PLEASE NOTE: THE ACTUAL SYLLABUS FOR THIS YEAR’S PROGRAM WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Emory University-Institute of Buddhist Dialectics
Tibetan Studies in Dharamsala, Spring 2012

TIBETAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE
ANTH 370/ REL 390/ MESAS 390

This course comprises a study of the history, politics, religious traditions, artistic practices, and social institutions of contemporary Tibetans. Given our location in Dharamsala, India, site of the Tibetan government-in-exile and a large number of Tibetan refugee organizations and peoples, our focus will be primarily on the Tibetan diaspora community. However, in order to contextualize this material, historical background, cultural practices, and institutions of Tibet (both before and after the Chinese government established the Tibetan Autonomous Region) will be studied as well. We will also include material on the surrounding Indian community and transnational/global dimensions of Tibetan culture when relevant.

In addition to lectures by and discussion sessions with Emory faculty, members of the Dharamsala community will give regular guest-lectures and tours. 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. Fieldwork methodology will be discussed and related assignments given, providing students with the background needed to pursue independent research of their own design during the last month of the program.

Schedule: Tu/Thu for 1 ½ hours (exact time TBA), with regular fieldtrips once a week (usually Friday afternoon)

Faculty: Dr. Tara Doyle (Emory Professor) and visiting guest speakers from the Dharamsala community.

Texts:
Diana Eck, Darsan (read in USA); Melvyn Goldstein, Snow Lion and the Dragon (buy in USA); Jamyang Norbu, Independent Tibet: the Facts (sold to you in Dharamsala), two Xerox Readers of articles (sold to you in Dharamsala), pamphlets, and on-line material.

Requirements: Class participation, reading of all assigned material, and attending all out-of-class fieldtrips, films, & required events (20%); one response paper on readings done during Week III (10%); a response paper that includes interview material on events discussed during Week V (20%); Questionnaire and mapping exercise regarding some dimension of McLeod Ganj (20%); and either a life-history paper on a McLeod Ganj resident or a participant observation paper on something that occurs in McLeod Ganj during the period that we are living there – note: this could also be an audio-visual piece (30%). Details on these requirements and assignments will be provided in class.
TIBETAN CIVILIZATION & CULTURE

Topics and Assignments

Note: Schedule, Topics, and Readings Will Most Likely Change (Buddhist law of impermanence!)

-- Asterisk (*) indicates that the reading can be found in your Xerox readers—
-- Hatch mark (#) indicates material to read or watch online—
<< >> marks indicate general TSP program information

I. APPROACHING “SHANGRI-LA” & “LITTLE TIBET”

Sun-Mon, Jan 15-16
While in Delhi we’ll visit a number of Indian historical, religious, & cultural sites
Eck, Darsan (you should have already read this book before reaching Delhi!)

<< Tu, Jan 17
Jeeps to Pragpur, spend night and next two days (Jan 18 & 19) at Judges Court >>

Wed, Jan 18
Lost Horizon and Shangrila (in Pragpur, time & place TBA)
*Norbü, “Behind the Lost Horizon,” in Imagining Tibet, 373-378

Thur, Jan 19
Watch “Cry of the Snow Lion” or “Dreaming Lhasa” and discuss (in Pragpur, time TBA)
*Diehl, Echoes from Dharamsala, 21-26 & 32-56 (we will read the rest of this pdf. later)

<< Fri, Jan 20
Drive to IBD Sarah, lunch, move in with roommates >>

II. CONTESTING MODERN TIBETAN HISTORY

Tu, Jan 24
The Tibet Issue: Constructing History, Contesting Ground
Goldstein, The Snow Lion and the Dragon, ix-36
*Study maps 1-9 and begin to learn geography, provinces, towns, etc, of Tibetan Plateau

Th, Jan 26
Nationalists, Communists, and Tibetan Resistance (1911-1959)
Goldstein, The Snow Lion and the Dragon, 37-top 56
*See Map #10

Fri, Jan 27
Fieldtrip: to Tibet Museum and then to meet Ama Adhe (at Reception Center). Possibly visit Gu Chu Sum (ex-political prisoners’ organization)

III. UPRISINGS, EXILE, & THE MIDDLE WAY APPROACH

Tu, Jan 31
“Hard” & “Soft” Periods Inside Tibet
Goldstein, The Snow Lion and the Dragon, 56-131
*Barnett, “Essay by Robbie Barnett,” mid 182-196 (continuation of article read before on Jan 24)

