

**Centre for Inner Asian Studies
School of International Studies**

Course:	PhD
Course No.	
Course Title:	Society, Culture and Politics of Tibet
Course Type:	Optional
Course Teacher:	Tsetan Namgyal
Course No:	SA 663
Course Credits:	Two
Contact Hours:	Two hrs per week

Course Objectives

The history of Tibet can be divided into four periods, namely the Ancient/Legendary period(127-B.C. 7th A.D.), Medieval/Dynastic period, 629-84- A.D.) Hegemonic period, 84-1642 AD) and the Modern/Theocratic period, 1644-1911/59. Its understanding is necessary to study contemporary Tibet. The early period deals with the pre-historical period characterized by the fact, legends and myths and political events from the early 7th century to the 9th century A.D. marked the end of the Tibetan empire or imperial period. The second covers the Religio-Political system (chos srid 'nis ldan) from the 10th century A.D., which can be termed as the period of hegemonic rule that remained for centuries. The theocratic period from the rise of political and religious supremacy by the 5th Dalai Lama or even the second dissemination of Buddhism in Tibet to the enthronement of the 13th Dalai Lama in 1895, endured until the Chinese took over. The fourth or the last period covered the period of political changes when Tibet was considered an area of competition between Tsarist Russia and British India, finally ending with the Chinese takeover of Tibet in the 1950s.

This course aims at understanding various issues confronting Tibet's History, Culture, Religion, and Politics. Before the arrival of Buddhism, the Bon religion played a crucial role in shaping the politics of Tibet. The essence of the Buddhist Religio- Political system of governance in Tibet originated based on the religious faith of the Tibetans. It inspired them to accept and support the

authority of such order that, in their custom, was authorized by a supreme spiritual power within the framework of the Buddhist philosophical concept of human relations, which preaches non-violence and universal brotherhood.

Overall, this course is expected to provide academic grounding to understand the various issues and systems of Tibetan civilization and the current debate on Tibetan autonomy, which may help widen our understanding of Tibet.

In the era of globalization, the communities and countries worldwide are changing rapidly, and Tibet is not an exception. Though Tibet gradually lost its independent status and position in the post-1945 phase, it will still play an important role. For centuries, India has had robust and long bonding historical and cultural relations with this land of mystic identity. Over the last decades, we have seen unprecedented changes in Tibetan politics, culture, religion and economy. Hence, understanding the present situation, peace and stability in Tibet (Tibetan Autonomous Region - TAR) is necessary for strengthening Asian security. Tibet can play a significant role and regain its identity in the International community only when integrating with the global political system. This course will help students and researchers broaden a solid understanding of contemporary Tibet and its glorious history.

Learning outcome

The course aims to train students to critically and methodically understand Tibetan studies under the domain of International relations while following the proper research approaches and methods along with primary (fieldwork /data) and secondary (literature) sources. These ultimately help develop analytical skills with appropriate research methods to pursue their research work.

Evaluation Methods: The evaluation of student's performance will be done through i) Mid-Semester Exam/Term Paper: 50%; and ii) End Semester Exam: 50%.

Course contents

1. Structure of Early Tibetan Civilization/ Society

- a) Geographical features, Historical period, Ethnicity and race
- b) Pluralistic Tibetan Society and Relations of Monarchy with Asian Countries,

Hegemonic rule and Theocratic period

- c) Tibet's cultural contact with Central and Inner Asia, India, Mongolia, Buryats, Kalmikya and the Tuva Republic of Trans Siberian states of present Russia, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Ladakh, Tawang and Tibet's Cultural contact with West Asians, Arabs and the Persians through trade and commerce.

