusions, answering questions. 0 point: Student doesn't participate in discussions
Written short essays evaluation (about 4,000 characters)	30	November	3 points: Short essay on the given topic fully and critically revealing the essence of the issue; 2 points: Short essay on the given topic partly revealing the essence of the issue; 1 point: Short essay on the given topic partly revealing the essence of the issue with essential mistakes.; 0 point: Student doesn't write an essay.
Evaluation of the final examination essay (about 6,000 characters)	50	December	5 points: Presentation in written form fully revealing the essence of the given topic 4 points: Presentation in written form revealing the essence of the given topic with some insignificant mistakes 3 points: Presentation in written form only partly revealing the essence of the given topic 2 points: Presentation in written form only partly revealing the essence of the given topic with some significant mistakes 1 point: The presentation is practically untenable

			0 point: No essay was presented.
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or a web link
<b>Compulsory reading list</b>				
Van Schaik, Sam	2012	<i>Tibet. A History</i>		London: Yale University Press
E. Gene Smith	2001	<i>Among Tibetan Texts. History and Literature of the Himalayan Plateau</i>		Wisdom Publications, Boston, USA
Stein, R.	2003 (1972)	<i>Tibetan Civilization</i>		Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press
<b>Additional reading list</b>				
Powers, John	2012	<i>Historical Dictionary of Tibet</i>		Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press
Ahmad, Zahiruddin	2012	<i>The Historical Status of China in Tibet</i>		New Delhi: Aditya Prakashan
Bulletin of Tibetology	1964 - 2004	<a href="#">All volumes online</a>	1 - 40	Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (www.tibetology.net), Gangtok, Sikkim, India
Prepared by	Signature	Confirmed by the Committee of the Study Programme	Signature	Date
Dr Vladimir Korobov				1 April 2026