Th, Feb 2
Settling into Exile, Experimenting with Democracy
*van Schaik, “Two Tibets: 1959 to the Present,” in Tibet: A History, pp 238-269 (skim anything on Tibet – focus instead on the material on exile during this period)
*Skim “Tibet in Exile at a Glance”
*Huber, “Shangri-la in Exile” 357-369

Fri, Feb 3
Dialogues with China and Crafting the Middle Way
**The Middle-Way Approach: A Framework for Resolving the Issue of Tibet”
**Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People”
**“Note on the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People”
**“What Does the Dalai Lama Want?” blog containing Zhu Weiqun’s, “The Middle Way Approach is a Vicious Attempt to Divide the Nation and the People of China”
*As you read these articles, look af “Chronology of Sino-Tibetan relations (1979-2008)”
**Sunday, Feb 5 by noon, RESPONSE PAPER DUE (on any reading(s) during this week)**

IV. **RANGZEN**

Tu, Feb 7  
**Independence**  
Norbu, *Rangzen Charter* (on Reserve and possibly available for sale)  
*Dondup, “Independence as Tibet’s Only Option: Why the ‘Middle Path’ is a Dead End,” pp 1-5*  

Th, Feb 9  
**2008: Marches, Uprisings, and Demonstrations – POSSIBLE INTERVIEW PAPER**  
#Watch “Sun Behind the Clouds” Wednesday evening as a group  
*“Special Message of HH the Dalai Lama for Tibetans in and outside Tibet” (14 Nov 2008).*  

Fri, Feb 10  
**FIELDTRIP: Sherabling, Bir, Tashi Jong, & Dongyu Gatsal Ling OR to Norbulingka & HH Karmapa’s monastery – details TBA**

V. **PRESENT ISSUES: DALAI LAMA STEPS DOWN & SELF-IMMOLATIONS**

Tu, Feb 14  
**His Holiness Steps Down, and the New Kalon Tripa – POSSIBLE INTERVIEW TOPICS**  
*Aprì, “The battle over the new Dalai Lama,” *Phayul* (Dec. 15, 2007)  
**“Statement of His Holiness the Dalai Lama on the 52nd Anniversary of the Tibetan National Uprising Day” (March 10, 2011)  
*Sangay, “Testimony of Dr. Lobsang Sangay Kalon Tripa, Central Tibetan Administration before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission”*  

Th, Feb 16  
**Self-Immolations inside Tibet & Responses POSSIBLE INTERVIEW TOPICS**  
*Novick, “Protest or Sacrifice? China’s Anti-Imperialist Propaganda Backfires In Tibet,” *Huffpost*  
*“China Says Immolations Will Not Change Tibet Policy,”* *Reuters* (Dec 6, 2011)  
*J. Norbu, “Self Immolation and Buddhism,” *Phayul* (Jan 5, 2012)*  
#You might find you understand these articles better if you watch footage of nun Palden Choetso’s self-immolation, which is found in many places on-line. Warning: this footage is very graphic & disturbing, thus not required.  

Fri, Feb 17  
**FIELDTRIP to Rangzen Ashram to meet Tenzin Tsundue & other activists**  
*T. Tsundue, “My Kind of Exile”*  
Other readings TBA

**Sunday, Feb 19 by noon, INTERVIEW PAPER DUE (on any topic covered this week)**

VI. **LOSAR -- TEMPLE AND DOMESTIC RITUALS**

Mon, Feb 20  
**Nishugu – state and domestic rituals**  
*Misc articles on Gutor & Losar  

**FIELDTRIP: leave @ 3:00 pm, 4:00-5:00 Nishugu Torgyal at Namgyal Monastery**

Wed - Fri, Feb 22-24  
**LOSAR (if Losar is “cancelled” we may go to Bir, Sherabling, & Tashi Jong)**  
* Wed, Feb 22  
  **Day #1** -- 6 am prayers in temple, Losar breakfast, free day, evening bonfire & dancing  
* Th, Feb 23  
  **Day #2** – Iv Sarah 10 am, lunch @ IBD, meet Dema Lochu Rinpoche, evening games or dancing  
* Fri, Feb 24  
  **Day #3** – 7:30 am puja, juniper burning (*sangsol*), hang flags (*lungta*), breakfast, free day – “Ki Ki So So Lha Gyallo! (Victory to the Gods)”
VII. EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Tu, Feb 28  Educating the Next Generation - Geshe Jamphal Dakpa and/or Passang Tsering  
*“Basic Education Policy for Tibetans in Exile”  
*Department of Home and Department of Education, from www.tibet.com  