2. Socio-Cultural Identity and Sectarian politics

- a) Bon Religion, an indigenous mode and model of Nobility and Spirituality
- b) Adoption of Indian Culture from (the 7th Century A.D. onwards)
- c) The Institution of the Dalai Lama and other religious institutions(Nyigma, Ka gyud and Sakya)

3. Politics and International Relations (Pre-1951 & post 1959)

- a) Tibet's Treaties, Conventions and Agreements with neighbouring (1913-1951)
- b) Two-fold Identity of the Tibetans(1959)
- c) International Relations of the Dalai Lama's Administration in India
- d) Middle way Approach and Tibetan issue

4. Identity and Culture: Understanding Modern Tibet (TAR of PRC)

- a) Transformations of Tibetan society: Agriculture, education, economy etc. after 1959
- b) Religious and Linguistic policies in Tibet after 1959
- c) Development, Socio-Economic and Ecological policies and reforms in TAR (Tibetan Autonomous Region) since 1965 under the Peoples Republic of China(PRC)

Readings

- Addy Premen,(1960) *Tibet on the Imperial Chessboard*, New Delhi: Academic Publishers,(page- 223-304)
- Alex McKay edited, (2003)*The History of Tibet, vol,1*, Routledge Curzon, London (page-142- 180&457-529)
- Anand D, 2009. *Tibet: A Victim of Geopolitics*. Routledge New Delhi -01 India
- Arpi Claude, 2004, *Born in Sin: The Panchsheel Agreement*. Mittal Publications New Delhi Melvyn Goldstein, "*The Balance between Centralization and Decentralization in the Traditional Tibetan Political System: An Essay on the Nature of Tibetan Political Macro-Structure*", in *Central Asiatic Journal*, xv (1971), pp. 170-82.
- Bell Charles, (1997)*The Religion of Tibet.*, Low Price Publications Delhi-52 (page 8-20& 29-46) Addy Premen,(1960) *Tibet on the Imperial Chessboard*, New Delhi: Academic Publishers,(page- 1-20)
- Bell Charles,(1997) *The Religion of Tibet.*, Low Price Publications Delhi-52

- Berkeley, University of California, pp. 6-20, 36-37, 41, 44-45, 65-78, 89-98.
- Bina Roy Burman,(1979) *Religion and Politics in Tibet*. Vikas Publishing House Pvt, LtdDelhi (page 1-64)
- Christopher, I.B,(1987) *The Tibetan Empire in Central Asia*. Princeton University Press, New Jersey
- Clarke (ed.), *Development, Society, and Environment in Tibet*, Vienna: Verlag der Oesterreichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, pp. 153-165
- Dagmar Bernstorff, (2003) *Exile as Challenge the Tibetan Diaspora*. Orient Longman, Delhi pp 40-60.
- Dawa Norbu (co-ed.) 1992 *Ethnicity and Politics in Central Asia*, South Asian Publishers, Delhi Shakabpa Tsepon, WD, 1976, *Tibet, A Political History*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press 1967(*Bod kyi srid don rGyal rabs*. Vol.1&2 Kalimpong, West Bengal Shakapa House) Bina Roy Burman, 1979, *Religion and Politics in Tibet*. Vikas Publishing House pvt,Ltd Delhi Dung-dkar blo-bzang 'phrim-las, 1991 *The Merging of Religious and Secular Rule in Tibet*.
- Dawa Norbu, (2001) *China's Tibet Policy*, Curzon press Richmond, Surrey (page- 179-210 & 263-283)
- Dawa Norbu, 2001, *China's Tibet Policy*, Curzon press Richmond, Surrey
- Dhyani S.N.,(1961) *Contemporary Tibet*, Capital Law House, Hazratganj, Lucknow
- Dpag bsam ljon bzan (1963)(*Religious history of India, China and Tibet*) Grub mthah thams chad kyi khuns dan hdod tshul stonpa (*Religious history of Tibet*) Chos je Lama, Sarnath Articles: (1970) "*Aspects of the Origin of the Buddhist Tradition on Tibet*" Per Kvaerne, NUMEN, Pub. BRILL.VOL.19, pp.22-40
- Dung-dkar blo-bzang 'phrim-las,(1991) *The Merging of Religious and Secular Rule in Tibet*. Foreign Languages Press, Beijing,
- Foreign Languages Press, Beijing.
- Ge dun Cho phel, Deb ther dkar po Grub mTha' gsal baime long
- *Geopolitical Identity*. The Journal of Asian Studies Vol. 68, No. 1 (February): 227–252.
- George N Roerich, (1976)Trans. *The Blue Annals*. Part 1&2, Motilal Banarsidass Delhi
- Graham Clarke, (1998)"Development, Society and Environment in Tibet," in Graham E. Clarke (ed.), *Development, Society, and Environment in Tibet*, Vienna: Verlag der Oesterreichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, pp. 1-11, 29-47
- Grunfield .A.Tom, (1987)*The Making of Modern Tibet*. Oxford University Press. Delhi pp185- 206 Tsering Shakya,(1999)
- H.H. The Dalai Lama. *Guidelines for Future Tibet's polity and the basic features of its Constitution*. (Available online) <http://www.tibet.com/future.html>
- Heather Stoddard ,(1986) "Tibet: Transition from Buddhism to Communism" in *Government and Opposition*, Volume 21, No.1, Winter London School of Economics,London, pp. 75-95.

