



NITARTHA INSTITUTE COURSE CATALOG 2012

I. Introduction to Nitartha Curriculum

The fundamental goal of Nitartha Institute is to provide students with a systematic foundation in the central teachings of the Buddhist tradition, as presented by the Kagyü and Nyingma lineages of Tibet. Though the focus of our curriculum is the Kagyü/Nyingma understanding of the Dharma, the Institute upholds the importance of non-sectarianism and appreciation of the many forms of Buddhism and thus students of any background are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The curriculum is devoted to the in-depth study of the Buddhist view and to the contemplative practices through which students can engage these teachings and apply them to their experience. The curriculum is delivered by the Academic Affairs unit of Nitartha Institute through its four academic departments, which are based on the five traditional sciences taught at Nālandā University:

- Science of Valid Cognition,
- Science of Languages,
- Science of Healing,
- Science of Arts and Crafts, and
- Inner Science of Mind.

Accordingly, Nitartha Institute has four academic departments:

1. Department of Buddhist Studies (BUD), which covers both the Inner Science of Mind and the Science of Valid Cognition
2. Department of Languages (LAN)
3. Department of Healing (HEA)
4. Department of Arts (ART)

The Institute offers a month-long Summer Program, divided into two two-week sessions. Students may come to one or both of the two-week sessions (first-time students are strongly encouraged to come to Session 1 if only coming to one session). The Institute also offers a number of regional programs: 9-Day Intensive or Semester long courses, equivalent to one of the sessions of the Summer Program. Most of the curriculum at Nitartha is delivered both residentially and online.

The Buddhist path is traditionally described in terms of the three trainings: view, meditation, and conduct. All three elements mutually support each other, and all three are key elements of the Buddhist path. The Institute's training focuses on the first two elements, view and practice, with the intent that these will subsequently strengthen right conduct.

II. Nitartha Institute Curriculum Outline

1. Department of Buddhist Studies

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1.3 Advanced Curriculum

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2. Department of Languages

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- 2.2 Sanskrit Language Curriculum

3. Department of Healing

4. Department of Arts

- 4.1 Traditional Arts
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III. Nitartha Institute Complete Course Listing

Nitartha Institute currently offers sixty-two courses (51 courses for credit and 11 non-credit courses) in four academic departments, totaling 79 academic credits:

1. Department of Buddhist Studies

1.1 Foundation Curriculum:

BUD 500 Analytical Meditation I¹

1.1.1 Foundation Curriculum: The Core

BUD 501 Mind and Its World I: Valid Cognition - 2 credits

BUD 502 Clear Thinking - 1 credit

BUD 510 Mind and Its World II: Mental Events & Causality - 2 credits

BUD 520 Mind and Its World III: Modes of Engagement - 2 credits

BUD 530 Mind and Its World IV: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika Philosophical Traditions - 2 credits

1.1.2 Foundation Curriculum: Logic

BUD 550 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I - 1 credit

BUD 551 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts II - 1 credit

BUD 552 Classifications of Reasons - 2 credits

1.1.3 Foundation Curriculum: Debate

BUD 553 Foundational Debate I - 1 credit

BUD 554 Foundational Debate II - 1 credit

BUD 555 Foundational Debate III - 1 credit

BUD 556 Online Debate - 3 credits

1.1.4 Survey Courses

The upcoming survey courses will present the core foundation curriculum in an intensive overview approach, enabling students to preview the complete Nitartha Institute program.

1.1.5 Self-paced Foundation Online Review Courses

BUD 591 Clear Thinking Review - non-credit

BUD 592 Valid Cognition Review - non-credit

BUD 593 Causes and Results Review - non-credit

BUD 594 Modes of Engagement of Mind Review - non-credit

BUD 595 Mental Events Review - non-credit

BUD 596 Introduction to Classification of Reasons Review - non-credit

1.2 Intermediate Curriculum

BUD 600 Analytical Meditation II

1.2.1 Intermediate Curriculum: The Core

BUD 601 Chittamātra Philosophical Tradition: Appearances Are Mere Mind - 2 credits

BUD 610 Madhyamaka Philosophical Tradition: Not Even a Middle - 2 credits

¹ This course is taken with each Foundation course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 600 and BUD 680.

BUD 620 Paths and Bhūmis: The Path to Enlightenment - 2 credits
BUD 630 Buddha Nature: Luminous Heart of the Tathāgata - 2 credits

1.2.2 Intermediate Debate

BUD 653 Intermediate Debate I: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika - 1 credit
BUD 654 Intermediate Debate II: Chittamātra - 1 credit
BUD 655 Intermediate Debate III: Madhyamaka I - 1 credit
BUD 656 Intermediate Debate IV: Madhyamaka II - 1 credit

1.2.3 Self-paced Intermediate Online Review Courses

BUD 671 Chittamātra Review - non-credit
BUD 672 Madhyamaka Review - non-credit
BUD 673 Paths and Bhūmis Review - non-credit
BUD 674 Buddha Nature Review - non-credit

1.3 Advanced Curriculum

BUD 680 Analytical Meditation III

1.3.1 Core Advanced Curriculum

1.3.1.1 Advanced Curriculum: First Turning

BUD 681 *Abhidharmakosha* I: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits
BUD 682 *Abhidharmakosha* II: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits
BUD 690 *Pramānavārttika* I: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits
BUD 691 *Pramānavārttika* II: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits

1.3.1.2 Advanced Curriculum: Second Turning

BUD 700 *Madhyamakāvatāra* I: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits
BUD 701 *Madhyamakāvatāra* II: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits
BUD 702 *Madhyamakāvatāra* III: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits
BUD 703 *Madhyamakāvatāra* IV: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits
BUD 710 *Abhisamayālamkāra* I: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits
BUD 711 *Abhisamayālamkāra* II: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits
BUD 712 *Abhisamayālamkāra* III: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits
BUD 713 *Abhisamayālamkāra* IV: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

1.3.1.3 Advanced Curriculum: Third Turning

BUD 760 *Madhyāntavibhāga*: The Distinction Between the Middle and Extremes - 4 credits
BUD 770 *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga*: The Distinction Between Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena - 2 credits
BUD 780 *Uttaratantra* & Sūtras of the Third Turning: The Lion's Roar of Irreversibility - 4 credits

1.3.1.4 Advanced Curriculum: Tantra

The future Tantra curriculum at Nitartha Institute will be based on the rich tradition of tantric studies in the Kagyü lineage.

1.3.2 Extended Advanced Curriculum

BUD 704 *Chatuhshataka*: The Four Hundred Verses on the Yogic Conduct of a Bodhisattva - 2 credits

1.4 Nitartha Scholars Series

BUD 790 Third Karmapa's Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart – 1 credit

BUD 791 Lama Mipham on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma – 1 credit

BUD 792 Four Yogas of Shāntipa – 1 credit

BUD 799 Advanced Text Taught by Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche - 2 credits

2. Department of Languages

2.1 Tibetan Language Curriculum

LAN 510 Literary Tibetan I - 1 credit

LAN 511 Colloquial Tibetan I - 1 credit

LAN 520 Literary Tibetan II - 1 credit

LAN 521 Colloquial Tibetan II - 1 credit

LAN 530 Literary Tibetan III - 1 credit

LAN 531 Colloquial Tibetan III - 1 credit

LAN 540 Literary Tibetan IV - 1 credit

LAN 541 Colloquial Tibetan IV - 1 credit

2.2 Sanskrit Language Curriculum

The future Sanskrit language program will offer eight courses in literary Sanskrit, followed by advanced literary translation courses.

3. Department of Healing

HEA 500 Science of Healing - 3 credits

4. Department of Arts

4.1 Traditional Arts

ART 500 Lūjong - non-credit

IV. Nitartha Institute Curricula Descriptions and Academic Policies by Department

1. Department of Buddhist Studies

Of the five traditional sciences taught at Nālandā University in India, the Department of Buddhist Studies (BUD) at Nitartha Institute teaches the Inner Science of Mind and the Science of Valid Cognition (one of the four Outer Sciences), as taught in the *shedra* or monastic university tradition of the Kagyü and Nyingma lineages of Tibetan Buddhism. The department teaches these two sciences through a systematic course of study that progress through its Foundation and Intermediate Curriculums, and culminates in the study of the Eight Great Treatises of Sūtra and Tantra that constitute the Advanced Curriculum of the Institute. (Other departments teach other outer sciences.)

The comprehensive, graduated nature of the curriculum is combined with an experiential approach in both traditional and western styles of instruction that include analytical meditation, debate, discussion groups, and active interaction with the faculty and students. This type of engagement with the living lineage of scholarship makes Nitartha Institute unique among the institutions offering studies in Buddhist philosophy.

All foundation and intermediate courses are offered in each of the three Nitartha semesters – fall, spring and summer - in various modes of delivery, both inclass and online. Residential courses are offered either in a once-a-week semester format or a nine-day intensive format in spring and fall semesters. The summer term courses are conducted within a month-long summer intensive. Moreover, online classes can be taken in a self-paced manner at any time, from an archive in the Nitartha Online Campus. This varied, flexible approach to the course scheduling allows the students to proceed through the foundation and intermediate levels at their own pace, either in residential or online format, in real time or archived self-paced manner.

In order to complete a Nitartha course, the student must officially register for the particular course, attend and actively participate in the lectures and class discussions, conduct all the analytical meditations associated with the course, and submit final written exam or perform the final debate presentation. Once a certain sequence of courses is completed, Nitartha program students are awarded a certificate of completion. This is detailed below. Currently, Nitartha Institute issues six certificates of completion:

- Foundation Curriculum Certificate of Completion
- Foundation Debate Certificate of Completion
- Intermediate Curriculum Certificate of Completion
- Advanced Curriculum First Turning Certificate of Completion
- Advanced Curriculum Second Turning Certificate of Completion
- Advanced Curriculum Third Turning Certificate of Completion

The courses of the foundation, intermediate, and advanced curriculum are to be taken in sequence as detailed below. For the policy for accepting non-program students to foundation, intermediate, and advanced curriculum courses, please contact the faculty member of a specific course or Nitartha Institute's Department of Academic Affairs at curriculum@nitarthainstitute.org.

1.1 Foundation Curriculum

The Foundation Curriculum serves as the entryway to the study of Buddhist philosophy. It consists of the core, the logic and debate curricula, as well as survey and review courses. It currently offers 17 credits. The number of credits associated with each course will increase with the further development of the Foundation Curriculum.

BUD 500 Analytical Meditation I²

1.1.1 Foundation Curriculum: The Core

The core of the Foundation Curriculum consists of the series of the four Mind and Its World courses accompanied by the Clear Thinking course. Mind and Its World series - as the title evokes - is exploring the inquiring mind and its world and formulating a contemplative worldview based on introspection. It is based on three introductory *shedra* textbooks: Collected Topics, Classifications of Mind and the Gateway for Fresh Minds, which, in due order, present phenomenology, epistemology and ontology of foundational Buddhism and serve as primers for the Buddhist philosophical training. Clear Thinking class teaches the fundamentals of debate. Upon completion of these five core foundation courses, the Nitartha Institute Foundation Curriculum Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 501 Mind and Its World I: Valid Cognition - 2 credits

BUD 502 Clear Thinking - 1 credit

BUD 510 Mind and Its World II: Mental Events & Causality - 2 credits

BUD 520 Mind and Its World III: Modes of Engagement - 2 credits

BUD 530 Mind and Its World IV: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika Philosophical Traditions - 2 credits

Students should first take BUD 501 Mind and Its World I and BUD 502 Clear Thinking. These classes are always taught together as a pair during inclass programs, and it is recommended that online students take them concurrently as well, since the first course uses some of the methods of analysis and concepts used in the second course. After that, we recommend that students take the three remaining courses in sequential order, but they may take them in any order if that is better for their schedules, especially if they are mixing inclass and online courses.

1.1.2 Foundation Logic Curriculum

Foundation Logic Curriculum provides a theoretical basis for debate training and for understanding the style of Indian and Tibetan treatises, which often are written in a formal debate way. It consists of Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts courses and Classifications of Reasons. Foundation logic courses are not required for awarding the Foundation Curriculum Certificate of Completion.

