

WLC 715
Theory of Translation

Course Description

This course is designed for graduate students with advanced knowledge of one foreign language and/or literary criticism. It will cover readings from the most important texts in translation theory, from the early musings of Cicero and Horace to the modern ones of Jakobson and Derrida. The course will explore the changing attitudes to translation throughout time and will chart the classifications that have been proposed in different epochs. The theoretical part of the course will be complemented with a practicum on passages excerpted from a variety of texts, in several different languages. The common ground to all texts will be English, as TL or SL. The course is propaedeutic to the workshop on translation, FOL 716.

Objectives

This is a course designed for students of translation and literature. Its main objectives are:

1. To provide students with a thorough knowledge of the history of translation and of its issues.
2. To verify the validity and applicability of the theoretical paradigms through the analysis of a number of existing translations.
3. To identify and highlight the comparative differences in literary traditions through the linguistic and literary analysis of original and translated texts.

How Objectives Will Be Met

1. Students will be required to read and analyze a significant number of texts on translation theory, selected *ad hoc* for their historical relevance in the field of translation studies. Readings are arranged in historical progression. Nonetheless, the format of the course will allow for diachronic digressions, as deemed necessary. This format reflects directly the evolution of translation theory, which is not linear but follows a meandering pattern. Students will be able to systematize ideas on translation according to the literary period that generated them and to follow their development in the history of literature.
2. Students will be asked to verify the validity and applicability of the theories discussed by analyzing a limited number of translations of literary and non-literary works. This approach is derived from both theoretical and practical considerations. Translation theory in most cases derives from practice and is inseparable from it. Any history of translation devoid of its direct source or direct application would be incomplete. As translation scholars have repeatedly proven, the most effective procedure in this respect is to study various samples of translation from the same text. By limiting the analysis to a single source text with a number of target language texts, students will be able to infer the same basic process in operation that can be found in the analysis of several source texts.
3. Translation fosters critical thinking, and is a great aid in the practice of interdisciplinary research. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify with greater ease the differences in literary traditions, thanks to the reading and the comparative analysis of original and translated texts. In fact, the process of translation as reading has been described as a spiral that departing from the text develops externally. Through incremental “contexting,” translation students will be able to expand their range of search beyond the confines of genre and national literature, and will be able to see more clearly how originals and translations function within literature as a polysystem.

Plan of Work

August 26

- Introduction to the course
 - What is translation (theory)?
 - What is translation history?

- September 2
- The main issues in translation theory
 - Readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 1 [T]
 - J. S. Holmes, *The Name and Nature of Translation Studies* [R]
 - R. Jakobson, *On Linguistic Aspects of Translation* [R]
 - S. Bassnett-McGuire, *Translation Studies*, Ch. 1 [LR]
 - G. Steiner, *After Babel*, Ch. 4 - “The Claims of Theory” [LR]
- September 9
- Translation theory before the 20th century
 - Translation in the Ancient World and the Middle Ages
 - Readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch.2 [T]
 - M. Baker, *History and Traditions* [LRef]
 - S. Bassnett-McGuire, *Translation Studies*, Ch. 2 [LR]
 - Cicero, *De Optimo Genere Oratorum* [DR]
 - Horace, *De Arte Poetica* [DR]
 - Quintilian, *Institutiones oratoriae* [DR]
 - Jerome, *Ad Pammachium (Letter to Pammachius)* [DR/R]
 - Augustine, *De doctrina Christiana* [DR]
 - D. Alighieri, *Convivio* [DR]
- September 16
- Bible translation and translation of religious texts
 - Readings: Aelfric, *Catholic Homilies* [DR]
 - Thomas Aquinas, *Contra errores Graecorum* [DR]
 - Anonymous, *On Translating the Bible* [DR]
 - T. More, *A Dialogue Concerning Heresies and Matters of Religion* [DR]
 - Luther, *Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen* [DR]
 - W. Fulke, *A defence of the Sincere and True Translations of the Holy Scriptures into the English Tongue* [DR]
 - E. Nida, *Toward a Science of Translating*, Ch. 2 [LR]
 - W. Schwarz, *Principles and Problems of Biblical Translation* [LR]
 - T. Wilt, *Bible Translation: Frames of Reference* [LR]
- September 23
- Literary translation from the Humanism to the age of Baroque
 - Readings: Leonardo Bruni, *De Interpretatione Recta* [DR]
 - I. Dolet, *La maniere de bien traduire d’une langue en aultre* [DR]
 - J. du Bellay, *The Defense and Illustration of the French Language* [DR]
 - J. Florio, *Preface to Translation of Montaigne’s “Essays”* [DR]
 - G. Chapman, *The Preface to the Reader* [DR]
 - J. Denham, *Preface to “The Destruction of Troy”* [DR]
 - N. Perrot.D’Ablancourt, *Adjusting Things to Accommodate the Subject* [DR]
 - P. D. Huet, *De optimo genere interpretandi* [DR]
 - J. Dryden, *On Translation* [DR] *Ovid’s Epistles* [R]
 - S. Johnson, *The Art of Translation* [DR]
- September 30
- Towards a theory of translation

