



EMORY TIBETAN STUDIES PROGRAM ACADEMIC DETAILS

All students are required to enroll in the following four courses (4 credits each):

Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy and Practice

Tibetan Culture and Civilization

Tibetan Language (101 or 102, depending on prior coursework taken in Tibetan, if any)

Independent Research: Selected Topics

All courses have received blanket approval from relevant departments at Emory. For the courses that are cross-listed in more than one department, students will select what course number they want to appear on their Emory transcript upon completion of the program. For instance, a course cross-listed as Religion and Philosophy will appear on the Emory transcript with one course designation (REL or PHIL), but not both.

Updated course syllabi will be available upon arrival to the program. Below are the basic outlines of the courses.

TIBETAN BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE (Equivalent to REL 373 or PHIL 482)

Description: This class is an introduction to some of the central ideas, philosophical systems, and meditative practices of Tibetan Buddhism. We will begin with the life of the Buddha and the basic doctrines most Tibetan Buddhists share. Then we will study Buddhist psychology, the nature of the bodhisattva, the six moral perfections, and the epistemological orientation of Tibetan Buddhism. Included in the course will be public teachings and a private class given His Holiness the Dalai Lama, both of which we will attend. The class will also include teachings by other famous Tibetan teachers, witnessing debates and monastic ceremonies, discussions on Western science and Buddhist philosophy, and an introduction to the traditional and religious practices as they are lived in Tibetan Buddhist traditions today.

Faculty: Ven. Kalsang Wangmo (Institute of Buddhist Dialectics' professor) and TBD (TA).

Course Requirements: Preparation for and participation in class meetings is expected of all students. This means carefully reading the assigned texts, coming to class with questions, and engaging in dialogue with the other members of the class. There will be two short papers (5-6 pages) and one longer paper (8-10) concerning themes from the texts, the class lectures and discussions, and/or outside reading.

Schedule: MWF; times T.B.A.

Texts: T.B.A.

TIBETAN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE (Equivalent to ANTH 150 or REL 370)

This course provides an introduction to the history, religious traditions, artistic practices, and social institutions of contemporary Tibetan peoples. Given our location in Dharamsala, site of the Tibetan government-in-exile and a large number of Tibetan diaspora organizations, our focus here will be on the diaspora community. However, Tibetan history and geography, as well as cultural practices, institutions, and defining landscapes inside Tibet will be studied as well. In addition to lectures by and discussion sessions with Emory faculty, experts from the Dharamsala community will give regular guest-lectures. Fieldtrips to local sites and organizations, as well as participation in important religious holidays, artistic performances, and cultural events occurring during the semester will also be an integral part of this course.

Faculty: Dr. Tara Doyle (Emory Religion Department) and TBD (TA)

Requirements: Class attendance, active participation in class discussion, all out-of-class required events, 2 essays, 1 in-class presentation, and a final paper that draws on both written materials and the student's own ethnographic research.

Schedule: TTh, with regular half-day or day-long fieldtrips; times T.B.A.

Texts: T.B.A.

TIBETAN LANGUAGE 101 (Equivalent to TIB 101)

This course serves as an introduction to modern spoken and written Tibetan. By the end of the course students will be able to understand and speak colloquial Tibetan at the novice level, write the classical *dbu can* script, and read simple passages. The course will meet four to five days per week, and will include grammar, reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension. Two to three times a week, students will also practice with local language partners provided by the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics.

Faculty: Venerable Penpa Tsering (IBD professor), and language partners.

Requirements: In addition to a mid-term and a final exam (including both written and oral components), there will be regular homework assignments and quizzes (both oral and written). Class attendance, active participation, and all out-of-class practice sessions will also be required as integral components of this class.

Schedule: M-F, at Sarah, M-Th, in McLeod Ganj, plus practice sessions two-three times/week; times T.B.A.

Texts: T.B.A.