BUD 550 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I - 1 credit

BUD 551 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts II - 1 credit

BUD 552 Classifications of Reasons - 2 credits

1.1.3 Foundation Debate

Foundation Debate Curriculum offers a gradual training in all the skills needed for the performance of the art of formal debate. It consists of three foundational debate courses, which build on the elementary skills acquired in the Clear Thinking class. Upon completion of these three foundation debate courses, the Nitartha Institute Foundation Debate Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 553 Foundational Debate I - 1 credit

BUD 554 Foundational Debate II - 1 credit

BUD 555 Foundational Debate III - 1 credit

² This course is taken with each foundation course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 600 and BUD 680.

BUD 556 Online Debate - 3 credits

1.1.4 Survey Courses

The upcoming survey courses will present the core Foundation Curriculum in an intensive overview approach, enabling students to preview the complete Nitartha Institute program. Survey courses will not be required for awarding the Foundation Curriculum Certificate of Completion.

1.1.5 Self-paced Foundation Online Review Courses

Self-paced online review courses are an opportunity for Nitartha students to review the material from the Core Foundation Curriculum. These courses consist of audio recordings of lectures, accompanied by study questions and additional instructional supports originally taught by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen to Naropa University graduate students. These asynchronous courses are accessible in the Nitartha online Moodle campus on ongoing basis. The students proceed through classes in a self-paced manner and have access to Nitartha faculty to clarify difficult points. Self-paced online review courses are available for Nitartha students who graduated from the corresponding foundation core courses. They are not required for awarding the Foundation Curriculum Certificate of Completion.

BUD 591 Clear Thinking Review - non-credit

BUD 592 Valid Cognition Review - non-credit

BUD 593 Causes and Results Review - non-credit

BUD 594 Modes of Engagement of Mind Review - non-credit

BUD 595 Mental Events Review - non-credit

BUD 596 Introduction to Classification of Reasons Review - non-credit

1.2 Intermediate Curriculum

Nitartha Intermediate Curriculum continues to lay the ground for in-depth study of the great Indian treatises and their commentaries by the Kagyü and Nyingma masters. It consists of the core curriculum with four courses (8 credits), four intermediate debate courses (4 credits) and four self-paced intermediate online review courses (non-credit).

BUD 600 Analytical Meditation II

1.2.1 Intermediate Curriculum: The Core

The core of Intermediate Curriculum consists of four courses summarizing the ground, path and fruition of the Mahāyāna: Chittamātra, Madhyamaka, Paths and Bhūmis, and Buddha Nature. Upon completion of these four intermediate core courses, the Nitartha Institute Intermediate Curriculum Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 601 Chittamātra Philosophical Tradition: Appearances Are Mere Mind - 2 credits

BUD 610 Madhyamaka Philosophical Tradition: Not Even a Middle - 2 credits

BUD 620 Paths and Bhūmis: The Path to Enlightenment - 2 credits

BUD 630 Buddha Nature: Luminous Heart of the Tathāgata - 2 credits

It is recommended that students take all four intermediate courses in the order listed above, though it is fine to take Buddha Nature before Paths and Bhūmis. Moreover, it is permissible to take the other courses out of order to meet individual scheduling needs.

Students who completed a Nitartha Institute Intermediate Curriculum course for credit while they had not yet finished the Foundation Curriculum can receive full credit for the intermediate courses if they (1) first complete the Foundation Curriculum and (2) then review the intermediate course materials and write or rewrite the final exam. If they submitted the exam at the time of

taking the course, they should rewrite the exam in the light of their current level of understanding and integration of the course material.

1.2.2 Intermediate Debate

The four courses of intermediate debate consist of debating the views of the four Buddhist philosophical traditions: Vaibhāshika, Sautrāntika Chittamātra and Madhyamaka, first within the boundaries of individual systems, as well as between them and will enact great debates the tradition has preserved. Intermediate debate courses are not be required for awarding the Intermediate Curriculum Certificate of Completion.

BUD 653 Intermediate Debate I: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika - 1 credit

BUD 654 Intermediate Debate II: Chittamātra - 1 credit

BUD 655 Intermediate Debate III: Madhyamaka I - 1 credit

BUD 656 Intermediate Debate IV: Madhyamaka II - 1 credit

1.2.3 Self-paced Intermediate Online Review Courses

Self-paced intermediate online review courses closely follow the format of the foundation review classes. They are an opportunity for Nitartha students to review the material from the intermediate core curriculum and were developed from Nitartha intermediate courses material taught by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen to Naropa University graduate students. They are asynchronous and accessible on ongoing basis. These self-paced online review courses are available for Nitartha students who graduated from the corresponding intermediate core courses. They are not required for awarding the Intermediate Curriculum Certificate of Completion.

BUD 671 Chittamātra Review - non-credit

BUD 672 Madhyamaka Review - non-credit

BUD 673 Paths and Bhūmis Review - non-credit

BUD 674 Buddha Nature Review - non-credit

1.3 Advanced Curriculum

With a firm basis in the Buddhist philosophical views acquired in the foundation and intermediate levels, Nitartha Advanced Curriculum represents the actual study of the principal Indian *śāstras*, or treatises with authoritative commentaries by leading Kagyü and Nyingma masters. It consists of the Core Advanced Curriculum and the Extended Advanced Curriculum. It is the policy of the Institute that all its courses are first taught through at least twice by authorized masters, namely, the trained Rinpoches, Khenpos, and Acharyas of the tradition. The Institute's printed materials are then produced based on these teachings of the oral tradition. When all these materials are prepared and it is deemed appropriate, Western teachers begin teaching specific Nitartha courses, with the support of the authorized masters. At this point Nitartha is still in the process of having authorized Rinpoches, Khenpos, and Acharyas teach the courses of the Advanced Curriculum, with the intention of training Western teachers who will eventually be authorized to teach these courses as well. (Western teachers are already authorized to teach all of the courses of the Foundation and Intermediate Curriculums.)

It is preferred to take the advanced courses in the sequence listed below. However, it is permissible to take them out of order. Students who completed a Nitartha Institute Advanced Curriculum course as an audit student can upgrade their audit status to credit status if they (1) first complete the Foundation and Intermediate Curriculums, (2) then review the advanced course materials for the course and write or rewrite the final exam, and (3) pay the difference between the audit and the present credit course tuition. If they submitted the exam at the time of taking the course for audit, they should rewrite the exam in the light of their current level of understanding and integration of the course material.

1.3.1 Core Advanced Curriculum

Core Advanced Curriculum is aligned with each of the three turnings of the wheel of Dharma and currently offers 32 credits. The number of credits associated with courses will increase with the further development of the Advanced Curriculum. Currently the core advanced courses have 2 or 4 credits each. When the development phase is complete and the Advanced Curriculum is offered year-round, these courses will be 5 or 10 credits each, which will include analytical meditation, debate, and discussion groups. During the development phase, as many of the 2 or 4 credit hour courses are being taught as are needed to teach the related texts. The Tantra curriculum will be added in the near future.

BUD 680 Analytical Meditation III

1.3.1.1 Core Advanced Curriculum: First Turning

The four first-turning courses of the Nitartha Advanced Curriculum present an in-depth study of two treatises: *Abhidharmakosha* by Vasubandhu and *Pramānavārttika* by Dharmakīrti, which constitute the cornerstone of the *shedra* studies. Upon completion of these four courses, the Nitartha Institute Advanced Curriculum First Turning Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 681 *Abhidharmakosha* I: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

BUD 682 *Abhidharmakosha* II: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

BUD 690 *Pramānavārttika* I: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits

BUD 691 *Pramānavārttika* II: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits

1.3.1.2 Core Advanced Curriculum: Second Turning

The eight second-turning courses of the Nitartha Advanced Curriculum present an in-depth study of two seminal Mahāyāna treatises of the *shedra* studies: *Madhyamakāvatāra* by Chandrakīrti and *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya. Upon completion of these eight courses, the Nitartha Institute Advanced Curriculum Second Turning Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 700 *Madhyamakāvatāra* I: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

BUD 701 *Madhyamakāvatāra* II: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

BUD 702 *Madhyamakāvatāra* III: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

BUD 703 *Madhyamakāvatāra* IV: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

BUD 710 *Abhisamayālamkāra* I: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

BUD 711 *Abhisamayālamkāra* II: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

BUD 712 *Abhisamayālamkāra* III: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

BUD 713 *Abhisamayālamkāra* IV: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

1.3.1.3 Core Advanced Curriculum: Third Turning

The three third-turning courses of the Nitartha Advanced Curriculum consists of an in-depth study of three treatises by Maitreya *Madhyāntavibhāga*, *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga* and the *Uttaratantra*—as well as sūtras of the Third Turning. Upon completion of these three courses, the Nitartha Institute Advanced Curriculum Third Turning Certificate of Completion is awarded:

BUD 760 *Madhyāntavibhāga*: The Distinction Between the Middle and Extremes - 2 credits

BUD 770 *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga*: The Distinction Between Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena - 2 credits

BUD 780 *Uttaratantra* & Sūtras of the Third Turning: The Lion's Roar of Irreversibility - 4 credits

1.3.4 Core Advanced Curriculum: Tantra

The future Tantra curriculum at Nitartha Institute will be based on the rich tradition of tantric studies in the Kagyü lineage, drawing from the commentary on the *Hevajra Tantra* by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye (1813-1899) and the *Zabmo Nangdön (The Profound Inner Reality)* by the Third Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje (1284-1339), which is one of the most complete elucidations of the Buddhist teachings of the completion stage practices of the *Anuttarayogatantra*, together with its commentary by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye.

This level of curriculum will also include the study of the Mahāmudrā view. Mahāmudrā is regarded to be at the pinnacle of the meditational systems of Tibetan Buddhism. One of the most systematic and authoritative presentations of this meditation on the nature of mind is found in *The Moonbeams of Mahāmudrā* by Dakpo Tashi Namgyal (1511–1587). Nitartha students will enter Tantric studies only after the completion of all the preceding levels of the curriculum and/or with the permission from Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche.

1.3.2 Extended Advanced Curriculum

Nitartha Institute is committed to transmission of the entire breadth of Kagyü and Nyingma lineages of scholarship. The Institute will continually teach new advanced texts of the Indian tradition with their Tibetan commentaries related to all Three Turnings, such as the “Thirteen Great Treatises” by Indian Buddhist masters that comprise the main curriculum of Nyingma monastic colleges. The Extended Advanced Curriculum courses are not required for earning any of the Advanced Curriculum Certificates of Completion, but are part of the training for Western students who aspire to be authorized to teach the Core Advanced Curriculum or who also aspire to be considered for authorization as a Khenpo. These courses are generally offered under the Nitartha Scholars Series during the fall and spring semesters, or are offered as part of the summer residential program. As in the past, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche may choose to teach texts of the Extended Advanced Curriculum during the Summer Residential Program, We may not know the title of the text he will teach at the time this course catalog is updated, so we include an open course number here to accommodate these texts. The list of extended courses taught in the past or scheduled for 2012 is as follows:

BUD 704 *Chatuhshataka*: The Four Hundred Verses on the Yogic Conduct of a Bodhisattva - 2 credits

1.4 Nitartha Scholars Series

BUD 790 Third Karmapa's Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart – 1 credit

BUD 791 Lama Mipham on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma – 1 credit

BUD 792 Four Yogas of Shāntipa – 1 credit

BUD 799 Advanced Text Taught by Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche - 2 credits

2. Department of Languages

Department of Languages (LAN) at Nitartha Institute is based on the Outer Science of Languages, one of the five traditional sciences taught at Nālandā University. The language curriculum consists of graduated study of Tibetan language and currently offers 8 credits. The number of credits will gradually expand with the further development of our language program. Sanskrit language studies will be added to the curriculum in the future.

2.1 Tibetan Language Curriculum

Tibetan language program offers eight courses in literary and colloquial Tibetan. The future curriculum will also include advanced literary translation courses and advanced colloquial courses.

- LAN 510 Literary Tibetan I - 1 credit
- LAN 511 Colloquial Tibetan I - 1 credit
- LAN 520 Literary Tibetan II - 1 credit
- LAN 521 Colloquial Tibetan II - 1 credit
- LAN 530 Literary Tibetan III - 1 credit
- LAN 531 Colloquial Tibetan III - 1 credit
- LAN 540 Literary Tibetan IV - 1 credit
- LAN 541 Colloquial Tibetan IV - 1 credit

2.2 Sanskrit Language Curriculum

The future Sanskrit language program will offer eight courses in literary Sanskrit, followed by advanced literary translation courses.

3. Department of Healing

Department of Healing (HEA) at Nitartha Institute is based on the Outer Science of Healing, one of the five traditional sciences taught at Nālandā University. It currently offers 3 credits.

