



FALL 2020 COURSE EVALUATIONS

CS301 (evaluations: 12)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student

FACULTY (Namdrol Miranda Adams)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I really appreciated time given for checking in, in person writing assignments and small group work.
- "This class had an unusual format. I found it a bit difficult to figure out what was needed, as instructions were loose. That said, because the instructor was so easy-going, it seemed as if anything we did would be okay. I admit that oddly this lead to some feeling of unease, and then I would just relax into it. While that probably says more about me and my personal need for structure and clarity. Also, the assignments almost always seemed to be on the lite-side, and then every time I would be surprised at how deep they took me!
- One request that I have is that the assignments be listed in the assignments tab, rather than the lessons tab. Or maybe in addition to the lessons tab. It would be easier to locate them that way at a glance and more efficient for searching!"
- The content was spot on for the course and it was easily digestible and understood. It's an on-going effort to work on some of the content but I feel supported by the instructor and fellow students.
- The course could benefit from a bit more structure/organization.

- To have a "dead" week. It isn't easy to attend class, do the weekly assignments, and complete our finals all in the same week. Is there a way to have a week dedicated to only finals?
- The reflective essays I found to be very therapeutic. I felt as if I was being lead down a path of healing that helped me to better articulate what I was feeling about a particular experience, or how I connected to the course material. This gave me opportunities to go deeper and further investigate my and understand what I learned as a take away in a more personally connected way. I was able to make more connection between what we were being taught and apply to how I relate that information to myself and the world around me.
- Overall a good balnce that worked
- "I appreciated the chance to learn from Namdrol.
- I appreciated the chance to collaborate in a project with others.
- I appreciated all the reflection and writing assignments."

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- I appreciated her model of teaching that was very much about working together as a group and heavy on self reflection. At times I would have appreciated a little more feedback on assignments but overall I felt very met.
- "Namdrol is exceptionally compassionate and easy-going.
- Sometimes information seemed to get lost and responses weren't always timely; other times she was on it within minutes!
- I feel that there is some room for improvement regarding the facilitation of class discussions and also there was very little direct instruction. Some of the readings were never addressed in class.
- Even so, the class bonded through all of the breakouts and the social media project that gave small groups the opportunity to collaborate and get to know one another a bit, and I feel that a transmission took place in this very unique space that Namdrol holds. I am supremely grateful for the gifts of this class and the instructor."
- Namdrol has been an incredible sponsor in this course, providing support and understanding through all the twists and turns. She's a consummate professional and look forward to learning more from her in the future.
- See above comment about structure/organization.
- When I was experiencing high amounts of stress, Namdrol took the time out of her day to "check-in" with me. She helped to calm my fears and stress.
- Enthusiastic and skilled teacher

CS303 (evaluations: 5)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

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FACULTY (Leigh Miller)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- "Loved guest speakers. Would like to see more diversity with future guest speakers such as ethnicity and different working environments other than end-of-life care. (Prison system, childhood trauma, University).
- Also, I would welcome more diverse spiritual teachings to help us with an understanding and ability to be present for those different from ourselves. Judaism, Muslim, Native American to name a few."
- The listening assignment was very helpful and I learned much from it. The guest speakers were amazing and very inspiring. They also had different viewpoints where you can get different perspectives.
- I deeply appreciated the conversations and assignments related to social justice. The Practice of Pastoral Care by Carrie Doehring title is an excellent resource, as well as The Arts of Contemplative Care.
- There were some weeks during which the readings were perhaps a bit much and was difficult to know what to spend time on and what to let go, but that was not every week and Leigh la was usually quite good at telling us what was more important for the upcoming discussions.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- I appreciated Leigh's thoughtfulness in her preparations for each class, her efforts to align compelling guest speakers, and her capacity to bring all of this through a caring and spiritual environment. Thank you Leigh!
- I think Leigh is a great teacher who is very prepared, organized with great content. I don't have any recommendations, I loved the class.
- I appreciate Leigh's bringing in current issues of social justice and systemic racism into the course to be discussed and addressed. I request more timely feedback about our CPE essays from Leigh. Thank you!
- Leigh is amazing! So organized and grounded in her scholastic foundation while never losing the heart of compassion that comes from engaging in spiritual practice. She is truly incredible and I am amazed at everything she finds the time to do for her students all while being a full time mama, what a dakini!

