



MODULE SYLLABUS

Module title	Code
Tibetan Language and Literature	

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

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
1st	Single	

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

The course focuses on Tibetan literary heritage, from the 7th century A.D. to present times. It aims to acquaint students with the syllabic writing system of the Tibetan language, and to understand and apply basic grammatical structures. The course is also aimed at development of professionals in area of Tibetan studies, and value-oriented understanding of and critical engagement with various aspects of Tibetan literary culture. Students will be capable to identify and resolve basic issues relevant to the role of Tibetan literature and language in the history of Buddhist philosophy. Students will be able to understand the vocabulary of philosophical and religious texts and evaluate a role of Tibetan literature in cultural history of Central Asia. Students are expected to take active part in discussions.

Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods
Understanding of the role of Tibetan literary heritage in the cultural history of Himalayan Plateau. Ability to identify specific relations between Tibetan literature and other areas of culture (religion, philosophy, science). To familiarize students with the peculiarities of the syllabic system of Tibetan language.	Lectures, seminars, reading, tests	Discussions, seminars, short essays writing
In-depth understanding of the main genres of Tibetan literature in connection with the cultural history of Central Asian region and the West. To familiarize students with the linguistic structure of the Tibetan language: morphology, grammar, and syntax.	Lectures, seminars, visual presentations, reading, short essays writing	
Understanding of the peculiarities of Tibetan literary culture in connection to Sanskrit literature. To introduce students to the rules of word formation in the Tibetan language.	Discussions, lectures, reading	
The ability to use and critically interrogate a range of primary and secondary written sources concerning the peculiarities of Tibetan literary heritage. To introduce students to the vocabulary and sentence structure of the Tibetan language. Phrases, idioms, and sentences. The relationship between syllables in a sentence and phrase structure.	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 into the history of Tibetan written language and literature. Periodization of Tibetan literature. The Tibetan phonetic alphabet. Vowels and consonants. The concepts of graphemes and morphemes. Transcription and transliteration	2						2	10	Reading Grammar exercises. Transliteration
2. Tibetan historiographical and hagiographical literature. Myth, religion and reality. Identification of the main grapheme.	2						2	6	Reading. Grammar exercises. Transliteration
3. Tibetan translations from Sanskrit. History of <i>bKa' 'gyur</i> and <i>bsTan 'gyur</i> formation. Sutra commentaries in Tibetan translation. Tibetan commentaries on Indian <i>Śāstras</i> . <i>Gter ma</i> literature. The phonetics of the Tibetan language.	2		2				4	10	Reading, Grammar exercises. Transliteration
4. Tantras of the Old and New Schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Language of Tantras and Vajrayana symbolism. Words and lexical units. The formation of various parts of speech.	4						4	10	Reading Grammar exercises. Transliteration
5. Tibetan philosophical and doxographical literature of four schools of Tibetan Buddhism: similarities and differences. Literature on logic and epistemology. Plural markers. Negative markers in Tibetan language..	2		2				4	10	Reading Grammar exercises. Transliteration
6. Literature on the Path in various schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Tibetan treatises on Grounds and Paths. A variety of lexical particles. Lexical particles <i>-pa, -ba, -ma, -po, -bo, -mo</i>	2						2	10	Reading, short essay. Grammar exercises. Transliteration. Work with dictionary.
7. Ritualistic texts and treatises. Literature on Consecration (<i>Rab gnas</i>). <i>Sādhana</i> s (<i>sGrub thabs</i>): means of achievement in Tantras. A variety of lexical particles. Lexical particles - <i>dang ldan pa, -dang bcas pa, -dang bral ba, -la sogs pa</i>	2						2	5	Reading Grammar exercises. Transliteration
8. Tibetan folk epic, poetry and hymns.. <i>Gesar</i> epic of East Tibet. A variety of lexical particles. Lexical particles - <i>-nyid, -tsam, -kho na</i>	2						2	10	Reading, Grammar exercises. Transliteration
9. Tibetan scientific literature. Medical texts and medical Tantra (<i>rGyud bzhi</i>). Tibetan literature on Arts. Conjunctions <i>yod</i> and <i>yin</i>	2						2	10	Reading. Grammar exercises. Transliteration
10. Tibetan terminological dictionaries, encyclopaedias and tables of content (<i>dKar chag</i>). Numerals. Sentence structure in the Tibetan language.	2						2	10	Reading. Grammar exercises. Transliteration
11. Examination									Reading. Grammar exercises. Transliteration
Total	4	2	4				4	10	
	26	2	4				32	101	

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 Tibetan literature issues. 1 point: Understanding of readings, ability to make conclusions, answering questions. 0 point: Student doesn't participate in discussions
Written short essays evaluation	30 %	November	3 points: Short essay on the given topic (about 4 000 characters) fully and critically revealing the essence of the issue. 2 points: Short essay on the given topic (about 4 000 characters) partly revealing the essence of the issue 1 point: Short essay on the given topic (about 4 000 characters) partly revealing the essence of the issue with essential mistakes. 0 point: Student doesn't write an essay.
Evaluation of the final examination essay	50 %	December	5 points: Presentation in written form (about 6 000 characters) fully revealing the essence of the given topic 4 points: Presentation in written form (about 6 000 characters) revealing the essence of the given topic with some insignificant mistakes 3 points: Presentation in written form (about 6 000 characters) only partly revealing the essence of the given topic 2 points: Presentation in written form (about 6 000 characters) 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.

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				
Ed. by José Ignacio Cabezón and Roger R. Jackson	1996	<i>Tibetan Literature: Studies in Genre</i> Available here		Snow Lion Publications Ithaca, New York
E. Gene Smith	2001	<i>Among Tibetan Texts. History and Literature of the Himalayan Plateau</i>		Wisdom Publications, Boston, USA
Additional reading list				
Snellgrove, David and Hugh Richardson	1968	<i>A Cultural History of Tibet</i>		New York: Praeger
Pieter C. Verhagen	1994	<i>A History of Sanskrit grammatical Literature in Tibet</i>	2 vol.	Ej. Brill: Leiden • New York • Köln
Lokesh Candra	1981	<i>Materials for a History of Tibetan Literature</i>		Rinsen Book Co., Kyoto, Japan
Vostrikov, A. I.	1970	<i>Tibetan Historical Literature</i>		Reprint, Calcutta: Indian Studies Past & Present
Prepared by	Signature	Confirmed by the Committee of the Study Programme	Signature	Date
Vladimir Korobov				April 1, 2026