MODULE SYLLABUS

Module title	Code
Elementary Tibetan **Tibetiečių kalbos pradmenys**	

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

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

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language of instruction
Lectures, seminars	Spring 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

An introductory course in Standard Tibetan (Central Tibetan) for students with no prior knowledge of the language. Using Nicolas Tournadre and Sangda Dorje's Manual of Standard Tibetan as its principal textbook, the module develops elementary literacy in the Tibetan script alongside practical spoken Tibetan. Students learn to recognise and write letters, syllables and common words; understand the relationship between spelling and pronunciation; and use everyday expressions in short dialogues. They acquire essential vocabulary and basic sentence patterns, progressing to the reading, composition and translation of simple phrases and short, carefully graded texts. Classroom work combines script instruction, listening, pronunciation, guided conversation and writing practice.

Learning outcomes of the module	Study methods	Assessment methods
Recognise and accurately form the thirty basic Tibetan consonant letters, four vowel signs and common letter combinations; identify syllable boundaries and read familiar words written in Tibetan script.	Script demonstrations, guided handwriting, syllable reading and word-recognition drills.	Interim written examination (30%): recognition of Tibetan letters, syllables and familiar words, and writing of simple words. Final written examination (70%): reading and comprehension of a short graded Tibetan text, translation of elementary sentences and independent writing of simple phrases and sentences. Spoken Tibetan and listening comprehension are practised with formative classroom feedback.
Relate written forms to their pronunciation in Standard Tibetan; distinguish elementary features of spoken pronunciation from written spelling and reproduce common expressions intelligibly.	Audio-based listening, pronunciation drills, repetition and paired reading.	
Understand and use simple everyday spoken Tibetan for greetings, self-introduction, basic questions and answers, numbers, locations, requests and preferences.	Model dialogues from the main textbook, structured pair work and guided listening.	
Understand basic word order and common patterns for identification, existence, questions and negation; read, write and translate elementary sentences and a short connected text.	Guided grammar exercises, short-text reading, sentence construction and translation.	

Topics	Contact hours							Independent study time and assignments	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	**Total contact hours**	Independent work	**Assignments**
1. Tibetan script and sound: overview of Standard Tibetan; the alphabet, the thirty consonants, four vowel signs and the basic syllable.	2						2	10	Alphabet chart, handwriting and recognition exercises; audio-supported pronunciation.
2. Reading and writing syllables: vowel placement, syllable markers, common prefixes, superscripts, subscripts and suffixes; forming familiar words.	2						2	6	Syllable-building and word-recognition exercises; guided copying and dictation.
3. Pronunciation and first conversations: written spelling and everyday spoken pronunciation; greetings, politeness, introductions and simple responses.	2		2				4	10	Listening to textbook dialogues; repetition, pronunciation and pair-work practice.
4. Basic sentence patterns: personal pronouns, identification, word order and elementary copular forms; asking and answering who/what questions.	4						4	10	Grammar and dialogue drills; reading and writing simple identification sentences.
5. Everyday vocabulary and simple statements: names, home, family, countries and origins; demonstratives and familiar descriptive phrases; midterm review.	2		2				4	10	Word recognition, spelling, short sentence writing and preparation for the interim test.
6. Numbers and everyday questions: numbers, dates, time, simple question words and expressions for asking basic information.	2						2	10	Listening and speaking practice; vocabulary review, dictation and short exercises.
7. Location and existence: people and objects, possession, spatial expressions, elementary existential and negative forms.	2						2	5	Dialogue practice; build and translate short sentences about where things are.
8. Food and everyday preferences: common nouns and verbs; saying what one likes, wants or needs; simple requests and polite replies.	2						2	10	Paired speaking practice; listen to dialogues and write short requests.
9. Everyday actions and basic grammar: common verbs, simple affirmative/negative sentences, introductory particles and sentence order.	2						2	10	Short sentence translation in both directions; grammar consolidation.
10. Reading and composing simple texts: understanding a graded dialogue and a short passage; linking basic sentences into a short description.	2						2	10	Read and translate short passages; write a short introduction or description.
11. Integrated revision and guided practice: alphabet and vocabulary consolidation, listening and conversation drills, short-text composition and sentence translation.	4	2					6	10	Integrated exercises, teacher consultation and independent preparation for the final examination.
Total	**26**	**2**	**4**				**32**	**101**	