- HEA 500 Science of Healing - 3 credits

4. Department of Arts

Department of Arts (ART) at Nitartha Institute is based on the Outer Science of Arts and Crafts, one of the five traditional sciences taught at Nālandā University.

4.1 Traditional Arts

Traditional arts curriculum currently features one non-credit course: Lūjong or body training. Nitartha Institute students also train in the art of singing *dohas*, or songs of realization of the accomplished masters of the practice lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. Renowned for their poetic qualities and the ability to convey the pith instructions on view, meditation and conduct, singing *dohas* is regarded as an effective means for spiritual transformation.

- ART 500 Lūjong - non-credit

4.2 Visual Arts

The future visual arts curriculum will offer courses in Thangka painting, a Tibetan visual arts discipline; Ikebana, the Japanese contemplative art of flower arrangement, and others.

V. Nitartha Institute Course Descriptions

1. Department of Buddhist Studies

1.1 Foundation Curriculum

BUD 500 Analytical Meditation I

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each Foundation course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 600 and BUD 680.

1.1.1 Foundation Curriculum: The Core

BUD 501 Mind and Its World I: Valid Cognition - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course explores the criteria of a valid cognition and its various classifications, based on the teachings of the Pramāna tradition, or Buddhist epistemology. We will analyze our consciousness and determine to what degree it is in agreement with its observed object or not; when our mind is direct or not; what the difference is between non-mistaken, non-deceiving, conceptual and non-conceptual types of awareness.

BUD 502 Clear Thinking - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person or Partially Online

Course Description:

This course has two-fold purpose: It presents a detailed treatment of knowable objects in the form of definitions, examples, equivalents and classifications drawn from *Collected Topics*, the introductory textbook of Buddhist phenomenology or Abhidharma; secondly this material is used to teach methods for thinking clearly about the teachings using the debate typology of the four types of relationships there can be between any two phenomena. We will train in elementary debate skills in a relaxed environment, such as asking for definitions, equivalents and classifications.

BUD 510 Mind and Its World II: Mental Events & Causality - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course begins with the analysis of mind and its functions, or mental events, followed by a detailed phenomenological account of causes and results from Abhidharma and the presentation of the twelve links of dependent origination which is Buddha's response to the perennial questions of where we come from, where we are now and where we are heading.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

BUD 520 Mind and Its World III: Modes of Engagement - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course provides the practitioner with the tools for delineating conceptual and non-conceptual types of mind in meditation. This teaching, codified as the modes of engagement of mind, is coming from the tradition of Pramāna, or Buddhist epistemology. We will contemplate the minds apprehending generalities and particulars, inclusive and eliminative engagers, objects and means of expression, connection and contradiction.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

BUD 530 Mind and Its World IV: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika Philosophical Traditions - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a systematic study of the foundational schools of Buddhist philosophy. Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika tenets are valued for their presentation of a contemplative world-view of radical impermanence, without needing to postulate neither a personal identity nor any principle of divine creation. Only momentary entities are able to perform functions; since concepts are not able to perform functions like their referent objects, they are nominally classified as "permanent" and relegated to the realm of near non-existence.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

1.1.2 Foundation Curriculum: Logic

BUD 550 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course prepares students to understand the logical arguments found in classic Buddhist texts and oral teachings, focusing on applying the principles of logic and Tibetan-style debate. It offers a methodical training in the underlying structure of debate as found in texts, building on skills acquired in Clear Thinking class. We will formulate reasonings and track a debate in a text. Of the three types of reasons, the emphasis will be on understanding reasons of nature.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

BUD 551 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a sequel to Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I and continues training in understanding the logical arguments found in classic Buddhist texts and oral teachings. Of the three types of reasons, the emphasis will be on the reasons of non-observation and the reasons of results. We will also work with the approach to debate that utilizes *prasangas*, or absurd consequences, that along with the reasons of non-observation are the main reasonings used in Madhyamaka treatises.

Prerequisite: BUD 550

BUD 552 Classifications of Reasons - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course presents an overview of the theory of Buddhist logic which serves as the foundation for the practice of debate. We will study the definitions and classifications of correct and seeming reasons and formulate example reasonings for each type of reason. We

will look at the three types of reasons: nature reasons, result reasons and reasons of non-observation.

Prerequisites BUD 501, BUD 502

1.1.3 Foundation Curriculum: Debate

BUD 553 Foundational Debate I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course offers a methodical training in elementary debate skills on the basis of the Clear Thinking class. We will formulate reasonings with correct and seeming reasons and utilize those in a debate by learning how to challenge the first mode of a reasoning. Regarding the content, we will debate classification of objects in terms of entity from *Collected Topics* that was taught in Clear Thinking course.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

BUD 554 Foundational Debate II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course continues a methodical training in elementary debate skills on the basis of Foundational Debate I class. We will learn how to challenge the second mode of a reasoning, as well as the debate strategies of the challenger and the defender and how to bring a debate to completion. Thus we will cover all the basic skills needed for engaging in a formal debate. Regarding the content, we will continue debating the classification of objects in terms of entity and the methods that lead to the cognition of objects and subjects, as well as primary minds and mental events.

Prerequisite: BUD 553

BUD 555 Foundational Debate III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course trains in enhancing debate skills on the basis of the skills acquired in Foundational Debate I and Debate II classes. The new additional skills include bringing absurd consequences as a technique into debate and mastering the shorter form of formulating reasoning and modes challenge. Regarding the content, we will continue debating classification of objects in terms of entity and the methods that lead to cognition of objects and subjects as well as adding causes, conditions and results, and the three types of objects.

Prerequisite: BUD 554

BUD 556 Online Debate - 3 credits

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This course offers a methodical training in elementary debate skills. The purpose is to advance the students' debate skills by providing ongoing, uninterrupted platform for engagement in debate. We will use both synchronous (real time debates between pairs of students) and asynchronous (presentations and follow-up discussions about the debates) mode of delivery.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

1.1.5 Self-paced Foundation Online Review Courses

BUD 591 Clear Thinking Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the first section of the *Collected Topics* root text that gives the definitions and classifications of knowable objects. We will also review elementary debate skills, such as asking for definitions, equivalents and classifications, as well as the four types of logical relationships between two phenomena.

Prerequisite: BUD 502

BUD 592 Valid Cognition Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the first section of *Classifications of Mind* root text that presents a systematic overview of the Buddhist epistemological tradition founded by Dignāga (ca. 5-6th century) and Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century). We will review definitions and classifications of the possible types of mind, specifically the types of valid and non-valid cognition.

Prerequisite: BUD 501

BUD 593 Causes and Results Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course revolves around the theme of karma. It includes extensive exploration of causes, conditions, and results from *Collected Topics*, the presentation of twelve *nidānas*, or chain of interdependent origination, as well as the distinction between primary minds and mental events from *Classifications of Mind*.

Prerequisite: BUD 510

BUD 594 Modes of Engagement of Mind Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course analyzes the six ways in which mind engages objects, delineating thus the types of conceptual and non-conceptual mind. We will go over the middle part of the *Classifications of Mind* root text, as well as the final part of *Collected Topics* root text.

Prerequisite: BUD 520

BUD 595 Mental Events Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the classification of mind into primary minds and mental events as taught in the tradition of Buddhist psychology expounded by Asanga and Vasubandhu (both ca. 4th century). We will review the third section of *Classifications of Mind* root text.

Prerequisite: BUD 510

BUD 596 Introduction to Classification of Reasons Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over fundamentals of Buddhist logic as presented in *Classifications of Reasons*. We will study formulating reasonings with correct reasons and its three modes, classifications of correct reasons, as well as seeming reasons with their classifications. This class serves as a theoretical foundation for the practice of formal debate.

Prerequisites: BUD 552

1.2 Intermediate Curriculum

BUD 600 Analytical Meditation II

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is continuation of Analytical Meditation I - a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each intermediate course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 500 and BUD 680.

1.2.1 Intermediate Curriculum: The Core

BUD 601 Chittamātra Philosophical Tradition: Appearances Are Mere Mind - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a systematic presentation of Chittamātra, or Mind Only meditative view of Mahāyāna Buddhism. We will engage in the philosophical reformulation of experiences arising from meditation practice – declaring reasonings establishing objects as not separate from mind, as well as the three natures theory and the eight-fold collection of consciousness.

Prerequisites: BUD 530

BUD 610 Madhyamaka Philosophical Tradition: Not Even a Middle - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the final view of the Buddhist philosophy - the *Madhyamaka*, or the Middle Way tradition of Mahāyāna, which propounds the view of *shūnyatā*, the emptiness of all phenomena, the transcendence of all views, freedom from elaborations. We will study the presentation of the two truths, their union, and the five great madhyamaka reasonings.

Prerequisite: BUD 601

BUD 620 Paths and Bhūmis: The Path to Enlightenment - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a presentation of the five paths on the voyage to awakening, the ten bodhisattvas' *bhūmis*, or levels or realization, and the result: the enlightenment, buddha's kayas and wisdoms as well as enlightened activity. We will study what is required to embark and progress on the path and what the goal of such spiritual journey is.

Prerequisite: BUD 610

BUD 630 Buddha Nature: Luminous Heart of the Tathāgata - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the *Tathāgatagarbha*, or Buddha Nature tradition, the view of the luminous essence of awakening, the heart of goodness shared by all beings. Our exploration will rely on the key section of *Uttaratantra* of Maitreya (ca. 4th century) which establishes Buddha nature through three reasonings, its ten facets, nine analogies and five reasons why it is necessary to teach it.

Prerequisite: BUD 620

1.2.2 Intermediate Debate

BUD 653 Intermediate Debate I: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This intermediate debate course trains in formally debating the systems of the two Buddhist foundational philosophical schools: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika; first within their respective doctrinal limits, followed by reinstating historical debates between these two traditions.

Debate topics of this class include the proof of subtle impermanence as well as the refutation of the creator God.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 654 Intermediate Debate II: Chittamātra - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This intermediate debate course trains in formally debating the tenets of Chittamātra, the Mind Only Mahāyāna philosophical school, first within its doctrinal limits, followed by reinstating debates of the proponents of Chittamātra view with foundational philosophical schools. Our debates will utilize the reasoning of definite simultaneous observation, the reasoning refuting similar arising as well as the reasoning of no connection.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 655 Intermediate Debate III: Madhyamaka I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This intermediate course is the introduction to Madhyamaka debate. We will utilize different types of reasons of non-observation in debate and work with the four uncommon reasonings of the Madhyamikas as presented in the *Treasury of Knowledge*: inference within the common consensus of others, consequences that expose contradictions, analogous applicability of the opponent's reason and non-application of the means of proof due to its sameness with the probandum.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 656 Intermediate Debate IV: Madhyamaka II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is the continuation of BUD 655 Intermediate Debate III: Madhyamaka I. We will reinstate the historical debates of the Middle Way masters with other philosophical schools, Buddhist and non-Buddhist, using the five great reasonings that analyze the cause, the result, both cause and result, the essence, and the mere appearance as well as the reasoning of the seven-fold analysis of the chariot.

Prerequisite: BUD 655

1.2.3 Self-paced Intermediate Online Review Courses

BUD 671 Chittamātra Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Chittamātra or Mind Only philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 601

BUD 672 Madhyamaka Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Madhyamaka or Middle Way philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 610

BUD 673 Paths and Bhūmis Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the path and fruition of the Mahāyāna spiritual journey.

Prerequisite: BUD 620

BUD 674 Buddha Nature Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Buddha nature philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

1.3 Advanced Curriculum

BUD 680 Analytical Meditation III

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is continuation of Analytical Meditation II - a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each advanced course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 500 and BUD 600.

1.3.1 Core Advanced Curriculum

1.3.1.1 Advanced Curriculum: First Turning

BUD 681 Abhidharmakosha I: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Abhidharmakosha* by Vasubandhu (ca. 4th century) - the seminal work of Buddhist Abhidharma tradition - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will explore the first four chapters, covering topics of phenomenology (*skandhas*, *āyatanas*, *dhātus* and faculties); the truth of suffering; the outer vessel (the world) and its inner content (sentient beings); and karma, from which the world and its beings arise.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

BUD 682 *Abhidharmakosha* II: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Abhidharmakosha* by Vasubandhu (ca. 4th century) - a seminal work of Buddhist Abhidharma tradition - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will explore the last four chapters, covering topics of mental afflictions, the path of relinquishing afflictions, wisdoms gained on the path, and absorptions, from which the wisdoms arise.