TIBETAN LANGUAGE 102 (Equivalent to TIB 102)

This course is intended as a continued introduction to modern spoken and written Tibetan. By the end of the course students will be able to understand and speak colloquial Tibetan at an advanced novice level, write one of the cursive scripts (*dbu med*), and read simple texts. The course will meet four days per week, and will include grammar, reading, writing, speaking, and oral comprehension. Three times a week, students will also practice with local language partners provided by the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics.

Faculty: Geshe Jamphal Dakpa (Institute of Buddhist Dialectics' professor), Venerable Penpa Tsering (IBD professor), and language partners

Requirements: In addition to a mid-term and a final exam (including both written and oral components), there will be regular homework assignments, quizzes (both oral and written), and mock interviews regarding research topics. Class attendance, active participation, and all out-of-class practice sessions will also be required as integral components of this class.

Schedule: M-F, at Sarah, M-Th, in McLeod, plus practice sessions two-three times/week; times T.B.A.

Texts: T.B.A.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH: SELECTED TOPICS (Equivalent to REL497R or by arrangement with another department)

This course allows students to research a Tibetan Studies-related topic of their own interest and design. You will be expected to begin formulating your Independent Research project while at IBD Sarah. Throughout the semester, you will meet regularly with your research advisor(s), discuss methodology, and hand in revised proposals in order to further solidify your resources and plans. The actual research period will run from April 24 - May 15. A final research paper of 30-40 pages will be due on August 1, 2010.

Faculty: Each student will be assigned a primary research advisor, who will either be an Emory University or an Institute of Buddhist Dialectics faculty member. Other research advisors, such as local experts in the student's chosen topic, may also be assigned. However, the primary advisor will grade the student's written work.

Important IRB Information:

For students who might want to use data from the Independent Research course in Dharamsala as part of an honors thesis, or in any published work, the program advises students to schedule a meeting with their academic advisor about the requirements for the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process at their institution. IRB approval may be required *prior* to beginning the research period. *For students who do NOT intend to use the research as part of an honors thesis or to publish research, no prior IRB approval is required.*

FACULTY AND STAFF INFORMATION

Geshe Kalsang Damdul, Co-director. Geshe Kelsang Damdul was born in Tibet and escaped to India in 1959. He finished his schooling from the Central School for Tibetans in 1973, and in the same year joined the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (IBD), where he received his BA and MA degrees in Buddhist Philosophy. In 1995, he received his Geshe degree (equivalent to a PhD in Buddhist Philosophy) from Drepung Loseling Monastery. In 1985 he was appointed Assistant Director of IBD by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a position he continues to hold. In addition, he oversees the administration of the Sarah College of Higher Tibetan Studies, which is a branch of IBD. Geshe Kalsang Damdul has traveled and taught extensively in the West, teaching at Portland State University, Miami College, Drepung Loseling Institute, and numerous dharma centers. He is also one of the founding members of the Emory-IBD Tibetan Studies Program in Dharamsala. He has been involved in Emory's Tibetan Studies Program since its beginning in 2001. *This year, he will continue to be a Co-director of our Program, along with Dr. Tara Doyle and Geshe Jamphal Dakpa.*

Dr. Tara Doyle, Co-director and Tibetan Civilization and Culture class professor. Dr. Doyle was raised in Colorado, received a BA in Religion and Philosophy at Antioch College, and her MA and PhD from Harvard University in South Asian Religion. She was the co-founder and co-director of the Antioch Buddhist Studies Program in Bodh Gaya from 1979-1994, after which she taught in the Religion Department at Williams College. Since coming to Emory University in 1997, she has taught courses on Hinduism and Buddhism in the Asian Studies Program and the Religion Department. Her research includes work on Bodh Gaya as a shared/contested Hindu-Buddhist center, Buddhist meditation, ex-Untouchable Buddhist converts, Hindu and Buddhist Pilgrimage, Tibetan Religion, Culture and Politics, and Socially Engaged Buddhism in America. Her upcoming book, *Bodh Gaya: Journeys to the Diamond Throne*, will be published by Wisdom Publications. She has received numerous teaching awards at Emory. *Dr. Doyle will be the professor of our Tibetan History and Culture course and Co-director of our program, positions she has held since the beginning of the program in 2001.*