MDT301 (evaluations: 12)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
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 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

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FACULTY (Yangsi Rinpoche)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- Prior to this class, I had a regular meditation practice. I was completely blown away by how much deeper and poignant the materials took me in my own practice. I'm grateful for the guidance.
- I found the sitting time too much for myself, especially in the beginning. I liked Venerable Khadro's format of 4 sessions with breaks in between. But I think it's also good to have long sessions, just to push the limits. Also, I found sources saying one does not necessarily have to cultivate shamatha first. It is possible to develop insight first, or insight and calm abiding in conjunction. It seemed like the only mentioned path was shamatha first, so maybe mentioning these other 2 ways would benefit students.
- It is difficult to complete the last week of this term when weekly assignments, class, and finals are all due the same week. Is it possible to have a "dead week" or a week just for finals?
- Instruction along with discussion boards worked well. The readings were a good fit. The rinpoche masterfully

unpacked the nuances of the practices and words used to describe the territory.

- Zoom meditation can be challenging in some ways but it is certainly better than no instruction at all.
- Closer integration/referencing of the readings and course material or reframing of those readings as supplementary texts rather than required reading. The flow and function of the class over Zoom was excellent and I was very impressed with that element. Rinpoche and David were both outstanding all the way through!
- "The readings and study for philosophy 301 overlap with this class and so this pertains more to PhI, but I would find it helpful to have discussions timed to the assigned readings. Often when I was reading an assignment, I was filled with questions, and there was no opportunity to address these as they arose. A free forum (as is possible in Facebook groups) among students and instructor/aide might be a way to do this, so discussions could arise organically from students' inquiries.
- The discussion prompts for this class were excellent for addressing what is emerging in our meditation practice and for drawing our attention to areas we may not have contemplated on our own!"
- The question 6 is my own problem since I didn't do any of the assignments so I cannot say one way or the other. But if I've had, I think it probably will help.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Everyone involved (Rinpoche and David) were very adept and extremely professional. Getting the opportunity to listen and learn from both of them was very humbling and something I will keep inside and referring to for many years.
- David was great. I really like the discussion questions he posed and also how consistent and timely he was in his communications. I also really like doing the long life prayer at the end of class. I learned a lot doing the discussion questions.
- Instructor as well as TA were great! TA really help facilitate the instructor as well as managing the details of our submissions and in person meetings.
- Rinpoche is clearly of master of this material, which makes studying it with him very enjoyable and beneficial. David did a great job facilitating discussions and communicating with the class about necessary information.
- "The only part of the course I really struggled with was the explanation of the non-physical image of the breath. I'm not sure if there is a better explanation or that is the kind of thing to be figured out in practice, but if a clearer explanation could be found before next year's course I think that would be beneficial.
- Rinpoche and David were both excellent in their roles, my life and view of the world is radically changed for the better after this class. I have established a regular meditative practice that I have found hugely beneficial for myself and those in my life."
- "Rinpoche is an amazingly compassionate instructor. He demonstrates interest in the subject matter and also in the students. I feel he cares deeply for our well being. He is thoughtful, inquisitive, and masterful, and his voice is so calming and reassuring.
- David has been a completely attentive presence as TA. He gave insightful feedback, always responded right away to questions and concerns, and also demonstrated clarity, compassion, kindness and care."
- Thank you Maitripa to offer class on-line. This gave me an opportunity to take the class which I couldn't under normal circumstance. Just being in the class and meditate with everyone brought me peace and comfort during this difficult time. Thank you!

