Course description:
This course is designed to serve as an introductory survey of the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of Buddhism in Tibet from its origins in the mid-first-millennium through the end of the 20th century. Readings will be drawn both from primary sources (in translation) and secondary and tertiary scholarly research. There will be an in-class mid-term exam, and the option of either a take-home final exam or a short (7 pp.) paper.

PQ: Preferably HREL 35100 or equivalent background in Buddhism.

Schedule of Meetings

30 March 2009: No class

1 April 2009: Tibetan pre-history and the Bon tradition
Topics: Earliest records of Tibet
Bon and the “pre-Buddhist religion of Tibet”
How “Tibetan” is Tibetan Buddhism?
Karmay, “A General Introduction to the History and Doctrines of Bon”

6 April 2009: The Imperial Period
Topics: The Tibetan Imperium
The Mythos of the Three Religious Kings

Readings: Snellgrove and Richardson, *Cultural History of Tibet*, pp. 19-32, 49-65
Kapstein, *Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism*, pp. 51-65
Richardson, *A Corpus of Early Tibetan Inscriptions*, pp. 7-15, 26-31, 72-81

8 April 2009: Old Tibetan Buddhism: “Scholastic”
Topics: Śāntarakṣita and the foundation of bSam-yas
Imperial support for translation projects
Kamalaśīla and the “Great Debate” of bSam-yas

Readings: Snellgrove & Richardson, *Cultural History of Tibet*, pp. 66-80, 89-94
Ruegg, “Tibetan Historiography and Doxography of the ‘Great Debate of bSam yas’
*History of Buddhism by Bu-ston*, pp. 181-201

13 April 2009: Old Tibetan Buddhism: “Shamanic”
**Note special class session: class from 3:30 to 4:20; then adjourn for a special guest lecture by Robert Mayer, Oxford University, in Swift Commons)**
Topics: The Figure of Padmasambhava: early and late
The Old Tantras and the 9 Vehicles

Readings: *dBa’-bzhed*, pp. 1-21
Powers, *Tibetan Buddhism*, pp. 319-345
15 April 2009: The “Later Diffusion” (phyi-dar) of Tibetan Buddhism

Topics: History and Historiography of the Phy- i-dar
Atiśa and his reputation Tibetan Buddhism

Readings: Hubert Decleer, “Atiśa’s Journey to Tibet” (in RoTiP)
History of Buddhism by Bu-ston, pp. 201-224

20 April 2009: Doctrinal Issues in the Later Diffusion

Topics: Authenticity of the Old Tantras
Consolidation of the “Ancient School” (rNying-ma)
Treasure Teachings (gTer-ma)

Readings: Karmay, “The Ordinance of Lha bLa-ma Ye-shes-’od”
Gyatso, “Drawn from the Tibetan Treasury”
Davidson, “gSar ma Apocrypha”

22 April 2009: The Sakya (Sa-skya) School (and the Mongols)

Topics: The ’Khon clan and the founding of Sa-skya
Sa-skya Paṇḍita and his critiques
’Phags-pa and the Tibetan Buddhist State

Ruegg, “The Preceptor/Donor (yon mchod) Relation”

27 April 2009: The Kagyü (bKa’-brgyud) Schools (and their Mongols)

Topics: Marpa Chos-kyi bLo-gros and Nāropā
Gam-po-pa and Milarepa
Phag-mo-gru-pa and a New Tibetan Buddhist State

Readings: Powers, Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism, pp. 346-375
Shakabpa, A Political History of Tibet, pp. 73-90

29 April 2009: Bu-ston and the bKa’-gyur/bsTan-’gyur

Topics: Fixing of a Canon
Comprehensive Surveys of Indian Buddhism

Readings: Ruegg, Life of Bu-ston Rinpoche (pp. 1–40)
Schaeffer, “A Letter to the Editors of the Buddhist Canon in Fourteenth-Century Tibet”

4 May 2009: Dol-po-pa, Tsong-kha-pa, and Tibetan Hermeneutics

Topics: Dol-po-pa Shes-rab rGyal-mtshan
rJe Rin-po-che bLo-bzang Grags-pa
Exoteric and Esoteric Buddhism and interpretation

Readings: Stearns, The Buddha from Dolpo, pp. 11-77
Thurman, Life and Teachings of Tsong Khapa, pp. 4-34.

6 May 2009: The Incarnate Lama (sprul-sklu) System and the “Crazies” (smyon-pa)

Topics: The theory and process of recognizing incarnate lamas
Its political, economic, and religious impact
Some reactions . .

Readings: Wylie, Reincarnation: A Political Innovation in Tibetan Buddhism”
Lhalungpa, The Life of Milarepa, pp. 153-197

11 May 2009: In-class mid-term exam
### 13 May 2009: Dalai Lama III and the Geluk (dge-lugs) to the 16th/17th Centuries

**Topics:**
- Political fortunes of the Dalai Lamas
- Consolidation of the Ganden/Geluk Tradition
- Rise of Mass Monasticism
- Tāranātha/Buddhaguptanātha

**Readings:**
- Dreyfus, *Sound of Two Hands Clapping*, pp. 32-53
- Goldstein and Tsarong, “Tibetan Buddhist Monasticism”
- Goldstein, “A Study of the IDab IDob”

### 18 May 2009: Later 17th Century: The “Great Fifth” Dalai Lama

**Topics:**
- *Maṇi bKa’-’bum* and the creation of a national mythos
- sDe-srid Sangs-rgyas rGya-mtsho and the completion of the Potala
- Mass monasticism and the Tibetan Buddhist State

**Readings:**
- Kapstein, *The Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism*, pp. 141-162
- Gyatso, “Down with the Demoness”
- Goldstein, “The Circulation of Estates in Tibet”

### 20 May 2009: 18th Century Developments

**Topics:**
- Dalai Lama-s VI–VIII
- Cang-skya Rol-pa’i rDo-rje and Emperor Ch’ien lung
- Jigme Lingpa
- Si-tu Pan-chen and xylographic canons

**Readings:**
- Gyatso, *Apparitions of the Self*, pp. 124-144
- Kapstein, *The Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism*, pp. 121-137

### 25 May 2009: Memorial Day, no class meeting

### 27 May 2009: 19th Century Developments

**Topics:**
- Dalai Lama-s IX–XII
- The “Non-aligned” Movement (*Ris-med*) in Tibetan Buddhism

**Readings:**
- Smith, “’Jam mgon Kong sprul and the Nonsectarian movement”
- M. Aris, “India and the British According to a Tibetan Text”

### 1 June 2009: Early 20th Century developments

**Topics:**
- Dalai Lama XIII, dGe-’dun Chos-’phel and modernism
- Pha-bong-kha and the rise of “neo-dGe-lugs”

**Readings:**
- Dreyfus, “The Shugden Affair”

### 3 June 2009: Contemporary Developments in Tibet and Exile

**Topics:**
- Dalai Lama XIV, Chinese conquest, the Cultural Revolution, and its aftermath

**Readings:**
- Goldstein & Kapstein, *Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet* (Intro and Conclusion)
- Goldstein, “Revival of Monastic Life in Drepung Monastery”

### 10 June 2009: Take-home final exam

**Final Paper**

_due by 3:00PM in Swift 204_
Bibliography