Geshe Jampel Dakpa, Co-director and Tibetan 102 professor. Geshe Jampel Dakpa was born in Tsang Rinpung, Tibet, and escaped to India in 1985. He was ordained as a novice monk by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and admitted to the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (IBD) in 1986 to study Buddhist Philosophy, Tibetan language and literature. He successfully completed his studies in 1995. He taught Tibetan grammar to the monks at IBD as a student teacher. In 1996, he took responsibility for the administration of IBD in Sarah. There he has taught Tibetan language and Buddhist philosophy, and has been the resource person for many workshops conducted by the Public Service Commission and the Dept. of Education of the Central Tibetan Administration. In 2000, he received his Geshe degree from Drepung Loseling monastery. He is currently the principal at IBD Sarah, where he continues to teach Buddhist philosophy and Tibetan literature. *For the Tibetan Studies Program, he will be Co-director and chief instructor of the Tibetan 102 course.*

Venerable Kelsang Wangmo, Buddhist Philosophy class professor. Ani Kelsang Wangmo was born Kerstin Brummenbaum in Cologne, Germany. After college, she traveled to Israel, Japan, and India. She took ordination as a Buddhist nun in 1992, and two years later joined IBD. The first foreign woman to attend this institution, she has studied the full range of Buddhist philosophy under the guidance of senior faculty. The Institute often calls on her as a translator

and an English instructor for IBD students. She gives various teachings at the Institute for Western students and has received many teachings and initiations from His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other High Lamas. *For the Tibetan Studies Program, Venerable Wangmo will be the chief instructor of our Buddhist Philosophy course, a position she has held since 2006.*

Venerable Penpa Tsering, Tibetan language teacher. Ven. Penpa Tsering was born in Tibet, where he received his secondary school education. After escaping to India, he ordained as a monk and studied at the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics in Dharamsala from 1985-1995. There he received his *Uma Ramjamba* (equivalent to a B.A.) in Buddhist Philosophy. He began working at CHTS/IBD Sarah in 1997, and has served as both Head Cashier and Tibetan Language Teacher for foreign students. *This year, he will teach Tibetan to the Emory students, a position he has held since 2005.*

Mr. Passang Tsering, Program Coordinator. Mr. Passang Tsering escaped from Tibet in 1982, at the age of 10, along with his twin sisters. Soon thereafter, he was admitted to Tibetan Children's Village school, Dharamsala. He served as the school prefect in 1992 and men's hostel captain in 1993. In 1994 he finished his schooling and joined Spicer Memorial College in Pune and received his BA in geography, with a minor in computer science. He is one of the founding members of the Tibetan Students Association, Pune (TSAP) and served as TSAP's President, Public Relations Officer, and Coordinator. He also received a diploma in information technology from Skyline Computer Center in Dharamsala. Since 1998, he has been the Secretary of the College of Higher Tibetan Studies, IBD Sarah campus. In 2008 he was awarded a Fulbright grant which enabled him to study at the University of Wyoming in 2008-2009. He has been integrally involved in the Tibetan Studies program since its beginning in 2001. *This year, he will continue to be the Tibetan Studies Program Coordinator, along with Elizabeth Ura and Faith McClure.*

Karma Tenzin, Assistant Program Coordinator. Karma Tenzin was born in Karnataka, India. He attended the Tibetan Children's Village School in Bylakuppe and then studied at the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, where he got his BA in 2007. He is now a staff member at IBD Sarah. Karma enjoys basketball, playing the Tibetan lute, traditional dancing, and listening to classical Tibetan songs. *For the Tibetan Studies Program, he will be the Tibetan Studies Program Assistant Coordinator, a position he has held since 2008.*

Program Coordinator. Emory hires a program coordinator to serve as a teaching assistant to the courses as well as providing additional support services. The program coordinator rotates each semester.