MDT303 (evaluations: 8)

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FACULTY (Yangsi Rinpoche)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- It's my second time through class and I appreciated the course content.
- I have been deeply moved and inspired by this semester with Rinpoche. I broke through some pretty huge hidden barriers and really developed trust in Rinpoche as one of my gurus. What I mean by that, is by relaxing and really getting into the practice as he instructed me to do so allowed me to notice the deep karmic relationship that was already there. I am so blessed to have this opportunity to sit at the feet of my precious lama.
- It has been very helpful to have a wide variety of teachings and translations for this class.
- It was wonderful! Rinpoche is the most amazing meditation teacher! His style is so unique, so gentle, and this class was beyond my expectations. I have never taken a whole semester of emptiness meditation before and was not sure what to expect - I thought it might be a little bit dry. But it was just the opposite - so beautiful, the way he integrated spacious awareness into our practice, and led us gradually and deeply into the analytical part. His mind is so vast, I feel that even by Zoom!

- Rinpoche always explained the meditations in a very easy and understandable way while taking his time, making sure nobody is left behind or doesn't understand.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- I'm just appreciate and grateful.
- "It would have been helpful to have had modeling of the four-point analysis earlier in the term. In terms of readings, I found the readings from Tegchok more accessible/understandable than from the Dose of Emptiness.
- I very much appreciated getting feedback on the Meditation Report.
- I am very grateful for this meditation class. Thank-you to Rinpoche and Sunitha!"
- "My gratitude to both Rinpoche and Sunitha for their patience, guidance, and sharing of their wisdom this term.
- Very long life to you both!
- Thank you."
- "Long life to Yangsi Rinpoche and always come back in the form of a guru to benefit all beings by turning the wheel of Dharma in this world! Lama Khyenno! Lama Khyenno! Lama Kyenno!
- Also, Sunitha is a wonderful and insightful TA who really takes great care of the students."
- Rinpoche's kindness and patience has been deeply felt. Sunitha has been very thoughtful, kind and patient with us as well. She checked in with us as a class and supported our practice and learning very consistently and in an open-hearted way. Thank you all so much!
- "Rinpoche is unbelievably precious! Please stay with us here at Maitripa, Rinpoche, for as long as possible!!!
- My only request is to Sunitha, about the Manjushri practice that Alex is leading before class. I never had any opportunity to vote or decide about whether or not this was happening. She started it without really asking for our consent as a group, unless I missed something perhaps? I'm sure it's very auspicious and it seems very important to Alex personally, but it means that we have no time before class to talk or connect as a group. I miss that, and would like to see if next term, we can all decide somehow (without offending dear Alex) whether or not she continues, and if she does, can she please allow us 10 minutes before class time to talk and connect? Thank you Sunitha, you have been an amazing TA!!!!"
- Yangsi Rinpoche is such an amazing teacher. His teaching style and how he can teach profound and complex meditations is top of the line. Sunitha is a wonderful and helpful T.A. who is very organized and prepared.

PHL301 (evaluations: 12)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
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 Strongly Disagree

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FACULTY (Yangsi Rinpoche)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- Really appreciate the depth of this course. It is a lot of material to dive into but it seems necessary to develop a strong foundation for further study.
- The content outlined for this course was spot on for the instruction and was instrumental for understanding the concepts. I would highly recommend making the print versions of the books available for all students; there were a few supply issues at various online shops.
- This class was surprisingly rigorous. I was immersed in new thoughts, new perspectives, new vocabulary, and a very non-linear education style. Though initially frustrating, it was ultimately refreshing and transformative.
- This class was packed full of great material and well-lead by a highly esteemed expert in this area with plenty of supporting assistants. The course brought in question and answer periods small and big group work. The lessons, papers, and conversations were meaningful and inspiring toward the aims that were clearly stated.
- I very much enjoyed the course, I struggled a bit with the discussion groups largely due to technical restraints. It

