

**Maitripa College**  
**First Year Classical Tibetan • eight credits • June 13 - August 12, 2011**

Instructor: Craig Preston  
Telephone: 607/351-8744  
E-mail: cpreston@giganticom.com

Class hours: M, T & Th, F 10:00-12:00 and 2:00-4:00  
Class room: TBA.  
Office hours: TBA.

### **Course Description**

This eight credit intensive course covers all of First Year Classical Tibetan. Prerequisites: None; some prior experience with Tibetan would be helpful. The course has 8 parts:

1. Classical Tibetan's Phonemic and Lexical Dimensions.
2. Patterns in Syllables, Words, Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences.
3. Verbs, Verb Forms, and Verb Syntax.
4. Declension: The Eight Cases and Nineteen Case Marking Particles.
5. Tibetan Verse. Tsong-kha-pa Lo-sang-drak-ba (*tsong kha pa blo bzang grags pa*, 1357-1419). *Three Principal Aspects of the Path to Enlightenment*.
6. Topical Outlines in Commentary. Dngul Chu Dharma Bhadra (1772-1851). Selections from *Commentary on Three Principal Aspects*.
7. Commentary. Tsong-kha-pa Lo-sang-drak-ba (*tsong kha pa blo bzang grags pa*, 1357-1419). Summary of the General Path. From *Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment / Stages of the Path to Enlightenment Thoroughly Teaching All the Stages of Practice of the Three Types of Beings (lam rim chen mo / skyes bu gsum gyi nyams su blang ba'i rim pa thams cad tshang bar ston pa'i byang chub lam gyi rim pa)*.
8. Collected Topics on Valid Cognition. Pur-bu-jok Jam-ba-gya-tso (*phur bu lcog byams ba rgya mtsho*, 1825-1901). Selections from Chapter 1 Colors and Chapter 2 Established Bases. From *Explanation of the Presentation of the Collected Topics Revealing the Meaning of the Texts on Valid Cognition, A Magical Key to the Path of Reasoning (tshad ma'i gzhung don 'byed pa'i bsdu grva'i rnam bzhag rigs lam 'phrul gyi lde mig)*.

### **Course Materials**

- Dngul Chu Dharma Bhadra (1772-1851). Selections from *Commentary on Three Principal Aspects*. [supplied for class]
- Perdue, D. (1992). *Debate in Tibetan Buddhism*. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
- Preston, C. (2003). *How To Read Classical Tibetan, Vol. One: Summary of the General Path*. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.
- Pur-bu-jok Jam-ba-gya-tso (*phur bu lcog byams ba rgya mtsho*, 1825-1901). Selections from Chapter 1 Colors and Chapter 2 Established Bases. From *Explanation of the Presentation of the Collected Topics Revealing the Meaning of the Texts on Valid Cognition, A Magical Key to the Path of Reasoning (tshad ma'i gzhung don 'byed pa'i bsdu grva'i rnam bzhag rigs lam 'phrul gyi lde mig)*. [supplied for class]
- Tsong-kha-pa Lo-sang-drak-ba (*tsong kha pa blo bzang grags pa*, 1357-1419). Summary of the General Path. From *Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment / Stages of the Path to Enlightenment Thoroughly Teaching All the Stages of Practice of the Three Types of Beings (lam rim chen mo / skyes bu gsum gyi nyams su blang ba'i rim pa thams cad tshang bar ston pa'i byang chub lam gyi rim pa)*. [supplied for class]
- Tsong-kha-pa Lo-sang-drak-ba (*tsong kha pa blo bzang grags pa*, 1357-1419). *Three Principal Aspects of the Path to Enlightenment*. [supplied for class]
- Wilson, J. (1992). *Translating Buddhism From Tibetan*. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

**Course Requirements**

1) Homework	20 %
2) Midterm exam	30 %
3) Final	30 %
4) Attendance and Active Participation in class	20 %

**General Comments**

Paradoxically, this course is both difficult and easy. It is difficult for two reasons. First, Tibetan is nothing like English. Nonetheless, it is a language with a coherent grammar and syntax. It might be helpful to think of the Classical Tibetan used in Buddhist texts as a programming language. In this sense, I will teach you how Tibetan signified meaning. This course is also difficult because of the substantial time commitment required. You will be in class four hours a day, four days a week. Out of class you will have to spend a few hours studying every day, seven days a week.