Th, Mar 1  Monasticities and Modernity, and the Problem with “Rich Refugees”  
*Nelson, “Monks and Modernity: Contemporary Buddhist Monasticism in the Diaspora”  
*Reading on nuns TBA  

Fri, Mar 2  Fieldtrip: TCV for guided tour, stop at Peton School on way back

VIII. THE MANY DALAI LAMAS

Tu, Mar 6  Opening anniversary celebrations at IBD Sarah campus (attended by numerous Tibetan VIPS, IBD administrators and faculty, present IBD Sarah & Emory study abroad students, past Tibetan roommates & Emory alums), possibly followed by culture show  

Wed, Mar 7  Audience with HH the Dalai Lama, followed a by meal or tea at Upper IBD

Th, Mar 8  Cho-trul Due-chen (Day of Offerings) – His Holiness gives Jataka Teaching at main temple

Sat, Mar 10  Fieldtrip: March 10th activities @ Temple, including speech by His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
*March 10th Uprising Day songs - bring these with you to the temple, so you can sing along!

IX & X. PERFORMING TIBETAN-NESS: RITUALS, DANCE, & MUSIC

Mon, Mar 12  Women’s Uprising Day

Tu, Mar 13  Monastic and Lay Musical Traditions  
*Diehl, Echoes from Dharamsala, 68-100 (in Vol. 1, in pdf. assigned for Jan 19th)  
*Schrmpf, “From Devil Dance to World Healing”

#Watch: TIPA Promo (for 2009 Holland tour) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWWBio1SIPk&feature=plcp&context=C35d85a2UDEEvgsT0PDskJrUtQbo7c15rNDwU5YSBjE

Th, Mar 15  Contemporary Music Inside & Outside Tibet (guest speaker, Amalia Rubins)  
*Selections from Unity and Discord: Music and Politics in Contemporary Tibet  
*Optional, Yeh & Kunga Lama, “Hip-hop gangsta or most deserving of victims?” 809-829  
#optional: Watch: “Music on Wheels” (on reserve in library)

Sunday, March 18 by noon, QUESTIONNAIRE & MAP DUE (on some dimension of McLeod Ganj)

Tu, Mar 20  FIRST DAY OF SHOTON (Opera Festival) @ TIPA!  
Ross, Lhamo: Opera From the Roof of the World, pp. 1-49 (books on reserve in Library)

Th, Mar 22  Topic and Readings TBA

Saturday, Mar 24, move stuff to Kelsang Guesthouse – Spring Break begins that evening  
You should return to Kelsang Guesthouse by noon on Tu, April 3
XI MEDICINE: “TRADITIONAL” & “WESTERN”

Tu, Apr 3  “Traditional” Tibetan Medicine: Talk and tour by General Secretary of Mentsekhang
*Ozawa de-Silva, “Neither Dualistic, Nor Monistic: Mind/Body Theory and Practice in Tibetan Medicine and Buddhism,” 1-25
*Gorham, “Tibetan Medicine: The Art of Seeing More Than the Disease”

Th, Apr 5 Public Health – exact readings TBA, but likely sections from past IR papers
Villinger, selections from “Healing: the Middle Way” – given to you or on reserve
*Carlson, “Substance Abuse Among Second Generation Tibetans in India”

Fri, Apr 6 Fieldtrip: Tour of Dept of Health and Delek Hospital

XII PRESERVING THE FINE ARTS

Tu, Apr 10 Topic & Readings TBA
Th, Apr 12 Topic & Readings TBA
Friday, Apr 13 Fieldtrip to Norbulingka and audience with HH the Karmapa

Sunday, April 15 by noon, FINAL PAPER or PROJECT DUE (Life-history or Participant-observation)

XIII THE BUDDHA GOES GLOBAL & SHANGRILA REDUX

Tu, Apr 17 Contemporary Tibetan Art: The Buddha Goes Global
Optional: *“Tsering Nyandak in conversation with Kabir Mansingh Heimsath,” and image of “Balloons in Flight” by Tsering Nyandak (painting discussed in article).

Th, Apr 19 Revisiting Shangri-la

Saturday, Apr 24: RESEARCH PERIOD BEGINS!
Sun, Apr 25, Panchen Lama, Gendhun Choekyi Nyima’s birthday party at Main Temple!