was challenging to have such brief discussion on very deep topics. If the logistics permitted I would be interested in a shorter session outside of the normal class time for a Zoom discussion group or tying the Populi discussion questions more directly into the class discussion to allow more space for reflection and interaction.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- I appreciated the small group break out discussion groups and also the discussion board questions. It was a great way to deepen understanding and exploration of the topics. I also enjoyed having Bill McGee come to teach.
- Thank You.
- All of the instructors and TA's, including Rinpoche and Namdrol, were always available for any questions or supportive chat.
- I am sharing this on all my class evals....it is difficult to complete weekly assignments, attend class and do finals all in the same week. I would love to have a "dead week". In other words, a week dedicated only to finals.
- The last strongly agree was probably more for Namdrol. I never emailed Rinpoche directly :,) but Namdrol was wonderful with her communication, timely responses, and facilitate our class discussions.
- I think in the beginning we (students) didn't know if it was okay to jump in with questions and Rinpoche was maybe waiting for more participation. When there was silence, he would then go on with his topic. Once we started to get outside of our bashfulness, the discussions got livelier and more participatory. I suppose there could be a little more orientation for new students in terms of what is acceptable student behavior for students of Rinpoche. This participation really helps with my learning. That said, he was so sweet and accepting of our questions and always showed interest in how we thought about things, which went a long way to making us more comfortable in class. He is a wonderful instructor, so knowledgeable, compassionate and has a great sense of humor too.
- This class was packed full of great material and well-lead by a highly esteemed expert in this area with plenty of supporting assistants. The course brought in question and answer periods small and big group work. The lessons, papers, and conversations were meaningful and inspiring toward the aims that were clearly stated.
- "Rinpoche and Namdrol were excellent throughout the entirety of the class. I learned a lot and felt cared for and supported in my learning journey.
- My only real struggle in this class was the disparity between the syllabus and lessons tabs on Populi. This was occasionally confusing until it was made clear that the syllabus was being updated and was the authoritative location for information on readings and due dates. I personally prefer working with the lessons tab because it keeps the additional files for each class organized."

PHL303 (evaluations: 5)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
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 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

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FACULTY (Yangsi Rinpoche)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- Cutting Through Appearances is a very helpful and clear book, yet it was not used until requested by students. I would highly suggest using this text from the get go because of Jeffery Hopkin's incredibly clear translation. Also, perhaps taking more time to go more thoroughly through one text rather than just getting a glimpse at many would be more clear and helpful for the students.
- The course content is very profound but Rinpoche helped explain everything so well, it was understandable.
- I appreciated the variety of the materials presented in class. There were many ways to approach Madhyamaka Philosophy.
- "A few of the readings were ""over my head"" where I felt lost. Once we were given context in class, they started to make more sense. If I might humbly suggest that Shantideva's chapter 9, in the Dalai Lama book on Wisdom might be looked at as a potential resource in the future?
- Zoom is an imperfect medium and we made it work! I would like to suggest the use of visuals to assist in our

learning -- i.e. when the five logical systems were presented, a visual would have been helpful.

- The presentation of the interpretation of the poem ""Recognizing My Mother"" was confusing. I wonder if we might have been introduced to these ideas in a more compressed way, perhaps over 1-2 classes.
- I am so grateful to Rinpoche and Sunitha for this class and feel I learned a great deal. Thank-you so very much."

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Just my ever-flowing heart of gratitude for Rinpoche and the teachings! And request for Rinpoche to please remain in cyclic existence for the benefit of all others and to never give up turning the Wheel of Dharma for the sake of migrators! May this guru life be long and without obstacle!
- No recommendations, the TA and Rinpoche are amazing and do a great job.
- Rinpoche patience and methods to approach the topic in ways we can understand was vital. Sunitha was very supportive! She shared new class materials, she made herself available for the study session and provided useful feedback, really wanting everyone to understand the material. She is a thoughtful, and caring TA.
- Sunitha did a very nice job of helping us along with the provision of additional study tools to increase our understanding of the covered material.
- "Timely feedback is always very meaningful.
- Thank-you to Rinpoche and Sunitha! The study group we started the last 3 weeks was extremely helpful, thank-you Sunitha!"