Assessment strategy	Wt. (%)	Timing	Assessment criteria
Interim written examination	30%	Mid-semester	Tests elementary literacy in the Tibetan script. Students identify basic letters, vowel signs, syllables and familiar Tibetan words; match common words with their meanings; and write simple words accurately in Tibetan script from prompts or dictation. Assessment focuses on correct letter forms, syllable structure, word recognition and spelling. Marked on the university 10-point scale.
Final written examination	70%	Spring examination session	Students demonstrate their ability to read and understand a short graded Tibetan text; translate elementary sentences from Tibetan into English and from English into Tibetan; and write simple Tibetan phrases and sentences independently. Accuracy of script, appropriate vocabulary, basic grammar and successful communication of meaning are assessed on the university 10-point scale.

Author / resource	Year	Title	Format	Publisher / web link
Compulsory course materials				
Tournadre, Nicolas; Sangda Dorje	2003	Manual of Standard Tibetan: Language and Civilization	Textbook	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Gamble, Ruth; Tenzin Ringpapontsang; Chung Tsering; Grazia Scotellaro	2018	Introduction to the Tibetan Language: An eTextbook for Spoken and Literary Tibetan	eTextbook	Canberra: ANU Press. doi.org/10.22459/ITL.2018
Additional teaching and reference materials				
Oertle, Franziska	2019	The Heart of Tibetan Language, Vol. 1: A Synthesis of Indigenous Grammar and Contemporary Learning Methodology — Text Book	Textbook	Library of Tibetan Works and Archives; Dharma Publishing edition (2021).
Oertle, Franziska	2019	The Heart of Tibetan Language, Vol. 1 — Exercise Book	Workbook	Library of Tibetan Works and Archives; Dharma Publishing edition (2021).
Samuels, Jonathan	2014	Colloquial Tibetan: The Complete Course for Beginners	Textbook	London / New York: Routledge.
Chonjore, Tsetan; Andrea Abinanti	2003	Colloquial Tibetan: A Textbook of the Lhasa Dialect with Reference Grammar and Exercises	Textbook	Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works and Archives.
Bloomfield, Andrew; Yanki Tshering	1998	Learning Practical Tibetan	Textbook	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Magee, William A.; Elizabeth S. Napper	1993	Fluent Tibetan: A Proficiency-Oriented Learning System, Novice and Intermediate Levels	Course / audio	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Denwood, Philip	1999	Tibetan	Reference grammar	Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
Shambhala Publications	n.d.	Manual of Standard Tibetan: Original Companion Audio Tracks	Audio	shambhala.com/manualofstandardtibetan/
Esukhia	n.d.	A0 Jongdeb: Introductory Tibetan Language Materials	Digital course	esukhia.online/A0/A0-AP1-How-to-use.html
Tibetan Language School	n.d.	Manual of Standard Tibetan: Dialogues and Listening Practice	Audio / text	tibetanlanguage.school/practice/listening/mst-audio/
Supplementary Classical Tibetan references (optional; not examined)				
Hodge, Stephen	2003	An Introduction to Classical Tibetan (revised edition)	Reference textbook	Bangkok: Orchid Press.
Preston, Craig	2005	How to Read Classical Tibetan, Volume One: A Summary of the General Path	Guided reader	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Preston, Craig	2009	How to Read Classical Tibetan, Volume Two: Buddhist Tenets	Guided reader	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Bialek, Joanna	2022	A Textbook in Classical Tibetan	Reference textbook	Abingdon / New York: Routledge.

Wilson, Joe B.	1992	Translating Buddhism from Tibetan	Reference textbook	Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
Beyer, Stephan V.	1992	The Classical Tibetan Language	Reference grammar	Albany: State University of New York Press.