*But really — this course is easy!* You don't need any special linguistic talent (I was terrible in Latin and French). You don't need to know Sanskrit (I never learned it). You don't need to be able to remember things the first time you hear them (I can't — that's why I use repetition followed by more repetition). You don't need to be one of those people who just picks up languages (I had to learn Tibetan **twice!**). All you need is what Samuel Taylor Coleridge calls the willing suspension of disbelief. For nine weeks stop filling your life with all the stuff you usually fill your life with, and fill it with Tibetan. "Tibetan Language Intensive" really means that you're not doing other things with your time. You'll go to class, eat, talk about Tibetan, socialize, go to another class, eat some more, hang out with some other folks who are focusing for nine weeks on Tibetan, study some more, eat and socialize some more. Then repeat. It doesn't require a superhuman effort. It really just means doing this and not doing that. It's only eight weeks, and you'll be astounded at all the Tibetan you can learn in eight weeks.

**Daily Schedule (Subject To Change)**

	DATE	TIME	TOPICS COVERED AND READING	DRILLS	VOCAB
<b>Session 1</b> <b>week 1</b>	June 13	am	Introduction and course overview.	1	
			<b>(1) Classical Tibetan's Phonemic and Lexical Dimensions</b> Wilson, chapter 1 • alphabet – 30 consonants, pp. 3-9.		
		pm	Wilson, chapter 2 • four vowels; modification of vowel sounds, pp. 11-17.	2	pp. 16-17
	June 14	am	Wilson, chapter 3 • aspiration and tone, pp. 19-26. Wilson, chapter 4 • root letter; function of letters in syllables, pp. 27-35.	3.1	pp. 25-26 p. 35
		pm	Wilson, chapter 5 • ten suffixes and two secondary suffixes; levels of analysis, pp. 37-51. Wilson, chapter 6 • five prefixes and three superscriptions; special case of pronunciation change; levels of analysis, pp. 53-68.	5 6	pp. 49-51 pp. 67-68

DATE	TIME	TOPICS COVERED AND READING	DRILLS	VOCAB
June 16	am	Wilson, chapter 7 • four subscribed letters; rules for finding root letter; doctrinal vocabulary, pp.69-88.	7.1, 7.2 7.3, 7.4	pp. 68-88
	pm	Wilson, chapter 8 • review of pronunciation rules; exceptions; Tibetan numbers, pp. 89-114	8.1, 8.2	pp. 111-114
June 17	am	Review of the lexical and phonemic levels of Tibetan. Wilson, Appendix One, pp. 545-560.		
	pm	<b>(2) Patterns in Syllables, Words, Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences</b> Wilson, chapter 9, Words, pp. 117-151.	9.1, 9.2, 9.3	
<b>week 2</b> June 20	am	Continuation of last class on Wilson, chapter 9, Words, pp. 117-151.	9.1, 9.2, 9.3	
	pm	Introduction to particles and the science of the dots. Wilson, chapter 10, pp. 153-184.		pp. 180-184
June 21	am	Structure of Tibetan. Wilson, Dots between words and syllables (science of the dots), Appendix 2, pp. 568-575.		
	pm	Continuation of last class on Structure of Tibetan. Wilson, Dots between words and syllables (science of the dots), Appendix 2, pp. 568-575.	9.1, 9.2, 9.3	
June 23	am	Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences. Wilson, chapter 11, pp. 185-213.	11.1, 11.2, 11.3	pp. 211-213
	pm	Continuation of last class on Wilson, chapter 11, pp. 185-213.		
June 24	am	Introduction to Declension; Lexical Prefix Particles. Wilson, chapter 12, pp. 215-252; Wilson, The eight cases and nineteen case marking particles, Appendix five, pp. 623-628.		pp. 248-252
	pm	Continuation of last class on Lexical Prefix Particles. Wilson, chapter 12, pp. 232-252.		