THL305 (evaluations: 12)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student

FACULTY (Leigh Miller)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- So much content! It was all very interesting and important, so I don't know what should be removed, but it was an awful lot. This course could probably be spread out over many semesters, but of course there is only so much time.
- I appreciated the range of different engaged Buddhist leaders that we covered. It gave me a chance to delve into each of them deeper. A request would be to have rubric earlier.
- I think that presenting 'woke' ideologies in a context that places them on the 'correct' side of social justice can be unfair with regards to the potential for legitimate conversation. While the course did not steer us towards any particular conclusion, I think that institutions, especially liberal institutions, need to be mindful about what is presented as foundational or fundamental.
- Perhaps less content and more chance to go deeper and discuss issues of particular interest to students. The content was fascinating and rich but sometimes I felt i was not able to fully explore, digest, dialogue in small groups or have richly layered large group discussions that would have ushered in more integration of content.
- "This was an excellent course - thank-you!"
- My suggestion would be to provide a packet of the readings for students -- for a fee. A number of the hand-outs

were unreadable either from the screen (i.e. sideways, light print, edges cut off) or when printed off.

- Very helpful feedback was offered for the assignment on our volunteerism.
- Difficult to prioritize the time, as there is so much wonderful content to cover! In the future, feel free to focus on fewer powerful engaged Buddhists so that each can be covered more thoroughly.
- Generally, a deductive approach was used, and this is effective for the way my brain works. The presentation on Aung San Suu Kyi was more of an inductive approach, from parts to whole, more challenging to get my head around it.
- So appreciate the great efforts you made, Leigh, and how conscientious you are."
- It felt overwhelming while we were going through it. If it were up to me, I would probably slow it down and spend two weeks on every topic/person. I am fan of deepening and felt we were only able to skim the surface. So my request would be to slow it down and cover half as much material and deepen into it. I also think this would allow for more practice. I want this topic to be from the heart practice--and due to speed--it (3/4 of the time) felt very heady. So, maybe one week of intellectual learning, and a second week of deepening in practice into that topic/person. I also have a request, that the group agreements be reviewed for 2-3 weeks. It felt that we moved away from them--and they were not reviewed until midterm time.
- The question I am pondering has to do with the Buddhist institutions. Very few of the people we studied were aligned with Buddhist institutions; mostly, they were activists who happened to be Buddhist and brought that lens to their work. When I think of how Buddhist institutions actually treat people who have different ideas, or who speak up about injustice, it is quite disheartening. I really liked Stephanie Kaza's differentiation between "Big B" Buddhism and "small b" buddhism. The conclusion I am coming to is that the institution is not capable of real engaged Buddhism and it is really up to the individuals to practice small b Buddhism. It is very important for me to believe that the institution has its ethics in the right place and there is a little bit of cynicism in my mind about Buddhist institutions (thinking about FPMT) talking about engaged Buddhism when I know that they also don't strongly condemn sexual assault and violence against women. I think it is very hard for an organization to take the position that it has some answers for injustice when the back end of the organization is committing injustice.
- Course content from a resources standpoint was amazing if not overflowing. Time to integrate these, for example, starting the praxis assignment early would be really helpful. Also, start by sharing in small group of initial personal engaged Buddhist assessment. Seemed that we left the course not really knowing how students were engaged except in one discussion board.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Seemed to favor the males in the class.
- Leigh knows so much about so many things! I'm amazed at how well she is able to teach so many different classes. All of us at Maitripa are lucky to have her.
- I appreciated Leigh's efforts for putting together the curriculum.
- I'm sharing this in all my course evaluations. It is difficult to complete weekly assignments, attend class, and complete finals all in the same week. Is it possible to have a "dead week." A week dedicated only to finals?
- Leigh is a wonderful faculty member. You can really tell how deeply she cares about Buddhism and education in general. I am grateful to have been able to study with her.
- Weekly presentations were great and assignments were beneficial to my growth. Didn't always get timely feedback. More than once there was promise of discussion time that never got realized.
- "Thank-you, Leigh, you did an excellent job teaching this course.
- I'd like to request a course be offered on Buddhist Ethics. Would that be possible?"
- Leigh got very excited about the class material and there were many days when she didn't step back and allow the many class members much time to participate. This is such important material! If this class is going to be on zoom again, is it possible Leigh could offer more breakout rooms? As well as remind people to step forward/step back? (The truth was that even when we had breakout rooms--possibly since the group agreements were not emphasized, a few people often spoke, while other members did not have a chance.) It's difficult having so many people in class. I wonder what's working in other larger classes? I defer to reflect on how to make sure participation is balanced. Thank you!
- Instructor did a great job with the amount of materials without a TA. She also invited guest speakers, and drew upon relevant videos to assist. This is really a hard class to pull off. The material is vast and complex to pull of in one course and then have students be able to share and apply the material. Hats off for taking on this challenging course.

