

**Tibetan Studies Program**  
**Independent Research: Selected Topics**  
**MESAS 370 / REL 497 / ARTVIS 398**  
**4 credits**

This course allows students to research a Tibetan Studies-related topic of their own interest and design. The first step in this process is the research proposal you turn in when applying to the program. Once you reach India, you should begin reading relevant material, investigating possible sites and contacts, and meeting with the Emory program director (and, if applicable, other research advisors) in order to discuss methodology, resources, contacts, etc. You will be required to hand in an initial proposal one month before beginning your research and the revised the proposal the week before your research begins. The actual research period will be 3 ½ weeks long. Although the majority of our students have chosen to do the bulk of their research in the Dharamsala area, with the permission of the Program Director you may choose to do your research elsewhere. A final research paper of 30-35 pages (excluding appendices, endnotes, bibliography, and contact information) is due August 1. This will be graded by the Emory Program Director and, if different, your primary research advisor.

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**COURSE TIMELINE AND REQUIREMENTS:**

- I. Meet with the on-site Program Director the week just before or just after Spring break to discuss ideas for your project. Your first proposal is due one month before your research period begins. This should give a brief description of what you are intending to do, the location(s) where you intend to do your research, your requested advisor(s), the type of credit you are hoping to receive, and any relevant arrangements you have made with, or requirements communicated to you by faculty members at your institution. You will be assigned a primary advisor within a few days after turning in your first proposal. You should begin meeting with him or her right away.
- II. One week before the research period begins, submit a final proposal to your advisor that includes:
  - 1) A detailed a description of your project, including: primary research site(s); organizations and/or individuals you intend to work with; main issues/questions you are focusing on; and methodologies you will use (interviews, photography, musical recording, participant observation, library research, tutorials, questionnaires, etc).
  - 2) Contacts already made, people already spoken to/interviewed, etc.
  - 3) Books, articles, brochures, etc, already read
  - 4) Contacts you intend to make and materials you plan to read during research period
  - 5) What kind of help you still need from your advisor(s)
  - 6) Any specific requirements from your university we should know about
  - 7) A request for extra funds (with full explanation), if needed
  - 8) Address(es) and phone number(s) of where you will be during your research period, and your personal email address;
  - 9) Emergency phone #(s) & email address(es) of family member(s) or guardian(s).
- III. You should actively work on your research topic for a full 3 1/2 weeks. No exceptions to this will be made without permission from the Program Director. While not required, it is highly suggested that you discuss your research with your advisor during this period. At the conclusion of research period, you will be required to meet in McLeod Ganj for the final program retreat.
- IV. Your final paper is due on August 1st. It should be 30-35 pages, excluding appendices, endnotes, bibliography, and contact information. It should draw on both your own ethnographic data and written materials, either one comprising at least 30% of your final work. A detailed explanation of expectations for this paper will be given you by the end of the program. Please email your final research paper to the Program Director (and copy [cipa@emory.edu](mailto:cipa@emory.edu)) and (if different) to your primary advisor.