Readings: A. F. Tytler, *Essay on the principles of translation* [DR]
 A.W. Schlegel, *Poetic translation and imperfect Approximation* [DR]
 J.W von Goethe, *West-Ostlicher Divan* [DR]
 F. Schleiermacher, *Über die verschiedenen Methoden des Uebersetzens* [DR]
 W. von Humboldt, *Introduction to the Translation of Aeschylus' "Agamennon"* [DR]
 A.Schopenhauer, *Über Sprache und Worte* [DR]
 M. Arnold, *On Translating Homer* [DR]
 F. W. Newman, *Homeric Translation in Theory and Practice* [DR]
 F. Nietzsche, *Translation as Conquest* [DR]

- October 6
- Equivalence and equivalent effect
 Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 3[T]
 E. Nida, *Principles of correspondence* [R1]
Toward a science of translating, Ch. 5 [LR]
 G. Steiner, *After Babel*, Ch. 2 – “Language and gnosis”[LR]
- October 13
- The “translation shift” approach
 Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 4[T]
 J. C. Catford, *Translation Shifts* [R1]
 J.P.Vinay and J.Darbelnet, *A Methodology for Translation* [R]
- October 20
- Functional theories of translation
 J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 5[T]
 K. Reiss, *Type, Kind and Individuality of Text Decision-Making in Translation* [R]
 H. Vermeer, *Skopos and Commission in Translational Action* [R]
- October 27
- Discourse and register analysis approaches
 Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 6 [T]
 S. Blum-Kulka, *Shifts of Cohesion and Coherence in Translation* [R]
 M. Baker, *In Other Words: a Coursebook on Translation* [O]
- November 4
- System theories
 Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 7 [T]
 I. Even-Zohar, *The Position of Translated Literature Within the Literary Polysystem* [R]
 G. Toury, *The Nature and Role of Norms in Literary Translation* [R]
- November 11
- Cultural studies
 Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 8[T]
 A. Lefevere, *Mother Courage's Cucumbers* [R]
 S. Bassnett-A.Lefevere, *Translation, History and Culture*

[LR]
G. Spivak, *The Politics of Translation* [R]
L. Chamberlain, *Gender and the Metaphorics of Translation* [R]

- November 18
- Translating the foreign
Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 9 [T]
A. Berman, *Translation and the Trials of the Foreign* [R1]
S. J. Levine, *The Subversive Scribe* [LR]
L. Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility* [O]
The Scandals of Translation [O]
G. Steiner, *After Babel*, Ch. 6 – “Topologies of culture” [LR]
- November 25
- Philosophical theories of translation
Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 10 [T]
W. Benjamin, *The Task of the Translator* [R]
J. Derrida, *What Is a Relevant Translation?* [R]
E. Pound, *Guido's Relations* [R1]
G. Steiner, *After Babel*, Ch. 5 - “The hermeneutic motion” [LR]
- December 2
- New directions
Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 11 [T]
K. Harvey, *Translating Camp Talk* [R]
 - Discussion of students' research papers and final conclusions
- December 9
- Final paper due

