



EALC 4559

DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN TIBET

Instructor Tashi Rabgey

This intensive seminar provides a multidimensional framework for addressing the question of how Tibet should be understood in this period of rapid socio-economic and cultural change. Drawing on cross-disciplinary scholarship, research, tools and approaches, the course develops critical perspectives to explore prevailing frameworks for interpreting the contemporary Tibetan condition. Students will be guided through a critical reading of recent social sciences literature, as well as historical, literary and biographical texts and other forms of media such as film and the Internet, as a means of exploring alternative modes of framing the challenges facing communities on the Tibetan plateau. At the center of this course is the question of the role of social agency in Tibet's transition from tradition to modernity. Students will develop an independent service-learning project that addresses one or more of the themes and critical perspectives explored in the course. The service-learning component of the course will enable students to gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges facing communities in the Tibetan region by providing the immediacy of experience in a specific local context. The course will also feature guest speakers from the Tibetan region.

Thursdays 6 – 8.30pm

For more information, contact tr8n@virginia.edu