THL337 (evaluations: 13)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

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FACULTY (LaShelle Lowe-Charde)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- "It seemed that a limiting factor in this class was the degree of experience students brought to their own self-empathy. This would appear to be a pre-requisite to giving empathy effectively to others, and for authentic and vulnerable participation in class. Under the circumstances, providing a foundation for this part of the work in the beginning of the term would help put everyone in place together. The weekly Feelings and Needs assignment was terrific. I would suggest adding another homework assignment that might vary from week to week that would come at the self-presence-ing from another angle, to complement and add depth to this very important foundation
- Students in our class continued to hold back, all the way to the end of the term. The instructor sort of asked students if they were ready to participate, rather than expressing the expectation that this was a participatory class and creating a safe environment that evoked a strong motivation to jump in.
- Another aspect of this was experienced in the frame - students asked questions to the instructor and the

instructor had all the answers. An invitation for students to explore the questions together and find their way to a variety of answers through guidance, might cultivate an ambiance in which it is safe to inhabit our own wisdom, and build confidence in the process, rather than reinforcing that the instructor had all their answers. That said, I know that it is a fine line for an instructor with only a limited time to guide student explorations. And truly, LaShelle's compassion was always a guiding light, no matter what."

- I hate zoom, but everything else was great.
- LaShelle did a great job of adjusting this course to Zoom, but there is a limit to what can be experienced in giving empathy online. This was no fault of her teaching; it is just that the course itself isn't as conducive as other courses might be to being carried out online. I would not recommend having courses like this offered online unless, as now, there is no other choice. One of the reasons is just not knowing some of the students very well and being asked to be deeply personal about experiences each week.
- The course was great. I learned so much about myself and how to better to be of service to others. Lashelle has got it down all the way through. Zoom perfection.
- The live coaching in front of people was both scary and great. My suggestion is that we do it closer to the beginning rather than the end. I felt a better sense how to do it but then the class is over. Maybe not at absolute start but closer to the start. Maybe starting class 4 or something like that.
- I found myself drawing from what I learned in this course all the time. Learning to attune yourself to others' needs and feelings, I feel, is a crucial part of ending suffering. LaShelle is a wonderful teacher, and I'm really looking forward to more of her classes.
- This was my favorite class! The practical expression of practicing empathy, learning what is not empathy, and so much more is totally applicable to real life- whether it be chaplaincy, or any ways we serve sentient beings. Thank you for offering this very practical class. This class worked. I can think of no critical feedback.
- This class worked well on Zoom, especially with breakout rooms. I think we developed a strong sense of connection with LaChelle and with our classmates. The feelings and needs cards were sometimes difficult because some of us had very little contact (and hence very few substantive conversations) with others. Although conversations with yourself were accepted, they became rather artificial after a while.
- "I would have really loved the readings to have been better integrated into the course. They were all put in at the first five weeks (frontloaded), which was difficult because we never had enough time to fully explore or talk about them. They were packed full of useful information that was not really discussed or delved into.
- I would have also loved to have more taught content and a little less time on the pair work, which sometimes took up 90% of the class. Although LaShelle probably had the class planned that way for a reason, I wanted to hear more from LaShelle about the content we were learning. She is an incredible teacher and I wanted more of that.
- Some kind of occasional, even informal, quizzes might have been helpful so that we could track what we were learning as we went along. I didn't realize what I'd learned specifically until we did the post-assessment, which was really great but came at the very end.
- The online discussions were all good and helpful, but I would have really loved some time for in-class discussions around what we were learning each week. That could be done in break-out rooms, so that we could better integrate and share what we were learning. They could be free-form rather than scripted exercises, which would give us time to share and connect with the material and with each other more naturally.
- Although some students found the "final empathy exam" stressful because it was in front of everyone, I actually found it incredibly educational and kind of a highlight of the whole course, because it gave me the opportunity to witness "live" demonstrations of what we were practicing, with both the chat from students watching (which was super helpful) and LaShelle's comments (even more helpful). Especially hearing LaShelle's finely-tuned feedback of everyone's "performance" was beyond beneficial, in terms of what I learned from it."
- I am always happy to learn from LaShelle.
- This was an outstanding class! Didn't miss a beat.
- I would like everyone to get at least one chance to pair with each other in the breakout rooms.