- Israel Epstein, *Tibet Transformed*, Beijing: New World Press, pp.7-15, 152-164, 242-257
- Jing Wei (ed.), (1989) *Hundred Questions About Tibet*, Beijing: Beijing Review Press, pp.1-27 Michael van Walt, (1987) *The Status of Tibet: history, rights, and prospects in international law*, Boulder: Westview, pp.119-141
- Mehrotra .L.L, (1997) *India's Tibet Policy*, Tibetan Parliamentary and Policy Research Centre New Delhi
- Melvyn Goldstein and Matthew Kapstein (eds.), (1998) *Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet – Religious Revival and Cultural Identity*, Berkeley: University of California (1983).
- Melvyn Goldstein, Tsering Tashi and William Siebenschuh, (1997) *The Struggle for a Modern Tibet: The Autobiography of Tashi Tsering*, Armonk, New York: M . E. Sharpe, pp.1-41.
- Melvyn Goldstein, (1971) "*The Balance between Centralization and Decentralization in the Traditional Tibetan Political System: An Essay on the Nature of Tibetan Political Macro- Structure*", in *Central Asiatic Journal*, xv, pp. 170-82.
- Melvyn Goldstein, (1989) *A History of Modern Tibet: The Demise of the Lamaist State*, Berkeley, University of California.
- Melvyn Goldstein, (1989) *A History of Modern Tibet: The Demise of the Lamaist State*, Berkeley, University of California.
- Michael, F, (1982) *Rule by Incarnation, Tibetans Buddhism and its Role in Society and State*, Colorado, West View
- No. 35 pp-110-154
- Phuntsog Wangyal, 1977 "*The Influence of Religion on Tibetan Politics*", *Tibet Journal*. pp-78- 86
- Ram Rahul, 1969, *The Government and Politics of Tibet*, Vikas Publications New Delhi. *Tibetan in Exile*, part I&II Published by TEGD Dharamsala
- Ram Rahul, (1969) *The Government and Politics of Tibet*, New Delhi, Vikas (page-51-118) Alex McKay edited, (2003) *The History of Tibet*, vol.3 Routledge Curzon, London (page-95-201, 434-500 & 531-618)
- Ram Rahul, (1992) *Modern Tibet*, Munshiram Manoharlal Publications,
- Richardson HE, (1962) *A Short History of Tibet*, E P, Dutton & Co. INC. New York (page-28-42) Kalimpong, West Bengal Shakapa House) (page-1-61)
- Richardson HE, (1962) *A Short History of Tibet*, E P, Dutton & Co. INC. New York (page-28-60) McKay edited, (2003) *The History of Tibet*, vol.2, Routledge Curzon, London (page-165-173, (317-372) (467-491) (554-583) (768-789)
- Richardson, H.E, (1968) *A Cultural History of Tibet*, London, The Trinity Press,
- Ronald Schwartz, (1998) "The Reforms Revisited: Grain Procurement in Tibet," in Graham
- Sankrityayana Rahul, *Tibbat mai Boudh dharam*. Pustak Mahal Allahabad
- Schuyler Jones, (1996) *Tibetan Nomads: environmental pastoral economy and Material Culture*, Thames & Hudson London, pp23-70
- Shakabpa Tsepon, WD, (1976) *Tibet, A Political History*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press 1967 (*Bod kyi srid don rGyal rabs*. Vol.1&2
- Shakabpa Tsepon, WD, (1976) *Tibet, A Political History*. New Haven and