	DATE	CLASS	READING AND OTHER PREPARATION
week 3	June 27	am	<b>(3) Verbs, Verb Forms, and Verb Syntax</b> Preston, My approach to describing the elements of Tibetan syntax. In <i>How To Read Classical Tibetan, Vol. Two: Buddhist Tenets</i> , pp. 37-47 (handout).
		pm	Wilson's System of Verb Classification. Wilson, Appendix Four: Verbs and Verb Syntax, pp. 583-621. <b>Linking verbs</b> , p. 596; handout on linking verbs.
	June 28	am	<b>Verbs of existence, living, dependence, attitude.</b> Wilson 596-599; 293 <i>et seq.</i> , 356 <i>et seq.</i> , 333 <i>et seq.</i> , 375 <i>et seq.</i> , 514 <i>et seq.</i>
		pm	Continuation of last class on nom-loc verbs of existence, living, dependence, attitude.
	June 30	am	<b>Verbs of motion, nominative action verbs, and rhetorical verbs.</b> Wilson, pp. 599-602; also for verbs of motion: 471 <i>et seq.</i> , 535 <i>et seq.</i> ; also for nominative action verbs: 477 <i>et seq.</i> ; also for rhetorical verbs: 469 <i>et seq.</i> , 508 <i>et seq.</i> , 592 <i>et seq.</i>
		pm	Continuation of last class on nom-obj verbs of motion, nominative action verbs, and rhetorical verbs.
	July 1	am	<b>Verbs of separation, absence, conjunction, and disjunction.</b> Wilson. pp. 603-605; also 519 <i>et seq.</i> , 578 <i>et seq.</i> , 522 <i>et seq.</i>
		pm	Continuation of last class on verbs of separation, absence, conjunction, and disjunction.
week 4	July 5	am	<b>Transitive verbs.</b> Wilson, 605-608; also pp., 466, 405, 485,.
		pm	<b>Specialized Verbs and Attributive Syntax.</b> Wilson 608-611; also pp., 466, 405, 485.
	July 6	am	<b>(4) Declension: The Eight Cases and Nineteen Case Marking Particles.</b> Nominative case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 628-632.
		pm	Objective case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 632-636.
	July 7	am	Agentive case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 636-638.
		pm	Fourth case paradigms, pp. 639-640; Originative case paradigms, pp. 640-644
	July 8	am	Continuation of originative case paradigms, pp. 640-644; Connective case paradigms, pp. 644-652
		pm	Continuation of last class on connective case paradigms, pp. 644-652; Locative case paradigms, pp. 652-655; Vocative case paradigms, p. 655.

	DATE	CLASS	READING AND OTHER PREPARATION
<b>Session 2 week 5</b>	July 18	am	<b>(5) Translating Tibetan Verse: Tsong-kha-pa, (1357-1419), Three Principal Aspects of the Path to Enlightenment</b> stanzas 1, 2
		pm	stanzas 3, 4
	July 19	am	stanzas 5, 6
		pm	stanzas 7, 8
July 21	am	stanzas 9, 10	
	pm	stanzas 11, 12	
July 22	am	stanzas 13, 14	
	pm	Completion of translating the root text.	
<b>week 6</b>	July 25		<b>(6) Translating Commentary: Dngul Chu Dharma Bhadra (1772-1851), Topical Outline plus the Root Verses, <i>Commentary of the Three Principal Aspects of the Path</i></b>
		am	stanzas 1, 2 (promise of composition, exhortation to listen).
		pm	stanzas 3, 4, 5 (renunciation)
	July 26	am	stanzas 6, 7, 8 (altruistic aspiration to enlightenment)
pm		stanzas 9, 10, 11 (correct view of emptiness)	
July 28	am	stanzas 12, 13, 14 (correct view of emptiness)	
	pm	Completion of translating the root text plus topical outline.	
July 29	am	<b>(7) Tsong-kha-pa. Summary of the General, <i>Great Stages of the Path</i> <i>Summary of the General Path</i>, Chapter One, pp. 1-18.</b>	
	pm	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Two, pp. 19-36.	
<b>week 7</b>	August 1	am	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Three, pp. 37-48.
		pm	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Four, pp. 49-70.
August 2	am	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Five, pp. 71-92.	
	pm	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Six, pp. 93-112,	

DATE	CLASS	READING AND OTHER PREPARATION
August 4	am	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Seven, pp. 113-130,
	pm	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Eight, pp. 131-148.
August 5	am	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Nine, pp. 149-176.
	pm	<i>Summary of the General Path</i> , Chapter Ten, pp. 177-194.
<b>week 8</b>	August 8	<b>(8) Introduction to Collected Topics on Valid Cognition</b>
	am	Collected Topics, Colors, A1. Perdue, D. (1992). Introduction. In <i>Debate in Tibetan Buddhism</i> , 3-165; Colors and so forth, pp. 165-230.
	pm	Collected Topics, Colors, A2.
	August 9	am Collected Topics, Colors, Own System. Perdue, 248-252.
	pm	Collected Topics, Established Bases, B1, B2. Perdue, 267-317; 317-327.
	August 11	am Collected Topics, Established Bases, B3. B4. Perdue, 327-376.
	pm	Collected Topics, Established Bases, Own System. Perdue, 394-398.
	August 12	am Review.
	pm	Final Exam