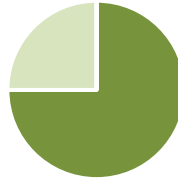
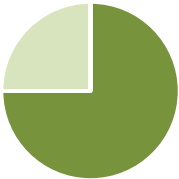

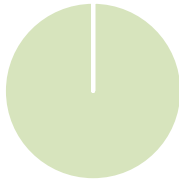


Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- "LaShelle is a kind and generous teacher, and a master in this field. She inspires her students to learn, practice and grow.
- One thing that seemed inappropriate as well as frustrating to me was when she would send us to her website for further information. In my years of being a student I never had an instructor direct me to their website unless I was on a webinar, which is set up to hook people by giving free information and then capture leads for their business. Therefore I had the impression that she was promoting her business and SEO; it felt unprofessional within the context of a college education. I am 99% certain that was not her intention.
- There were no readings assigned for this class beyond her handouts, which she told us were from the book she was writing, and some of the handout pages did not feel fleshed out. Directions given in class were often not clear, and the instruction in the pages was also not always clear. I would encourage LaShelle to prepare proper lesson plans and maybe offer some outside readings to flesh things out. Hearing from different experts who explain things differently supports the variety of ways that students learn. It would only strengthen the curriculum that she delivers so expertly.
- The exercises LaShelle gave us in class were wonderful, providing ample space for students to discover conditioning and begin to access pure presence for the purpose of cultivating connection with self and others.
- My key takeaway from this class is the invitation to give empathy without expectation, for the purpose of enhancing connection. Many students in our class, myself included, have in the past used empathy as a method for helping ourselves feel better about ourselves, and to possibly bring an outcome in others' behavior. This is misdirected and perpetuates suffering. As LaShelle so beautifully demonstrated from beginning to end, empathy is a way we can focalize and share our love with the world, for the benefit of all."
- LaShelle is a treasure! She is so incredibly skillful in communicating with empathy, which makes her great at modeling and articulating the skills. Wonderful teacher.
- "Very appreciative of all that I learned in this class. I can't remember a class I have taken that I gained so much real-world practical I can implement immediately to make a difference in my life and the lives of others.
- Well done.
- Thank you."
- LaShelle was on her game.
- LaShelle Lowe-Charde tracks minute expressions in other people in an extremely skillful way. She is an excellent teacher, communicator and she created excellent structures for a variety in deep learning. The varieties of the methods of class learning: in pairs, online lessons, empathy practice... all were skillful places of learning. I think the only question I had, early in the term was I was unsure how to locate LaShelle out of class. That was resolved once I asked. Thank you!
- She's a wonderful teacher!
- I can't say enough good things about LaShelle! She is a treasure!!! She is an incredible teacher, communicator, and has so much knowledge and experience that we can all benefit from. I hope she continues to teach us for a long time to come - she has so much to share!
- LaShelle is a gifted and compassionate teacher. We are lucky to have her.
- "LeShelle really built a caring community in this class. She has been encouraging all the way.
- Grateful for her!
- Thank you, Maitripa, for bringing LeShelle to us."


