

Dharma Farm Summer 2023
Beginning Classical Tibetan:
Verbs, Grammar, and Beyond

Teacher:	Craig Preston
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Course length:	Sixty-four hours, June 5-August 3
Class hours:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00am-11:00am PDT
First four weeks:	Monday June 5-Friday June 30
One week mid-course break:	July 3-July 6
Final four weeks:	Monday July 9-Friday August 3
Zoom room:	TBA.
Zoom Office hours:	TBA.

Course Description

This course covers all of First Year Classical Tibetan. Prerequisites: None; some prior experience with Tibetan and Buddhist philosophy would be helpful.

1. Classical Tibetan's phonemic and lexical dimensions.
2. Recognizing recurring patterns in syllables, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.
3. How verbs anchor clauses and sentences, Wilson's descriptive classification of eight classes of verbs, morphology of verb forms, compound verb syntax, and verb-noun hybrids called "verbals."
4. Declension: how the eight cases signify relational meanings for nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and noun phrases.
5. Beyond declension: lexical particles and how the range of syntactic particles also signify relational meanings.
6. Recognizing elements of Tibetan syntax in Tsong-kha-pa's *Summary of the General Path*.

The first part covers the grammar of Classical Tibetan as found in the Tibetan translations of Indian treatises translated from Sanskrit, and in the Tibetan philosophical works on those treatises. The second part applies what has been learned about Classical Tibetan syntax to reading a short passage at the end of Tsong-kha-pa's *Great Exposition of the Stages of the Path*. Our method of teaching Classical Tibetan translation is systematic, detailed, and has proven effective over 20 years of teaching.

Ways to Enjoy This Course

- Some students are looking for a detailed explanation of how Classical Tibetan signifies meaning because they are becoming Tibetan translators or thinking about Grad School in Buddhist Studies.
- Some students want to be exposed to this material so they can better understand their own practice texts.
- And of course we welcome students who want to come hear about how Tibetan works in an adult education, have fun kind of way.

Course Materials

Wilson, J. (1992). *Translating Buddhism From Tibetan*. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Preston, C. (2005) *How to Read Classical Tibetan, I: Summary of the General Path*, Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Course packet, tba

Recommended Materials

Hackett, Paul G. (2003). *A Tibetan Verb Lexicon, Second Edition*. Ithaca, NY: Snow Lion Publications.

Daily Schedule
Summer 2023

DATE	CLASS	TOPICS COVERED AND READING	DRILLS	VOCAB
Session 1 week 1	June 5	1 Part 1. Classical Tibetan's Phonemic and Lexical Dimensions Introduction and course overview. Wilson, chapter 1 • alphabet – 30 consonants, pp. 3-9.	1	
		Wilson, chapter 2 • four vowels; modification of vowel sounds, pp. 11-17.	2	pp. 16-17
	June 6	2 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
		Wilson, chapter 5 • ten suffixes and two secondary suffixes; levels of analysis, pp. 37-51.	5	pp. 49-51
	June 8	3 Wilson, chapter 6 • five prefixes and three superscriptions; special case of pronunciation change; levels of analysis, pp. 53-68. Wilson, chapter 7 • four subscribed letters; rules for finding root letter; doctrinal vocabulary, pp.69-88.	6 7.1, 7.2 7.3, 7.4	pp. 67-68 pp. 68-88
June 9	4 Wilson, chapter 8 • review of pronunciation rules; exceptions; Tibetan numbers, pp. 89-114 Review of the lexical and phonemic levels of Tibetan. Wilson, Appendix One, pp. 545-560.	8.1, 8.2	pp. 111-114	
Session 1 week 2	June 12	5 Part 2. Patterns in Syllables, Words, Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences Wilson, chapter 9, Words, pp. 117-151. Continuation of last class on Wilson, chapter 9, Words, pp. 117-151.	9.1, 9.2, 9.3 9.1, 9.2, 9.3	
	June 13	6 Introduction to particles and the science of the dots. Wilson, chapter 10, pp. 153-184. Structure of Tibetan. Wilson, Dots between words and syllables (science of the dots), Appendix 2, pp. 568-575. 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	pp. 180-184