Prerequisite: BUD 681

BUD 690 *Pramānavārttika* I: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Pramānavārttika* by Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century) - the influential work of Buddhist Pramāna tradition - based on commentaries by the Seventh Karmapa, Chödrak Gyamtso (1454–1506) and Sakya Pandita (1182–1251). We will explore the first two chapters: establishing the Buddha as a source of valid cognition, and exposition of direct perception.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

BUD 691 *Pramānavārttika* II: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Pramānavārttika* by Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century) - the influential work of Buddhist Pramāna tradition - based on commentaries by the Seventh Karmapa, Chödrak Gyamtso (1454–1506) and Sakya Pandita (1182–1251). We will continue the exploration of the second chapter on direct perception and conclude with chapters three and four which present inference for oneself and inference of others.

Prerequisite: BUD 690

1.3.1.2 *Advanced Curriculum: Second Turning*

BUD 700 *Madhyamakāvātāra* I: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvātāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will begin with the presentation of the Madhyamaka of the model texts followed by a close examination of the first five Madhyamakāvātāra's chapters correlated with the first five bodhisattva *bhūmis*. Several difficult points will be covered such as the three reasons which prove that arhats realize selflessness of person.

Prerequisite: BUD 691

BUD 701 *Madhyamakāvatāra* II: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the first part of the sixth chapter on the *pāramitā* of *prajñā* which primarily deals with the reasoning refuting arising from the four extremes. The difficult points covered include the *prāsaṅgika-svātantrika* distinction as well as the presentation of the two truths.

Prerequisite: BUD 700

BUD 702 *Madhyamakāvatāra* III: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will complete the bulk of the sixth chapter on the *pāramitā* of *prajñā*. The topics covered include a detailed refutation of the proponents of consciousness, and an extensive presentation of personal selflessness.

Prerequisite: BUD 701

BUD 703 *Madhyamakāvatāra* IV: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is the completion of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will conclude the sixth chapter followed by the presentation of remaining bodhisattva grounds of realization and the resultant *bhūmi* of Buddhahood. The topics covered include sixteen emptinesses and the discussion about the nature of Buddhahood: Does the Buddha's wisdom exist and what do Buddhas see?

Prerequisite: BUD 702

BUD 710 *Abhisamayālamkāra* I: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - the decisive elucidation of the hidden meaning of *Prajñāpāramitā* related to the path of the Mahāyāna - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the first of the eight *abhisamayās*, or clear realizations: Chapter one - "The Knowledge of All Aspects," which is the direct realization that all aspects are primordial peace.

Prerequisite: BUD 691

BUD 711 *Abhisamayālamkāra* II: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the second and the third *abhisamaya*: Chapter two - "The Knowledge of the Path," which is direct realizations that the three paths are primordial peace, and Chapter three - "The

All-knowledge," the direct realization that all bases are primordial peace without abiding in existence or peace.

Prerequisite: BUD 710

BUD 712 *Abhisamayālamkāra* III: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of the *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the fourth *abhisamaya*: Chapter four - "The Training in All Aspects," which is meditating that the triad of the all-knowledge, the path and all aspects is without any nature in order to attaining mastery of the three knowledges for the welfare of others.

Prerequisite: BUD 711

BUD 713 *Abhisamayālamkāra* IV: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is the completion of the in-depth study of the *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study remaining four *abhisamayas*: Chapters five through eight - "The Culminating Training," "The Serial Training," "The Instantaneous Training," and "The Dharmakāya."

Prerequisite: BUD 712

1.3.1.3 Advanced Curriculum: The Third Turning

BUD 760 *Madhyāntavibhāga*: The Distinction Between the Middle and Extremes - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Madhyāntavibhāga* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - a key work of Yogācāra Buddhist philosophy - based on the commentaries by Vasubandhu and Ju Mipham (1846–1912), which delineates the distinctions and relationship (*vibhāga*) between the middle view (*madhya*) and extremes (*anta*). We will systematically proceed through its five chapters: the Characteristics, the Obscurations, True Reality, the Path of Practice and the Unsurpassable Vehicle.

Prerequisite: BUD 713

BUD 770 *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga*: The Distinction Between Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of the *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - a short Yogācāra work of the pith instructions class - based on commentaries by the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje (1284–1339) and Ju Mipham (1846–1912). We will study the distinction and correlation (*vibhāga*) between phenomena (*dharma*) and the nature of phenomena (*dharmatā*) and discover the key instructions on how to proceed in accessing this nature.

Prerequisite: BUD 760

BUD 780 *Uttaratantra* & Sūtras of the Third Turning: The Lion's Roar of Irreversibility - 4 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of the *Uttaratantra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - the influential work of the *Tathāgatagarbha* tradition - based on the commentary by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye (1813-1899) and Gö Lotsawa Shönnu Pal (1392-1481). We will first look at the selection of sūtras of the third turning, followed by the exposition of the *Uttaratantra's* seven vajra points: the three jewels, buddha nature, enlightenment, its qualities and enlightened activity.

Prerequisite: BUD 770

1.3.2 Extended Advanced Curriculum

BUD 704 *Chatuhshataka*: The Four Hundred Verses on the Yogic Conduct of a Bodhisattva - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a study of *Chatuhshataka* by Āryadeva (ca. 2nd century) - a direct student of Nāgārjuna. This influential madhyamaka treatise is renowned for balancing the presentation of the seeming and ultimate realities, emphasizing both the view and meditation. We will approach this treatise through the lenses of its Tibetan commentators.

Prerequisite: BUD 703

1.4 Nitartha Scholars Series

BUD 790 Third Karmapa's Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course is a systematic presentation of the theory of the tathāgata heart (*tathāgatagarbha*) commonly referred to as buddha nature, as well as the pith instructions on experientially accessing such reality, as presented by the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje (1284-1339) in his *Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart*, together with the commentary by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye (1813-1899).

Prerequisite: BUD 630

BUD 791 Lama Mipham on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course elucidates the view of Ju Mipham Gyatso (1846-1912) on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma, namely the theory of buddha nature or the tathāgata heart (*tathāgatagarbha*) and the view of Shentong, or the empty-of-other school of philosophy and practice. The main textual support for this class will be Lama Mipham's two short compositions called *The Lion's Roar*.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

BUD 792 Four Yogas of Shāntipa – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course is an experiential exposition of the four progressive stages of meditation on *Prajñāpāramitā*, given by the mahāsiddha Ratnākarashānti (ca. 10th-11th centuries), preserved in his pith instructions *Prajñāpāramitopadesha*: (1) apprehending things to the

extent they exist, (2) apprehending mere mind, (3) apprehending suchness of all phenomena, and (4) non-apprehending.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

BUD 799 Advanced Text Taught by Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche - 2 credits

As in the past, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche may choose to teach texts of the Extended Advanced Curriculum during the Summer Residential Program, We may not know the title of the text he will teach at the time this course catalog is updated, so we include an open course number here to accommodate these texts.

2. Department of Languages

2.1 Tibetan Language Curriculum

LAN 510 Literary Tibetan I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is an intensive introduction to Tibetan grammar intended for students who wish to read traditional Tibetan Buddhist texts with the aim of translating them into Western languages. We will begin with the Tibetan alphabet and move to word formation, recognition, dictionary order and acquisition of basic vocabulary, followed by the study of the eight cases of Tibetan grammar. This course is memorization intensive.

LAN 511 Colloquial Tibetan I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will begin with pronunciation, gradually working toward simple sentences and oral exchanges. We will memorize and recite short verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

LAN 520 Literary Tibetan II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Literary Tibetan I. We continue our study of the eight case system and begin reading and translating simple texts. We will learn to recognize basic elements of grammar and sentence structure in the context of reading and learning how to parse sentences to enhance and support reading comprehension. This course is memorization intensive.

Prerequisite: LAN 510, or equivalent

LAN 521 Colloquial Tibetan II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I - a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will work on new vocabulary plus reading and spelling out loud, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

Prerequisite: LAN 511, or equivalent

LAN 530 Literary Tibetan III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is for students who have a basic command of the eight case system of the Tibetan grammar and wish to develop their reading skills. We will emphasize reading comprehension and therefore stress the recognition of grammatical structures in context. Special attention is paid to sentence structure, identifying structures and making the transition from fragmentary understanding to translation.

Prerequisite: LAN 520, or equivalent

LAN 531 Colloquial Tibetan III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I & II - a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will work on new vocabulary plus reading and spelling out loud, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

Prerequisite: 521, or equivalent

LAN 540 Literary Tibetan IV - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Literary Tibetan III. We will continue in emphasizing reading comprehension and therefore the recognition of grammatical structures in context will be highlighted. Special attention is paid to sentence structure, identifying structures and making the transition from fragmentary understanding to translation.

Prerequisite: LAN 530, or equivalent

LAN 541 Colloquial Tibetan IV - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan III. We will work on new vocabulary plus readings, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

Prerequisite: LAN 531, or equivalent

3. Department of Healing

HEA 500 Science of Healing - 3 credits

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is based on the ancient healing tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, a comprehensive cognitive training system stemming from a personal realization of the wisdom of intrinsic healthiness. We will study an overview of the basic science of healing as presented in the four Medical Tantras as well as complementary topics from the Nitartha Institute foundational curriculum such as valid and non-valid cognition and it relates to our health.

4. Department of Arts

4.1 Traditional Arts

ART 500 Lüjong - non-credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

Lüjong, or body training, is a series of fifteen physical exercises developed by the Tibetan Buddhist meditation master Khenpo Tsültrim Gyamtso Rinpoche to help students enhance their health and synchronize their body and mind. They serve to increase energy and pliancy. The wakefulness developed by the exercises can bring a quality of meditation to ordinary activities throughout the day.

VI. Course Descriptions with Required Texts and Class Topics

1. Department of Buddhist Studies

1.1 Foundation Curriculum

BUD 500 Analytical Meditation I

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each Foundation course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 600 and BUD 680.

1.1.1 Foundation Curriculum: The Core

BUD 501 Mind and Its World I: Valid Cognition - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course explores the criteria of a valid cognition and its various classifications, based on the teachings of the Pramāna tradition, or Buddhist epistemology. We will analyze our consciousness and determine to what degree it is in agreement with its observed object or not; when our mind is direct or not; what the difference is between non-mistaken, non-deceiving, conceptual and non-conceptual types of awareness.

Required texts:

- Root text: Classifications of Mind, (*Lorik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Mind & Its World 1 Sourcebook, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Divisions of mind
- Definitions of valid cognition
- Definition of direct valid cognition
- Sense direct valid cognition
- Two truths in Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika view
- Process of perception in Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika view
- Mental direct valid cognition
- Self-aware direct valid cognition
- Yogic direct valid cognition
- Seeming direct cognition
- Definition of inferential valid cognition for oneself and for others
- Appearing object, referent object, object of engagement
- Nonvalid cognition
- Three results of valid cognition

BUD 502 Clear Thinking - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person & Partially Online

Course Description:

This course has two-fold purpose: It presents a detailed treatment of knowable objects in the form of definitions, examples, equivalents and classifications drawn from *Collected Topics*, the introductory textbook of Buddhist phenomenology or Abhidharma; secondly this material is used to teach methods for thinking clearly about the teachings using the debate typology of the four types of relationships there can be between any two phenomena. We will train in elementary debate skills in a relaxed environment, such as asking for definitions, equivalents and classifications.