- London, Yale University Press (*Bod kyi srid don rGyal rabs*. Vol.1&2 Kalimpong, West Bengal Shakapa House) (page-205-332)
- Shakabpa Tsepon, WD, (1976) *Tibet, A Political History*. New Haven and London, Yale University Press 1967 (*Bod kyi srid don rGyal rabs*. Vol.1&2 Kalimpong, West Bengal Shakapa House) (page-54-152)
 - Shakya Tsering, (1999) *The Dragon in the Land of Snows* (A History of Modern Tibet since 1947) Pimlico, London SWIV 2SA (page-1-91, 118-162, 200-262 & 394-430)
 - Stobdan, P., 2007 "India's Tibet Policy" World Focus. pp 417-426
 - *The Dragon in the Land of Snows: A History of Modern Tibet Since 1947*. New York: Columbia University Press,
 - The Influence of Religion on Tibetan Politics (1975) Phuntsog Wangyal, Tibet Journal. pp-78- 86
 - *The Status of Tibet in International Law*, R.P Anand, CILS/SIS JNU, Studies in International Law and History: An Asian Perspective
 - Tom Grunfeld, (2000) "Tibet And The United States", paper presented at the XVIIIth IPSA World Congress, Quebec City, Quebec, August 1-5, pp. 5-27
 - Tsering Shakya, (1985) "Tibet and the League of Nations" in Tibet Journal, X (3), pp.48-56
 - Tsering Shakya, (1990) "The 1948 Tibetan Trade Mission to the United Kingdom" in Tibet Journal, XV(4), Winter pp. 97-114
 - Tsering Shakya, (1999) *The Dragon in the Land of Snows: A History of Modern Tibet Since, 1947*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
 - Tseten Wangchuk Sharlho, (1993) "China's Reforms in Tibet: Issues and Dilemmas" in Journal of Contemporary China, Vol. 1(1), Fall, pp.34-43, 55-60.
 - Tsung L.S., (1953) *Tibet and Tibetans*, Stanford University Press, USA
 - "Tibet's Position in Asia Today" (1931) Charles Bell, Foreign Affairs, vol.10 No. 1 pp- 134-144
 - "Tibet and her Neighbours" (1950) Basil Gould, International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944), Vol. 26 No. 1, pp-71-76
 - "Legal position of Tibet" (1956) Charles Henery, The American Journal of International Law, vol.50, No.2, pp-394-404
 - Articles (1957-58) "Transformations in Buddhism in Tibet" Kenneth Ch'en, Philosophical East and West, Vol. 7, No.3/4 1957-58 pp.117-125
 - Articles (1968) "The Position of Tibet in International Law" Alfred P Rubin, China Quarterly,
 - *Autonomy & the Tibetan Perspective*. (2005) Published by Tibetan Parliamentary & Policy Research Centre Lajpat Nagar New Delhi-24. pp-1-126
 - *Understanding the Issues of Tibet*, Published by Tibetan Parliament and Policy Research Centre
 - *Understanding the Issues of Tibet*, Published by Tibetan Parliament and Policy Research Centre. *Indian Parliament on the Issue of Tibet* (2006) (Rajya Sabha Debates)-1952-2005) Published by TP&PRC,
 - Wang Furen and Suo Wenqing, (1984) *Highlights of Tibetan History*, New World Press, Beijing, pp.14-31
 - Wang Lixiong, (1999) "Tibet: PRC's 21st Century Underbelly", in *Beijing Zhanlue Yu*

Guanli, pp. 21-33, Beijing, 2nd January 1999 (republished by *Ta Kung Pao*, Hong Kong, 30th March 1999 and published in translation by *FBIS*)

- Wangyal,(1973)*P. Political Development in Tibet 1951-1959* (JNU, New Delhi, Unpublished Thesis)
- Wangyal,P. (1973)*Political Development in Tibet 1951-1959* (JNU, New Delhi, Unpublished Thesis,)
- Warren W Smith Jr.(1996) *Tibetan Nation, A History of Tibetan Nationalism and Sino-Tibetan Relations*. West view Press.
- Warren W. Smith,(1994) "Chinese Nationality Policies and the Socialist Transformation of Tibet" in Barnett, Robert (ed.), *Resistance and Reform in Tibet*, Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, pp. 51-75.