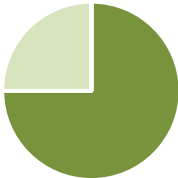
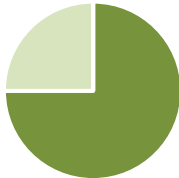

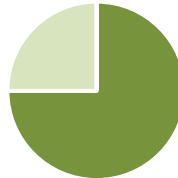
TIB201 (evaluations: 4)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
				
The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student
				

FACULTY (William Magee)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student
				

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I don't have any recommendations; Bill and Sam the T.A. explained the material well. They were very patient when teaching and made sure everyone understands the material before moving on.
- Actually, the online program was wonderful and allowed for many monastics from abroad to join in! I really enjoyed it and Bill la's compassion and enthusiasm in sharing everything he knows is incredibly touching.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Bill and Sam the T.A. are extremely learned and excellent teachers that are very thoughtful and helpful.
- Bill la is a fantastically sharp and fabulously loving teacher, I pray that his class is brought back in the future for the benefit of the teachings and those wishing to engage with them. Sam Go, the TA matched Bill with his compassion and patience for the students learning. Sam la shows us what can be accomplished with dedication and effort.

TIB301r (evaluations: 6)

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither
 Disagree
 Strongly Disagree

COURSE

The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	The course met the stated learning outcomes	This course helped empower and inspire me to work for the benefit of others	The readings supported my learning in this course
The assignments supported my learning in this course	I would recommend this course to others	I was able to apply the material I learned in this course to my life	My learning in this course positively impacted how I relate to others	This course supported my development as a student

FACULTY (Yangsi Rinpoche)

He/She was kind, patient, and caring	He/She provided useful feedback in a timely manner	He/She facilitated excellent discussions	He/She demonstrated knowledge and competency in his field or profession	He/She communicated effectively with me outside of class as a student

Is there anything else you would like to share about the course content? What worked or didn't work? What requests or recommendations might you make?

- I only put neither because I would only recommend this class to a person who wishes to dive deep into translation studies and already has a strong foundation in Tibetan and Tibetan grammar.
- I think once we got going and figured out the flow of this class, then it worked really well. I think we have our cadence now and like how it is going.
- "I really enjoyed working on the shared Google doc. It allowed us to work privately on our own time but also come together and struggle as a team over the tricky bits. The doc sends emails when someone posts a comment/question and we can reply to it.
- It was great that people were able to come to study group twice a week for at least an hour both days to present our problems to each other (and often to Bill).
- Populi continues to be super useful.
- It's priceless getting to work with Rinpoche.

- It would be nice to get more students enrolled who might be able to add to the doctrinal component of understanding the text. We have some strong grammar skills, but are often totally dependent on Rinpoche for doctrine and we just don't always have enough time to ask everything we'd like.
- Letting us determine our own pace was nice. We pushed ourselves really hard, so having the faith shown in us seemed to pay off.
- The experience of trying to agree as a committee was interesting: It was all positive to get help, but not always all positive to have to agree on something in the end, even though the differences were never major. Having both the support of the group but also the freedom for individuality was pretty Goldilocks.
- The text helped me understand doctrine and was useful for life. The grammar issues were super useful and having to put the ""clause salad"" together on our own was an enjoyable challenge. This would have been almost impossible without Bill's visits to our study group. Rinpoche's commentary is not enough for us to understand the grammar. This class should always have at least one grammarian on the team in my opinion. We had three and a half (MJ kills it on English grammar), so it was good."
- "It was helpful to have a shared Google Doc between the students with all of the weekly translation updates.
- I found it was useful to be able to see how my classmates interpreted the grammar, definitions, and put each sentence together.
- I also like the pedagogy style of the class. First Rinpoche would look over the students translation and then He would explain the meaning from his understanding of the Tibetan language and the Dharma teachings. It was great to have him look over the students work for the week and then give feedback based on what was finished. That feedback added value to the student translation and provided a deeper meaning to the content which propelled more questions from the students and then Rinpoche answered accordingly. This style felt very engaged."

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the instructor(s) or TA? What worked or didn't work? What other requests or recommendations might you make?

- Great class! Thanks so much!
- I think we found our balance and footing towards the end of the semester and would encourage keeping the same or similar set up for next semester so we can continue moving smoothly.
- As always, just grateful for his kindness and sharing his knowledge.