Required texts:

- Root text: *Collected Topics (Düdra)*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Clear Thinking Workbook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Definition, equivalents and classification of object
- Definition, equivalents and classification of thing and non-thing
- Presentation of matter, consciousness and non-associated formations
- Four relationships between two phenomena
- Completion of a debate

BUD 510 Mind and Its World II: Mental Events & Causality - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course begins with the analysis of mind and its functions, or mental events, followed by a detailed phenomenological account of causes and results from Abhidharma and the presentation of the twelve links of dependent origination which is Buddha's response to the perennial questions of where we come from, where we are now and where we are heading.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Required texts:

- Root text: *Classifications of Mind, (Lorik)*, by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Root text: *Collected Topics (Düdra)*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 2 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Primary minds and mental events, five congruencies
- Omnipresent and object determining mental events
- Positive and changeable mental events
- Primary and secondary afflictions
- Causes, conditions and results by entity
- Twelve links of interdependence
- Karma: cause and effect

BUD 520 Mind and Its World III: Modes of Engagement - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course provides the practitioner with the tools for delineating conceptual and non-conceptual types of mind in meditation. This teaching, codified as the modes of engagement

of mind, is coming from the tradition of Pramāna, or Buddhist epistemology. We will contemplate the minds apprehending generalities and particulars, inclusive and eliminative engagers, objects and means of expression, connection and contradiction.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Required texts:

- Root text: *Classifications of Mind, (Lorik)*, by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Root text: *Collected Topics (Düdra)*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 3 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Terminological classification of causes
- Terminological classification of results
- Generalities and particulars
- Mode of engagement of mind apprehending appearance and elimination
- Negations and concrete phenomena
- Phenomena that are one and different
- Appearing object, referent object and object of engagement
- Object and means of verbal expression
- Contradiction and connection
- Definition, definiendum and illustrating example

BUD 530 Mind and Its World IV: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika Philosophical Traditions - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a systematic study of the foundational schools of Buddhist philosophy. Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika tenets are valued for their presentation of a contemplative world-view of radical impermanence, without needing to postulate neither a personal identity nor any principle of divine creation. Only momentary entities are able to perform functions; since concepts are not able to perform functions like their referent objects, they are nominally classified as "permanent" and relegated to the realm of near non-existence.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Required texts:

- Root text: *The Gateway that Reveals the Philosophical Traditions to Fresh Minds*, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen (*Truptha*), Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 4 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Introduction to Philosophical Traditions
- Three turnings, two vehicles and four schools

Vaibhāshika Philosophical Tradition:

- Five bases, contaminated and uncontaminated phenomena
- Ultimate and seeming reality
- Partless particles
- Eighteen constituents, twelve sources, five aggregates
- Three times
- The way consciousness apprehends objects
- Path: shamatha and vipashyanā

- Path: four noble truths
 - Four results: stream-enterer, once-returner, nonreturner and arhat
- Sautrāntika Philosophical Tradition:
- Ultimate and seeming reality
 - Specifically characterized and generally characterized phenomena
 - Manifest phenomena and hidden phenomena
 - Three times
 - The way consciousness apprehends objects
 - Valid cognition

1.1.2 Foundation Curriculum: Logic

BUD 550 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course prepares students to understand the logical arguments found in classic Buddhist texts and oral teachings, focusing on applying the principles of logic and Tibetan-style debate. It offers a methodical training in the underlying structure of debate as found in texts, building on skills acquired in Clear Thinking class. We will formulate reasonings and track a debate in a text. Of the three types of reasons, the emphasis will be on understanding reasons of nature.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Sets: laying the basic groundwork
- Recognizing sets in texts
- Three part reasoning
- Recognizing reasonings in texts
- Three types of incorrect reasonings
- Tracking a debate in a text

BUD 551 Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a sequel to Unraveling Logic in Buddhist Texts I and continues training in understanding the logical arguments found in classic Buddhist texts and oral teachings. Of the three types of reasons, the emphasis will be on the reasons of non-observation and the reasons of results. We will also work with the approach to debate that utilizes *prasangas*, or absurd consequences, that along with the reasons of non-observation are the main reasonings used in Madhyamaka treatises.

Prerequisite: BUD 550

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Absurd consequences
- Absurd consequences in Madhyamaka reasonings
- Formulation of result reasons
- Result reasons in texts

BUD 552 Classifications of Reasons - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course presents an overview of the theory of Buddhist logic which serves as the foundation for the practice of debate. We will study the definitions and classifications of correct and seeming reasons and formulate example reasonings for each type of reason. We will look at the three types of reasons: nature reasons, result reasons and reasons of non-observation.

Prerequisites BUD 501, BUD 502

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Definition of a correct reason
- Bases of relation for the three modes
- Reasons of result, self-nature and non-observation
- Affirming reasons and negating reasons
- Additional classifications of correct reasons
- Seeming reasons: invalid, contradictory and uncertain reasons
- Exclusion-of-other
- Genuine reality is beyond negation and proof
- The way negations and proofs guide one on the true path

1.1.3 Foundation Curriculum: Debate

BUD 553 Foundational Debate I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course offers a methodical training in elementary debate skills on the basis of the Clear Thinking class. We will formulate reasonings with correct and seeming reasons and utilize those in a debate by learning how to challenge the first mode of a reasoning. Regarding the content, we will debate classification of objects in terms of entity from *Collected Topics* that was taught in Clear Thinking course.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Structure of longer version of reasoning
- Incorporating formulation of a reasoning into a debate
- Supplying definitions, equivalents and sub-classifications of the predicate as reasons
- Training in awareness of relationships among the members of a correct reasoning
- Formulating reasonings with invalid reasons
- Mechanics of refutation of the first mode
- Drilling first mode refutation
- Formulating reasonings with contradictory and uncertain reasons
- Mechanics of refutation of second mode
- Drilling second mode refutation

BUD 554 Foundational Debate II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course continues a methodical training in elementary debate skills on the basis of Foundational Debate I class. We will learn how to challenge the second mode of a reasoning, as well as the debate strategies of the challenger and the defender and how to bring a debate to completion. Thus we will cover all the basic skills needed for engaging in a formal debate. Regarding the content, we will continue debating the classification of objects in terms of entity and the methods that lead to the cognition of objects and subjects, as well as primary minds and mental events.

Prerequisite: BUD 553

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Incorporating formulation of a reasoning and refutation of modes into a debate
- Formulation of reasoning on the basis of the analysis of the errors
- Six strategies of challenger when defender refutes first and second mode
- Strategies of the defender
- Bringing debate to a completion

BUD 555 Foundational Debate III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course trains in enhancing debate skills on the basis of the skills acquired in Foundational Debate I and Debate II classes. The new additional skills include bringing absurd consequences as a technique into debate and mastering the shorter form of formulating reasoning and modes challenge. Regarding the content, we will continue debating classification of objects in terms of entity and the methods that lead to cognition of objects and subjects as well as adding causes, conditions and results, and the three types of objects.

Prerequisite: BUD 554

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Recapitulation of the elements of debate
- Recapitulation of debate strategies
- Using third mode challenge in debate
- Using absurd consequences in debate
- Mastering the shorter form of formulating reasoning
- Mastering the shorter form of first and second mode refutation
- Using extended form of the second mode refutation in debate

BUD 556 Online Debate - 3 credits

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This course offers a methodical training in elementary debate skills. The purpose is to advance the students' debate skills by providing ongoing, uninterrupted platform for engagement in debate. We will use both synchronous (real time debates between pairs of students) and asynchronous (presentations and follow-up discussions about the debates) mode of delivery.

Prerequisites: BUD 501, BUD 502

Recommended texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Formulation of longer version of reasoning
- First and second mode refutation
- Strategies of the challenger and the defender
- Bringing debate to a completion
- Using third mode refutation in debate
- Using absurd consequences in debate
- Mastering shorter form of debate

1.1.5 Self-paced Foundation Online Review Courses

BUD 591 Clear Thinking Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the first section of the *Collected Topics* root text that gives the definitions and classifications of knowable objects. We will also review elementary debate skills, such as asking for definitions, equivalents and classifications, as well as the four types of logical relationships between two phenomena.

Prerequisite: BUD 502

Required texts:

- Root text: *Collected Topics (Düdra)*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Clear Thinking Workbook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Definition, equivalents and classification of object
- Definition, equivalents and classification of thing and non-thing
- Presentation of matter, consciousness and non-associated formations
- Four relationships between two phenomena
- Completion of a debate

BUD 592 Valid Cognition Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the first section of *Classifications of Mind* root text that presents a systematic overview of the Buddhist epistemological tradition founded by Dignāga (ca. 5-6th century) and Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century). We will review definitions and classifications of the possible types of mind, specifically the types of valid and non-valid cognition.

Prerequisite: BUD 501

Required texts:

- Root text: *Classifications of Mind*, (*Lorik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 1 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Divisions of mind
- Definitions of valid cognition
- Definition of direct valid cognition
- Sense direct valid cognition
- Two truths in Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika view
- Process of perception in Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika view
- Mental direct valid cognition
- Self-aware direct valid cognition
- Yogic direct valid cognition
- Seeming direct cognition
- Definition of inferential valid cognition for oneself and for others
- Appearing object, referent object and object of engagement
- Nonvalid cognition
- Three results of valid cognition

BUD 593 Causes and Results Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course revolves around the theme of karma. It includes extensive exploration of causes, conditions, and results from *Collected Topics*, the presentation of twelve *nidānas*, or chain of interdependent origination, as well as the distinction between primary minds and mental events from *Classifications of Mind*.

Prerequisite: BUD 510

Required texts:

- Root text: *Collected Topics (Dūdra)*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 3 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Causes, conditions and results by entity
- Terminological classification of causes
- Terminological classification of results
- Twelve links of interdependence
- Karma: cause and effect

BUD 594 Modes of Engagement of Mind Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course analyzes the six ways in which mind engages objects, delineating thus the types of conceptual and non-conceptual mind. We will go over the middle part of the *Classifications of Mind* root text, as well as the final part of *Collected Topics* root text.

Prerequisite: BUD 520

Required texts:

- Root text: *Classifications of Mind*, (*Lorik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Root text: *Collected Topics*, (*Düdra*), by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 2 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Generalities and particulars
- Mode of engagement of mind apprehending appearance and elimination
- Negations and concrete phenomena
- Phenomena that are one and different
- Appearing object, referent object and object of engagement
- Object and means of verbal expression
- Contradiction and connection
- Definition, definiendum and illustrating example

BUD 595 Mental Events Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over the classification of mind into primary minds and mental events as taught in the tradition of Buddhist psychology expounded by Asanga and Vasubandhu (both ca. 4th century). We will review the third section of *Classifications of Mind* root text.

Prerequisite: BUD 510

Required texts:

- Root text: *Classifications of Mind*, (*Lorik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Mind & Its World 2 Sourcebook*, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Primary minds and mental events, five congruencies
- Omnipresent and object determining mental events
- Positive and changeable mental events
- Primary and secondary afflictions

BUD 596 Introduction to Classification of Reasons Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to go over fundamentals of Buddhist logic as presented in *Classifications of Reasons*. We will study formulating reasonings with correct reasons and its three modes, classifications of correct reasons, as well as seeming reasons with their classifications. This class serves as a theoretical foundation for the practice of formal debate.

Prerequisites: BUD 552

Required texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons (*Tarik*), by Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Presentation of the Classifications of Reasons, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Definition of a correct reason
- Bases of relation for the three modes
- Reasons of result, self-nature and non-observation
- Affirming reasons and negating reasons
- Additional classifications of correct reasons
- Seeming reasons: invalid, contradictory and uncertain reasons

1.2 Intermediate Curriculum

BUD 600 Analytical Meditation II

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each intermediate course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 500 and BUD 680.

1.2.1 Intermediate Curriculum: The Core

BUD 601 Chittamātra Philosophical Tradition: Appearances Are Mere Mind - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a systematic presentation of Chittamātra, or Mind Only meditative view of Mahāyāna Buddhism. We will engage in the philosophical reformulation of experiences arising from meditation practice – declaring reasonings establishing objects as not separate from mind, as well as the three natures theory and the eight-fold collection of consciousness.

Prerequisites: BUD 530

Required texts:

- Root text: The Mind Only Tenet System (*Semtsam*), by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Mind Only Tenet System Sourcebook, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Recommended texts:

- Commentary on the Chittamatra Philosophical Tradition, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Distinctions of the greater and lesser vehicles
- Mind only scriptural sources, definition
- The meaning of the term “mind only,” examples
- Mind only school reasonings
- Real aspectarians and false aspectarians
- Presentation of the three natures
- Definition of mind; self-awareness
- All-base consciousness; immediate mind and klesha mind
- Transformation of consciousness into five wisdoms and three kāyas

BUD 610 Madhyamaka Philosophical Tradition: Not Even a Middle - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the final view of the Buddhist philosophy - the *Madhyamaka*, or the Middle Way tradition of Mahāyāna, which propounds the view of *shūnyatā*, the emptiness of all phenomena, the transcendence of all views, freedom from elaborations. We will study the presentation of the two truths, their union, and the five great madhyamaka reasonings.

