Vajrayana: Symbol, Inconography, and Ritual

This course explores selected literature of Vajrayana Buddhism in Tibet, from its inception in the seventh century until the Tibetan diaspora in 1959, with emphasis upon the tantric saint and the tantric goddess, or dakini. Readings from several genres include biographical and sacred histories, realization literature, and meditation manuals. The challenges of interpreting symbols and iconography in religion, especially when they are gendered, are examined. Offered alternate years. Prerequisite REL624 or REL661.

Course Number: REL760
Unit: 3.0
Program: Religious Studies