DATE	CLASS	TOPICS COVERED AND READING	DRILLS	VOCAB
June 15	7	Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences. Wilson, chapter 11, pp. 185-213. Continuation of last class on Wilson, chapter 11, pp. 185-213.	11.1, 11.2, 11.3	pp. 211-213
June 16	8	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. Continuation of last class on Lexical Prefix Particles . Wilson, chapter 12, pp. 232-252.		pp. 248-252
WEEK	DATE	CLASS	READING AND OTHER PREPARATION	
Session 1 week 3	June 19	9	Part 3. Verbs, Verb Forms, and Verb Syntax 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). Wilson's System of Verb Classification. Wilson, Appendix Four: Verbs and Verb Syntax, pp. 583-621. Linking verbs , p. 596; handout on linking verbs.	
	June 20	10	Verbs of existence, living, dependence, attitude. 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> Continuation of last class on nom-loc verbs of existence, living, dependence, attitude.	
	June 22	11	Verbs of motion, nominative action verbs, and rhetorical verbs. 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> Continuation of last class on nom-obj verbs of motion, nominative action verbs, and rhetorical verbs.	
	June 23	12	Verbs of separation, absence and containment, conjunction, and disjunction. Wilson. pp. 603-605; also 519 <i>et seq.</i> , 578 <i>et seq.</i> , 522 <i>et seq.</i> Continuation of last class on verbs of separation, absence, conjunction, and disjunction.	
Session 1 week 4	June 26	13	Transitive verbs. Wilson, 605-608; also pp., 466, 405, 485,. Specialized Verbs and Attributive Syntax. Wilson 608-611; also pp., 466, 405, 485.	
	June 27	14	Part 4. Declension: The Eight Cases and Nineteen Case Marking Particles. Nominative case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 628-632.	

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			Objective case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 632-636.
	June 29	15	Agentive case paradigms, Wilson, pp. 636-638. Fourth case paradigms, pp. 639-640; Originative case paradigms, pp. 640-644
	June 30	16	Continuation of originative case paradigms, pp. 640-644; Connective case paradigms, pp. 644-652 Continuation of last class on connective case paradigms, pp. 644-652; Locative case paradigms, pp. 652-655; Vocative case paradigms, p. 655.

One week mid-course break July 3-July 6

Session 2 week 1	July 10	17	Part 5. Lexical and Syntactic Particles Lexical Prefix Particles. Wilson, chapter 12, pp. 238-243; Appendix Seven, 661-663. Eight types of Syntactic Particles: Type One: Introductory Particles (Wilson 665-666); Type Two: Terminating Particles (Wilson, 666-668).
	July 11	18	Type Three: Rhetorical Particles (Wilson, 669-670); Type Four: Punctuational Particles (Wilson, 671-673). Type Five: Conjunctive and Disjunctive Particles (Wilson, 673-677).
	July 13	19	Type Six: Verb Modifying Syntactic Particles (Wilson, 678). Type Seven: Continuative Particles (Wilson, 678-681) Type Eight: Adverbial Particles (Wilson, special case of <i>sgo nas</i> 319 and 660; adverbial pronouns 581; adverbial phrase markers 659).
	July 14	20	Remarks on the transition from learning paradigm sentences to recognizing these constructions in a 15 th century Tibetan text.
Session 2 week 2	July 17	21	Summary of the General Path The title sentence. Pages xxiv-xxxii
	July 19	22	Summary of the General Path Chapter One, Pages 1-18

WEEK	DATE	CLASS	READING AND OTHER PREPARATION
	July 20	23	Summary of the General Path Chapter Two, Pages 19-35
	July 21	24	Summary of the General Path Chapter Three, Pages 37-47
Session 2 week 3	July 24	25	Summary of the General Path Chapter Four, Pages 49-70
	July 25	26	Summary of the General Path Chapter Five, Pages 71-92
	July 27	27	Summary of the General Path Chapter Six, Pages 93-112
	July 28	28	Summary of the General Path Chapter Seven, Pages 113-130
Session 2 week 4	July 31	29	Summary of the General Path Chapter Eight, Pages 131-148
	Aug 1	30	Summary of the General Path Chapter Nine, Pages 149-176
	Aug 3	31	Summary of the General Path Chapter Ten, Pages 177-194
	Aug 4	32	The joys of translation Pages