Prerequisite: BUD 601

Required text:

- The Center of the Sunlit Sky: Madhyamaka in the Kagyü Tradition, by Karl Brunnhölzl, Snow Lion Publications, 2004: www.snowlionpub.com

Recommended text:

- Commentary on the Presentation of Madhyamaka in the Treasury of Knowledge by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Explanation of the term Madhyamaka
- Ground, path, and fruition of Madhyamaka
- *Prajñāpāramitā* literature and commentaries
- Madhyamaka sub-schools and the Indian and Tibetan Lineage
- Three levels of analysis
- The two truths in *Svātantrika* and *Prāsangika* view
- Union of the two truths
- Implicative and non-implicative negations
- Analysis of the nature: reasoning that is freedom from singularity and multiplicity
- Analysis of the cause: the reasoning that refutes arising from the four extremes called the Vajra Slivers
- Analysis of result and analysis of both cause and result
- Analysis of mere appearances: reasoning of dependent origination
- Selflessness of persons: the sevenfold analysis of the chariot

BUD 620 Paths and Bhūmis: The Path to Enlightenment - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a presentation of the five paths on the voyage to awakening, the ten bodhisattvas' *bhūmis*, or levels of realization, and the result: the enlightenment, buddha's

kayas and wisdoms as well as enlightened activity. We will study what is required to embark and progress on the path and what the goal of such spiritual journey is.

Prerequisite: BUD 610

Required texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of Bhumis, Paths & Results in the Treasury of Knowledge (*Salam*), by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on the Presentation of Bhumis, Paths & Results in the Treasury of Knowledge by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Explanation of the five paths: path of accumulation, of preparation, of seeing, of familiarization, and the final path
- Presentation of the ten bodhisattva *bhūmis*
- Explanation of the three *kāyas*
- Explanation of the five buddha wisdoms
- Explanation of the qualities of freedom and maturation

BUD 630 Buddha Nature: Luminous Heart of the Tathāgata - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an overview of the *Tathāgatagarbha*, or Buddha Nature tradition, the view of the luminous essence of awakening, the heart of goodness shared by all beings. Our exploration will rely on the key section of *Uttaratantra* of Maitreya (ca. 4th century) which establishes Buddha nature through three reasonings, its ten facets, nine analogies and five reasons why it is necessary to teach it.

Prerequisite: BUD 620

Required texts:

- Buddha Nature: The Mahayana Uttaratantra Shastra with Commentary, by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye, tr. by Rosemarie Fuchs, Snow Lion Publications, 2000: www.snowlionpub.com
- Commentary on the Fourth Vajra Point in the Mahayana Uttaratantra Shastra by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

- The element: three reasons the element is present in all sentient beings
- Ten aspects of the element
- Nine examples explaining why the defilements are to be purified though the essence is unchanging
- Five reasons why it is necessary to explain the element

1.2.2 Intermediate Debate

BUD 653 Intermediate Debate I: Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is training in debating the views of Vaibhāshika and Sautrāntika Buddhist philosophical traditions. We will enact debates the tradition has preserved, including formulating reasonings that refute personal identity and reasonings that assert subtle impermanence.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 654 Intermediate Debate II: Chittamātra - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is training in debating the view of Chittamātra Buddhist philosophical tradition. We will enact debates the tradition has preserved, including formulating reasoning of definite simultaneous observation, reasoning that refutes similar arising, reasoning that refutes partless particle and reasoning of no connection.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 655 Intermediate Debate III: Madhyamaka I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is training in debating the view of Madhyamaka Buddhist philosophical tradition. We will enact debates the tradition has preserved, including formulating reasoning of freedom from singularity and multiplicity, reasoning of dependent origination and reasoning of the 7-fold analysis of the chariot.

Prerequisite: BUD 555

BUD 656 Intermediate Debate IV: Madhyamaka II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is continuation of training in debating the view of Madhyamaka Buddhist philosophical tradition. We will enact debates the tradition has preserved, including formulating Vajra Slivers reasoning, reasoning that refutes arising of existents and non-existents and reasoning that refutes arising from the four possibilities.

Prerequisite: BUD 655

1.2.3 Self-paced Intermediate Online Review Courses

BUD 671 Chittamātra Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Chittamātra or Mind Only philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 601

Required texts:

- Root text: The Mind Only Tenet System (*Semtsam*), by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Mind Only Tenet System Sourcebook, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Recommended texts:

- Commentary on the Chittamatra Philosophical Tradition, by Acharya Sherab Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Distinctions of the greater and lesser vehicles
- Mind only scriptural sources, definition
- The meaning of the term “mind only,” examples
- Mind only school reasonings
- Real aspectarians and false aspectarians

- Presentation of the three natures
- Definition of mind; self-awareness
- All-base consciousness; immediate mind and klesha mind
- Transformation of consciousness into five wisdoms and three kāyas

BUD 672 Madhyamaka Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Madhyamaka or Middle Way philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 610

Required text:

- The Center of the Sunlit Sky: Madhyamaka in the Kagyü Tradition, by Karl Brunnhölzl, Snow Lion Publications, 2004: www.snowlionpub.com

Recommended text:

- Commentary on the Presentation of Madhyamaka in the Treasury of Knowledge by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Explanation of the term Madhyamaka
- Ground, path, and fruition of Madhyamaka
- *Prajñāpāramitā* literature and commentaries
- Madhyamaka sub-schools and the Indian and Tibetan Lineage
- Three levels of analysis
- The two truths in *Svātantrika* and *Prāsangika* view
- Union of the two truths
- Implicative and non-implicative negations
- Analysis of the nature: reasoning that is freedom from singularity and multiplicity
- Analysis of the cause: the reasoning that refutes arising from the four extremes called the Vajra Slivers
- Analysis of result and analysis of both cause and result
- Analysis of mere appearances: reasoning of dependent origination
- Selflessness of persons: the sevenfold analysis of the chariot

BUD 673 Paths and Bhūmis Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the path and fruition of the Mahāyāna spiritual journey.

Prerequisite: BUD 620

Required texts:

- Root text: The Presentation of Bhūmis, Paths & Results in the Treasury of Knowledge (*Salam*), by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on the Presentation of Bhūmis, Paths & Results in the Treasury of Knowledge by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class topics:

- Explanation of the five paths: path of accumulation, of preparation, of seeing, of familiarization, and the final path
- Presentation of the ten bodhisattva *bhūmis*

- Explanation of the three *kāyas*
- Explanation of the five buddha wisdoms
- Explanation of the qualities of freedom and maturation

BUD 674 Buddha Nature Review - non-credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This self-paced online review course provides an opportunity to revisit and further integrate material related to the Buddha nature philosophical tradition of Mahāyāna.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required texts:

- *Buddha Nature: The Mahayana Uttarantra Shastra with Commentary*, by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye, tr. by Rosemarie Fuchs, Snow Lion Publications, 2000: www.snowlionpub.com
- *Commentary on the Fourth Vajra Point in the Mahayana Uttarantra Shastra* by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

- The element: three reasons the element is present in all sentient beings
- Ten aspects of the element
- Nine examples explaining why the defilements are to be purified though the essence is unchanging
- Five reasons why it is necessary to explain the element

1.3 Advanced Curriculum

BUD 680 Analytical Meditation III

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a systematic training in the progressive stages of analytical *vipashyanā*, or insight meditation. We will begin with the yoga focusing on non-conceptual images, followed by gradual guided instructions on the yoga focusing on conceptual images which transform the conceptual mind and apply them in our personal practice. This course is taken with each advanced course and included in the credit hours of those courses. It is cross-listed with BUD 500 and BUD 600.

1.3.1 Core Advanced Curriculum

1.3.1.1 Advanced Curriculum: First Turning

BUD 681 *Abhidharmakosha* I: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Abhidharmakosha* by Vasubandhu (ca. 4th century) - the seminal work of Buddhist Abhidharma tradition - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will explore the first four chapters, covering topics of phenomenology (*skandhas*, *āyatanas*, *dhātus* and faculties); the truth of suffering; the outer vessel (the world) and its inner content (sentient beings); and karma, from which the world and its beings arise.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required texts:

- Overview of the Abhidharmakosha, by Acharya Kelsang Wangdi, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Jewels from the Treasury: Vasubandhu's Verses on the Treasury of Abhidharma and Its Commentary, Youthful Play: An Explanation of the Treasury of Abhidharma, by the Ninth Karmapa Wangchuk Dorje, tr. by Karma Lodrö Choephel, unpublished

Class Topics:

- Abhidharma: definition, purpose, authors, *Abhidharmakosha*
- The division of the dharmas
- The five *skandhas*, twelve *āyatanas*, eighteen *dhātus*
- Twenty-two faculties
- The mental events
- Non-associated formations
- The six causes
- The four conditions
- The variety of sentient beings and their transmigrations
- Dependent origination
- The lifespan and the death of sentient beings
- The physical world
- The dimensions of time and space, the cosmic cycle
- Karma
- The courses of action
- Karma and its results; the five results
- The bodhisattva
- The three meritorious actions

BUD 682 *Abhidharmakosha* II: Bestowing the Fulfillment of Accomplishment and Happiness - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Abhidharmakosha* by Vasubandhu (ca. 4th century) - a seminal work of Buddhist Abhidharma tradition - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will explore the last four chapters, covering topics of mental afflictions, the path of relinquishing afflictions, wisdoms gained on the path, and absorptions, from which the wisdoms arise.

Prerequisite: BUD 681

Required texts:

- Overview of the Abhidharmakosha, by Acharya Kelsang Wangdi, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Jewels from the Treasury: Vasubandhu's Verses on the Treasury of Abhidharma and Its Commentary, Youthful Play: An Explanation of the Treasury of Abhidharma, by the Ninth Karmapa Wangchuk Dorje, tr. by Karma Lodrö Choephel, unpublished

Class Topics:

- The ninety-eight latent defilements
- abandoning defilements
- The four noble truths
- Preliminary practices for the path of seeing
- The path of seeing
- The path of no more learning
- The ten knowledges: their characteristics, aspects
- Eighteen qualities unique to the Buddha

- Qualities the buddhas have in common with ordinary beings and with the noble beings
- The four dhyānas
- The absorptions

BUD 690 *Pramānavārttika I: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning* - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Pramānavārttika* by Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century) - the influential work of Buddhist Pramāna tradition - based on commentaries by the Seventh Karmapa, Chödrak Gyamtso (1454–1506) and Sakya Pandita (1182–1251). We will explore the first two chapters: establishing the Buddha as a source of valid cognition, and exposition of direct perception.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required Texts:

- Essential Selections from *The Ocean of Texts on Reasoning*, by the Seventh Karmapa, Chödrak Gyamtso, tr. by Tyler Dewar, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on *The Ocean of Texts on Reasoning*, Chapters One & Two, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

Establishing the Buddha as a source of valid cognition

- Excellent motivation: compassion and loving kindness
- Excellent application: the four noble truths
- Sugatahood: perfect benefit for oneself
- Protection: perfect benefit for others
- Opening homage in reverse order
- The four noble truths: what is to be known: the truth of suffering
- What is to be relinquished: the truth of the origin
- What is to be actualized: the truth of cessation
- What is to be adopted: the truth of the path
- The Buddha is a source of valid cognition

Direct Perception:

- Two types of knowable objects
- Genuine direct perception
- Proving non-conceptuality of direct perception
- Fourfold classification of direct perception
- Sense direct perception
- Mental direct perception
- Self-aware direct perception
- Yogic direct perception
- Seeming direct perception
- The results of valid cognition

BUD 691 *Pramānavārttika II: The Ocean of the Texts on Reasoning* - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Pramānavārttika* by Dharmakīrti (ca. 7th century) - the influential work of Buddhist Pramāna tradition - based on commentaries by the Seventh Karmapa, Chödrak Gyamtso (1454–1506) and Sakya Pandita (1182–1251). We

will continue the exploration of the second chapter on direct perception and conclude with chapters three and four which present inference for oneself and inference of others.

