

**Department of Religious Studies**  
**Winter Semester 2004/05**  
**RELS 703 Indo-Tibetan Buddhism: the Canons**

05/01/11

Time: Friday 13:00-16:00

Place: Religious Studies Seminar Room

Instructor: Eva Neumaier

Office Hours: Friday 12:00-13:00 or by appointment

Contact: [neumaier@telus.net](mailto:neumaier@telus.net)

**Course Content:**

The course is designed to introduce students of Buddhism, who are interested in textual studies, to the various Buddhist canons (*tripitaka*). The first part will discuss the theory of open *versus* closed canon, the problematic of "scripture," as well as the text-critical methods applied by scholars in studying the canonical texts. The second part will discuss the canons preserved in Indic languages, which are widely considered as "the original". The third part will be devoted to the canons in translation (Chinese and Tibetan), whereby the discussion of the Tibetan Canon will make up the major part.

**Textbooks:**

As no comprehensive book on this subject matter exists, students will be supplied with handouts of pertinent reading material.

**Core Competence:**

Students will become acquainted with literary criticism as well as the philological techniques required to identify canonical texts across different versions of the canon and to produce critical editions of canonical texts. Furthermore, they will learn the techniques of textual criticism in order to unravel the changes individual texts had undergone.

**Structure of the Course:**

The course is designed to give students the practical knowledge how to deal with canonical texts. To facilitate optimal learning, students will be assigned weekly tasks, which will subsequently be discussed the following week. Regular attendance is therefore highly recommended.

**Course Work:**

Ten weekly assignments: 50% of final grade: each week an assignment will be handed out, which is due the following week. Each assignment is worth 5% of the final grade.

Presentation of final paper: 20% of final grade

Research paper on a topic relevant to the course content: 30% of final grade (due not later than 4 pm, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005). Topic of the paper ought to be

discussed with the instructor not later than by Feb. 28. The paper must contain a clear thesis and a well-defined line of argumentation as well as a conclusion. Sources of ideas, data and quotes must be identified in notes and a list of used bibliographic sources should be appended. The paper should be between 20-25 pages (double spaced and regular font).

**Delayed submission of the paper** will result in deducting 10% of the earned mark per day (for instance, a delay of 3 days results in a 30% reduction of the earned mark).

**Missed assignments** result in a zero for this part of the course work.