Prerequisite: BUD 690

Required Texts:

- Essential Selections from The Ocean of Texts on Reasoning, by the Seventh Karmapa, Chodrak Gyamtso, tr. by Tyler Dewar, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on The Ocean of Texts on Reasoning, Chapters One & Two, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

Direct Perception:

- Refuting competing classifications of valid cognition
- Relative and ultimate reality; Refuting objections to the definition of relative reality
- Generally characterized phenomena: Proving that generally characterized phenomena are non-things; The relationship between generally characterized phenomena and individual entities; How generally characterized phenomena appear to consciousness; Generally characterized phenomena are nothing other than generalities; Consciousnesses contingent upon symbols and recollection; Appearances to perceiving subjects; Generally characterized phenomena are unable to perform a function
- The reason for teaching the twofold classification of objects of comprehension
- Self-awareness: self-aware perception is non-conceptual; proof that consciousnesses are self-aware; the outward-facing and inward-facing aspects of a consciousness arise simultaneously; logical support for saying consciousnesses are self-aware; objections to this view of self-awareness
- Conceptual thought: conceptual thought in the valid cognition tradition; conceptual mind and specifically characterized phenomena
- The mind apprehending the reason and the mind bearing the reason; the mind apprehending the reason as cause of the mind bearing the reason; cause for arising of the mind apprehending the reason
- Karma, afflictions and conceptuality

Inference for oneself and inference of others:

- Definition of a correct reason
- Bases of relation for the three modes
- Reasons of result, self-nature and non-observation
- Affirming reasons and negating reasons
- Additional classifications of correct reasons
- Seeming reasons: invalid, contradictory and uncertain reasons
- Exclusion-of-other
- Genuine reality is beyond negation and proof
- The way negations and proofs guide one on the true path

1.3.1.2 Advanced Curriculum: Second Turning

BUD 700 Madhyamakāvatāra I: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eighth Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will begin with the presentation of the Madhyamaka of the model texts followed by a close examination of the

first five Madhyamakāvātāra's chapters correlated with the first five bodhisattva *bhūmis*. Several difficult points will be covered such as the three reasons which prove that arhats realize selflessness of person.

Prerequisite: BUD 691

Required texts for all four Madhyamakāvātāra courses:

- The Karmapa's Middle Way: Feast for the Fortunate, A Commentary on Chandrakirti's Madhyamakāvātāra by Wangchuk Dorje. Translated by Tyler Dewar. Snow Lion Publications, 2008: www.snowlionpub.com
- Introduction to the Middle Way: Chandrakirti's Madhyamakāvātāra with Commentary by Jamgön Mipham, tr. by Padmakara Translation Committee, Shambhala, 2001: www.shambhala.com
- Commentary on The Chariot of the Dakpo Kagyü Siddhas by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. 4 Volumes. Nitartha Institute: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on the Feast for the Fortunate, Chapter Six, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche & Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

- *Prajñāpāramitā sūtras*
- Madhyamaka of model texts
- Spreading of Madhyamaka in India
- Spreading of Madhyamaka in Tibet: lineages
- The title and translator's homage
- The three causes of bodhisattva
- Relationship between paths and grounds
- Three reasonings and seven scriptural quotations proving that Arhats realize phenomenal emptiness
- Three reasonings and seven scriptural quotations continued
- Grounds 1-2: Supreme Joy and The Stainless
- Grounds 3-5: The Luminous, The Radiant and Difficult to overcome

BUD 701 Madhyamakāvātāra II: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvātāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the first part of the sixth chapter on the *pāramitā* of *prajñā* which primarily deals with the reasoning refuting arising from the four extremes. The difficult points covered include the *prāsaṅgika-svātantrika* distinction as well as the presentation of the two truths.

Prerequisite: BUD 700

Required texts: See BUD 700

Class Topics:

- Ground Six: The Manifest: introduction to the teachings on emptiness
- *Prāsaṅgika-svātantrika* distinction
- Refutation of arising from self
- Main refutation of arising from other
- Ancillary presentation of two truths in the context of refutation of arising from others
- Continuation of general refutation of arising from other

BUD 702 Madhyamakāvātāra III: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will complete the bulk of the sixth chapter on the *pāramitā* of *prajñā*. The topics covered include a detailed refutation of the proponents of consciousness, and an extensive presentation of personal selflessness.

Prerequisite: BUD 701

Required texts: See BUD 700

Class Topics:

- Presentation of the Chittamātra view
- Refutation of a consciousness without outer objects
- Refutation of the dependent nature that is non-dual and substantially established
- Refutation of the dependent nature's existence as something that is beyond all conceptual elaborations
- Refutation of the dependent nature's existence as the cause of relative appearances
- Reconciling seeming contradictions with scripture
- Classifications of definitive and provisional
- Refutation of arising from both self and other
- Refutation of causeless arising
- Conclusion to the refutation of the self of phenomena
- The selflessness of persons: the reasons why it is necessary to refute the self of persons
- The refutation of the self that is different from the aggregates
- The refutation of the self that is of the same entity as the aggregates
- The refutation of the self that exists in a relationship of supporter-supported with the aggregates
- The refutation of a self that possesses the aggregates
- The summary of the refutation: the antidotes to the twenty extreme views of the transitory collection
- Teachings on how the person is a mere dependent imputation
- The presentation of the basis of imputation, the purpose and the refutation in actual fact
- Conclusion of the section on how the person is a mere dependent imputation

BUD 703 *Madhyamakāvatāra* IV: The Chariot of the Takpo Kagyü Siddhas - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is the completion of the in-depth study of Chandrakīrti's *Madhyamakāvatāra* based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will conclude the sixth chapter followed by the presentation of remaining bodhisattva grounds of realization and the resultant *bhūmi* of Buddhahood. The topics covered include sixteen emptinesses and the discussion about the nature of Buddhahood: Does the Buddha's' wisdom exist and what do Buddhas see?

Prerequisite: BUD 702

Required texts: See BUD 700

Class Topics:

- The sixteen emptinesses
- The four emptinesses; conclusion of the sixth chapter
- Grounds 7-8: Gone Far Beyond and The Immovable
- Grounds 9-10: Excellent Intelligence and Cloud of Dharma
- Qualities of the bodhisattva grounds

- The resultant ground of buddhahood: the place in which buddhas attain enlightenment and the manner in which they become enlightened
- The presentation of the *kāyas*, the essence of enlightenment
- The explanation of the ten powers
- Three types of enlightenment is a provisional teaching
- The time of enlightenment and the time of remaining
- Bringing the composition to completion; colophon

BUD 710 *Abhisamayālamkāra I: The Noble One's Resting at Ease* - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - the decisive elucidation of the hidden meaning of *Prajñāpāramitā* related to the path of the Mahāyāna - based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the first of the eight *abhisamayas*, or clear realizations: Chapter one - "The Knowledge of All Aspects," which is the direct realization that all aspects are primordial peace.

Prerequisite: BUD 691

Required texts for all four *Abhisamayālamkāra* courses:

- *Gone Beyond, Volume One: The Prajnaparamita Sutras, The Ornament of Clear Realization, and Its Commentaries in the Tibetan Kagyü Tradition*, by Karl Brunnhölzl, Snow Lion Publications, 2011: www.snowlionpub.com
- *Gone Beyond, Volume Two: The Prajnaparamita Sutras, The Ornament of Clear Realization, and Its Commentaries in the Tibetan Kagyü Tradition*, by Karl Brunnhölzl, Snow Lion Publications, 2012: www.snowlionpub.com
- *Commentary on the Ornament of Clear Realization, Introduction*, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Commentary on the Ornament of Clear Realization, Topic One*, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Commentary on the Ornament of Clear Realization, Topics Two and Three*, by The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Commentary on the Ornament of Clear Realization, Topic Four*, by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltsen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- *Commentary on the Ornament of Clear Realization, Topics Five-Eight* by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltsen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Class Topics:

- Enlightened attitude of bodhichitta
- Instructions on how to fully accomplish the goal of attaining buddhahood
- The fourfold branches of definite differentiation: the path of junction
- The foundation of accomplishment of the great vehicle: The Mahāyāna *gotra*
- The observed object of accomplishment of the great vehicle: suchness
- The objective of accomplishment of the great vehicle: the three greatneses of great mind, great relinquishment and great realization
- The trainings: armorlike accomplishment, accomplishment of the activities of engagement, accumulating accomplishment, and definite emergence

BUD 711 *Abhisamayālamkāra II: The Noble One's Resting at Ease* - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the second and the third *abhisamaya*: Chapter two - "The Knowledge of the Path," which is direct realizations that the three paths are primordial peace, and Chapter three - "The All-knowledge," the direct realization that all bases are primordial peace without abiding in existence or peace.

Prerequisite: BUD 710

Required texts: See BUD 710

Class Topics:

- The knowledge of the path that knows the path of hearers
- The knowledge of the path that knows the path of pratyekabuddhas
- The knowledge of the bodhisattava path of seeing
- The contaminated path of meditation
- The uncontaminated path of meditation
- The knowledge of the bases of not abiding in existence through knowledge and not abiding in peace through compassion
- The difference between the knowledge of the bases that is close to the result and distant to the result
- Classification of the factors to be relinquished and the remedies
- The way of practice: the trainings in the knowledge of the bases and their equality
- The result attained by practice: the path of seeing

BUD 712 *Abhisamayālamkāra* III: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of the in-depth study of the *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study the fourth *abhisamaya*: Chapter four - "The Training in All Aspects," which is meditating that the triad of the all-knowledge, the path and all aspects is without any nature in order to attaining mastery of the three knowledges for the welfare of others.

Prerequisite: BUD 711

Required texts: See BUD 710

Class Topics:

- The aspects of the training
- The person that trains
- The qualities of the trainings
- The flaws of the trainings
- The defining characteristics of the trainings
- Partial concordance with liberation and with definite differentiation
- The irreversible trainings
- The training of the equality of samsāra and nirvāna
- The training of the pure realms
- The training of skilful means

BUD 713 *Abhisamayālamkāra* IV: The Noble One's Resting at Ease - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is the completion of the in-depth study of the *Abhisamayālamkāra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century), based on the commentary by the Eight Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje (1507-1554). We will study remaining four *abhisamayas*: Chapters five through eight - "The Culminating Training," "The Serial Training," "The Instantaneous Training," and "The Dharmakāya."

Prerequisite: BUD 712

Required texts: See BUD 710

Class Topics:

- Culminating training of: heat, peak, endurance, supreme dharma, path of seeing, path of meditation
- Uninterrupted culminating training
- Serial training: Six pāramitās; six mindfulnesses; entityness of phenomenal non-existence of all phenomena; practice in subsequent attainment and meditative equipoise
- Instantaneous training: not being completely ripened and being completely ripened; no defining characteristics; nonduality; becoming a buddha in one moment
- Dharmakāya
- Enlightened activity
- Sambhogakāya
- Nirmānakāya

1.3.1.3 Advanced Curriculum: Third Turning

BUD 760 *Madhyāntavibhāga*: The Distinction Between the Middle and Extremes - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of *Madhyāntavibhāga* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - a key work of Yogācāra Buddhist philosophy - based on the commentaries by Vasubandhu and Ju Mipham (1846–1912), which delineates the distinctions and relationship (*vibhāga*) between the middle view (*madhya*) and extremes (*anta*). We will systematically proceed through its five chapters: the Characteristics, the Obscurations, True Reality, the Path of Practice and the Unsurpassable Vehicle.

Prerequisite: BUD 713

Required text:

- Middle Beyond Extremes: Maitreya's Madhyantavibhaga with Commentaries by Khenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham, tr. by Dharmachakra Translation Committee, Snow Lion Publications, 2006: www.snowlionpub.com

Class topics:

- Summary
- The characteristics of thorough affliction and complete purification
- The obscurations that are eliminated
- The reality that is realized
- The features of the path: the thirty-seven factors of enlightenment and their relationship to the five paths; their division into three phases; distinguishing features of the bodhisattva's path
- The nine phases of the path; the three phases of the path
- The unique approach of the great vehicle: the unsurpassable practice, unsurpassable observation and the unsurpassable true accomplishment

BUD 770 *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga*: The Distinction Between Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of the *Dharmadharmatāvibhāga* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - a short Yogācāra work of the pith instructions class - based on commentaries by

the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje (1284–1339) and Ju Mipham (1846–1912). We will study the distinction and correlation (*vibhāga*) between phenomena (*dharma*) and the nature of phenomena (*dharmatā*) and discover the key instructions on how to proceed in accessing this nature.

Prerequisite: BUD 760

Required texts:

- The Ornament That Explains the Treatise The Distinction Between Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena, by the Third Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje, tr. by Karl Brunnhölzl - unpublished
- Maitreya's Distinguishing Phenomena and Pure Being: Commentary by Mipham, tr. by Jim Scott, Snow Lion Publications, 2004: www.snowlionpub.com

Class topics:

- Introduction to Yogācāra and the five texts of Maitreya
- Introduction to the three natures (*trisvabhāva*)
- The distinction of phenomena and the nature of phenomena
- The defining characteristic of phenomena and the nature of phenomena
- Grasping phenomena
- Grasping the nature of phenomena
- The fundamental change of state
- The defining characteristics of nonconceptual wisdom
- The thorough knowledge
- Explanation through examples

BUD 780 *Uttaratantra* & Sūtras of the Third Turning: The Lion's Roar of Irreversibility

- 4 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is an in-depth study of the *Uttaratantra* by Maitreya (ca. 4th century) - the influential work of the *Tathāgatagarbha* tradition - based on the commentary by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye (1813-1899) and Gö Lotsawa Shönnu Pal (1392–1481). We will first look at the selection of sūtras of the third turning, followed by the exposition of the *Uttaratantra's* seven vajra points: the three jewels, buddha nature, enlightenment, its qualities and enlightened activity.

Prerequisite: BUD 770

Required texts:

- Buddha Nature: The Mahayana Uttaratantra Shastra with Commentary, by Jamgön Kongtrül Lodrö Thaye, tr. by Rosemarie Fuchs, Snow Lion Publications, 2000: www.snowlionpub.com
- Commentary on the Fourth Vajra Point in the Mahayana Uttaratantra Shastra by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Commentary on Vajra Points One-Three & Five-Eight in the Mahayana Uttaratantra Shastra by Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com

Recommended text:

- A Direct Path to the Buddha Within: Go Lotsawa's Mahamudra Interpretation of the Ratnagotravibhaga, by Klaus-Dieter Mathes, Wisdom Publications, 2008: www.wisdompubs.org

Class topics:

- Selection of sūtras of the third turning

- The three jewels as being what is to be attained: the Buddha who is the teacher, the dharma that is his teaching and sangha whose members hold this teaching
- The element is that what needs to be realized: three reasons the element is present in all sentient beings
- Ten aspects of the element
- Nine examples explaining why the defilements are to be purified though the essence is unchanging
- Five reasons why it is necessary to explain the element
- The enlightenment is the realization
- The qualities that are the attributes of realization, and
- Activity that is the action of realization.

1.3.2 Extended Advanced Curriculum

BUD 704 *Chatuhshataka*: The Four Hundred Verses on the Yogic Conduct of a Bodhisattva - 2 credits

Attendance: In-person or Online

Course Description:

This course is a study of *Chatuhshataka* by Āryadeva (ca. 2nd century) - a direct student of Nāgārjuna. This influential madhyamaka treatise is renowned for balancing the presentation of the seeming and ultimate realities, emphasizing both the view and meditation. We will approach this treatise through the lenses of its Tibetan commentators.

Prerequisite: BUD 703

Required text:

- Rendawa Shonnu Lodro's commentary on Aryadeva's "Four hundred verses", tr. by Ven. Dr. Tashi Tsering and Mr. Jürgen Stöter Tillmann, Manjushri Press, Cambridge, MA, 2004: sakyacenter@earthlink.net

Recommended text:

- Aryadeva's Four Hundred Stanzas on the Middle Way: With Commentary by Gyeltsap, by Geshe Sonam Rinchen and Ruth Sonam, Snow Lion Publications, 2008: www.snowlionpub.com

Class topics:

- Relinquishing the wrong views regarding things as permanent, pleasant, pure and self
- Bodhisattva's practice
- Relinquishment of afflictions
- Relinquishment of attachment to the enjoyment of sensory objects
- Practice of discipline
- Negation of permanent entities, of self, of time, of views, of sense faculties and their objects, of extremes of existence, nonexistence, etc. as well as of oneness and difference, and of conditioned phenomena
- Cultivation of certainty for the master and the disciple.

1.4 Nitartha Scholars Series

BUD 790 Third Karmapa's Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course is a systematic presentation of the theory of the tathāgata heart (*tathāgatagarbha*) commonly referred to as buddha nature, as well as the pith instructions on experientially accessing such reality, as presented by the Third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje

(1284-1339) in his Treatise on Pointing Out the Tathāgata Heart, together with the commentary by Jamgön Kongtrul Lodrö Thaye (1813-1899).

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required texts:

- Luminous Heart: The Third Karmapa on Consciousness, Wisdom, and Buddha Nature, by Karl Brunnhölzl, 2009, Snow Lion Publications: www.snowlionpub.com
- On Buddha Essence: A Commentary on Ranjung Dorje's Treatise, by Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche, 2006, Shambhala Publications: www.shambhala.com

Class topics:

- Explaining false and correct imagination
- The three natures
- Explaining the buddha heart: Pointing out its own essence
- Explaining the qualities of the dharmakaya
- Explaining the qualities of the rupakaya
- Brief instruction on causelessness and outer causes being untenable
- Explaining the certainty about pure and impure mentation
- The essence of all-accomplishing wisdom
- The enlightened activity of all-accomplishing wisdom
- The meaning of the wisdom of equality
- The change of state of the eight consciousnesses into the four wisdoms
- The manner in which the three kayas are permanent

BUD 791 Lama Mipham on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course elucidates the view of Ju Mipham Gyatso (1846–1912) on the Third Turning of the Wheel of Dharma, namely the theory of buddha nature or the tathāgata heart (*tathāgatagarbha*) and the view of Shentong, or the empty-of-other school of philosophy and practice. The main textual support for this class will be Lama Mipham's two short compositions called The Lion's Roar.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required texts:

- The Lion's Roar of Shentong (*gZhan stong khas len seng ge'i nga ro*), by Ju Mipham, tr. by the Nālandā Translation Committee - unpublished
- The Lion's Roar of Buddha Nature: The Great Essential Exposition (*sTong thun chen mo seng ge'i nga ro*), by Ju Mipham, tr. by the Nālandā Translation Committee - unpublished

Class topics:

The Lion's Roar of Shentong:

- History of buddha nature doctrine in India and Tibet
- Buddha nature teachings and the Nyingma tradition in Tibet
- Definitions of buddha nature, and three reasons buddha nature is present in all sentient beings
- Emptiness and buddha nature - the second and third turning of the wheel of dharma
- Nāgārjuna on buddha nature
- Buddha nature from various philosophical perspectives

The Lion's Roar of Buddha Nature:

- Third turning teachings and treatises on Buddha nature
- Buddha nature as a manifest object
- Identifying buddha nature: emptiness in second and third turning teachings; luminosity; reliance on authoritative scripture

- Gaining certainty that all beings possess buddha nature: three gateways; three models; three reasons
- Rationales for buddha nature's manifestation: freedom from extremes; demonstrating that enlightened qualities are primordially endowed; buddha nature is beyond time and causality; inanimate objects do not possess buddha nature; the pure nature of reality; omniscience; fruition
- The one, ultimate vehicle

BUD 792 Four Yogas of Shāntipa – 1 credit

Attendance: Online

Course Description:

This online course is an experiential exposition of the four progressive stages of meditation on *Prajñāpāramitā*, given by the mahāsiddha Ratnākaraśānti (ca. 10th-11th centuries), preserved in his pith instructions *Prajñāpāramitopadesha*: (1) apprehending things to the extent they exist, (2) apprehending mere mind, (3) apprehending suchness of all phenomena, and (4) non-apprehending.

Prerequisite: BUD 630

Required text:

- Four Yogas of Shāntipa, excerpted from *Prajñāpāramitopadesha* by Ratnākaraśānti, tr. by Cory Leistikow - unpublished

Class topics:

- Preliminaries to Four Yogas
- Biographical notes on Shāntipa
- The first yoga - apprehending things to the extent they exist: luminosity of thought; thoughts to be brought into experience through knowledge/experience; direct perception vs. conceptuality; things as they exist out there vs. those in our minds; bringing mental consciousness inwards; beginning of union of shamatha and vipashyanā; meditation on blue A; meditative stabilization of the ten totalities; meditation on letters A at body points; things are just names vs. things are other than my own mind.
- The second yoga - apprehending mere mind: introduction to mind-only; relationship between name and meaning; three types of appearances; basis for appearances; habitual tendencies; analyzing the distinction between knower and known; putting analysis aside once definite understanding is achieved; union of appearance and emptiness
- The third yoga - apprehending suchness of all phenomena: observing suchness; space-like and illusion-like meditative stabilization; apprehension of marks; non-affirming negation
- The fourth yoga - non-apprehending

BUD 799 Advanced Text Taught by Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche - 2 credits

As in the past, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche may choose to teach texts of the Extended Advanced Curriculum during the Summer Residential Program, We may not know the title of the text he will teach at the time this course catalog is updated, so we include an open course number here to accommodate these texts.

2. Department of Languages

2.1 Tibetan Language Curriculum

LAN 510 Literary Tibetan I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is an intensive introduction to Tibetan grammar intended for students who wish to read traditional Tibetan Buddhist texts with the aim of translating them into Western languages. We will begin with the Tibetan alphabet and move to word formation, recognition, dictionary order and acquisition of basic vocabulary, followed by the study of the eight cases of Tibetan grammar. This course is memorization intensive.

LAN 511 Colloquial Tibetan I - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will begin with pronunciation, gradually working toward simple sentences and oral exchanges. We will memorize and recite short verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

LAN 520 Literary Tibetan II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Literary Tibetan I. We continue our study of the eight case system and begin reading and translating simple texts. We will learn to recognize basic elements of grammar and sentence structure in the context of reading and learning how to parse sentences to enhance and support reading comprehension. This course is memorization intensive.

Prerequisite: LAN 510, or equivalent

LAN 521 Colloquial Tibetan II - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I - a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will work on new vocabulary plus reading and spelling out loud, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

Prerequisite: LAN 511, or equivalent

LAN 530 Literary Tibetan III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is for students who have a basic command of the eight case system of the Tibetan grammar and wish to develop their reading skills. We will emphasize reading comprehension and therefore stress the recognition of grammatical structures in context. Special attention is paid to sentence structure, identifying structures and making the transition from fragmentary understanding to translation.

Prerequisite: LAN 520, or equivalent

LAN 531 Colloquial Tibetan III - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan I & II - a beginner's level introduction to the modern spoken Tibetan language. We will work on new vocabulary plus reading and

spelling out loud, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.
Prerequisite: 521, or equivalent

LAN 540 Literary Tibetan IV - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Literary Tibetan III. We will continue in emphasizing reading comprehension and therefore the recognition of grammatical structures in context will be highlighted. Special attention is paid to sentence structure, identifying structures and making the transition from fragmentary understanding to translation.

Prerequisite: LAN 530, or equivalent

LAN 541 Colloquial Tibetan IV - 1 credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of Colloquial Tibetan III. We will work on new vocabulary plus readings, followed by drilling vocabulary and constructions, and discuss new grammar. We will memorize and recite additional verses as an aide to vocabulary acquisition.

Prerequisite: LAN 531, or equivalent

3. Department of Healing

HEA 500 Science of Healing - 3 credits

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

This course is based on the ancient healing tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, a comprehensive cognitive training system stemming from a personal realization of the wisdom of intrinsic healthiness. We will study an overview of the basic science of healing as presented in the four Medical Tantras as well as complementary topics from the Nitartha Institute foundational curriculum such as valid and non-valid cognition and it relates to our health.

Required texts:

- Mind & Its World 1 Sourcebook, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Clear Thinking Workbook, Nitartha Institute Publications: nitartha.institute.pubs@gmail.com
- Healing from the Source: The Science and Lore of Tibetan Medicine by Yeshe Dhonden Snow, Lion Publications, 2000: www.snowlionpub.com

Class topics:

- So riq (*gsoba rigpa*) the science of healing and interdependence of the five sciences
- Overview of direct valid cognition, inferential valid cognition
- The healthy or unchanging body, lung
- Valid cognition of natural balance
- Balanced digestion, *tripa, began*
- Twelve āyatanas
- Three vital patterns, humoral constitution
- Valid cognition of the three patterns
- Unhealthy body, causes
- Non-valid cognition, seeming direct cognition, mental factors
- Changing body, humoral processes
- Experiencing conditions from the inside out

- Four conditions of dis-ease
- Classification of object into specifically characterized and generally characterized phenomena
- Causes and conditions
- Diet as condition working with taste
- Taste, concept or direct experience?
- Diagnosis, history and urinalysis
- Three types of objects: appearing, referent and object of engagement
- Five aspects of preventive care; meditation, diet, behavior, outer details, time
- Three levels of analysis, five skandhas
- Contemplative healing, working with the whole situation
- Personal health plans

4. Department of Arts

4.1 Traditional Arts

ART 500 Lūjong - non-credit

Attendance: In-person

Course Description:

Lūjong, or body training, is a series of fifteen physical exercises developed by the Tibetan Buddhist meditation master Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche to help students enhance their health and synchronize their body and mind. They serve to increase energy and pliancy. The wakefulness developed by the exercises can bring a quality of meditation to ordinary activities throughout the day.