Textbooks and Course Material

Munday, Jeremy. *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications* (2nd ed). Routledge: New York, 2008 [T]

Robinson, Douglas. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997. [DR]

Venuti, Lawrence ed. *The Translation Studies Reader* (2nd ed.) Routledge: New York, 2004. [R]

Additional material will be provided in handouts or made available through library reserves.

[LR] = Language Reserve [LRef] = Library Reference [O] Online [R1] Reader 2000

Evaluation Methods and Grading Distribution

The final grade will be based on oral presentations, final paper and class participation. The final grade will be distributed as follows:

Oral presentations 30%
Final paper 50%
Attendance/Class participation 20%

Grading Scale

A = 100-93	A- = 92-90	B+ = 89-88	B = 87-84
B- = 83-80	C+ = 79-78	C = 77-74	C- = 73-70
D+ = 69-68	D = 67-64	D- = 63-60	F = 59-0

General Guidelines

Class presentations. During the course, students will be assigned a number of readings on translation theory and will be asked to present them in class. All readings will be in English or in English translation.

Final paper. Students will be required to select a well-known literary work from their elected foreign language, for which a significant number of translations into English already exist, and to provide a comparative analysis of ST and TTs. The final paper can cover any aspects of translation theory discussed during the course. As an alternative, students can substitute their theoretical paper with a specific translation analysis project. Details of the project must be arranged with the instructor.

Attendance. Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to come to class regularly, and to participate in all class activities.

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Select Bibliography

- Amos, Flora Ross. *Early Theories of Translation*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1920.
- Arrowsmith, Williams and Roger Shattuck. *The Craft and Context of Translation*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1961.
- Barnstone, Willis. *The Poetics of Translation: History, Theory, Practice*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1993.
- Bassnett-McGuire, Susan. *Translation Studies*. New York: Methuen & Co., 1980.
- Bassnett-McGuire, Susan., and André Lefevere, eds. *Translation, History and Culture*. London: Pinter Publishers Limited, 1991.
- Belloc, Hilaire. *On Translation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1931.
- Biguenet, John and Rainer Schulte, eds. *The Craft of Translation*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1989.
- Biguenet, John and Rainer Schulte, eds. *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1992.
- Brower, Reuben. *On Translation*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1974.
- Catford, J.C. *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. London: Oxford University Press, 1974.
- Cohen, J.M. *English Translators and Translations*. London: Longmans, 1962)
- Frost, William, ed. *Dryden and the Art of Translation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955.
- Graham, Joseph F. *Difference in Translation*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1985.
- Holmes James S. *The Nature of Translation*. Bratislava: Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 1970.
- David Katan. *Translating Cultures*. Manchester (UK): St. Jerome Publishing, 1999.
- Lefevere, André. *Translating Literature: Practice and Theory in a Comparative Literature Context*. New

- York: Modern Language Association, 1992.
- Newmark, Peter. *Approaches to Translation*. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1988.
- Popović, Anton. *Dictionary for the Analysis of Literary Translation*. Edmonton: The University of Alberta, 1976.
- Robinson, Douglas. *What is Translation? Centrifugal Theories, Critical Interventions*. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1997.
- Translation and Empire: Postcolonial Theories Explained*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997.
- Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997.
- Rose, Marilyn Gaddis, ed. *Translation Spectrum*. Albany, New York: State University of New York, 1981.
- Savory, Theodore. *The Art of Translation*. Boston: The Writer Inc., 1968.
- Steiner, George. *After Babel*. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1975, 3rd edition 1998.
- Williams, Jenny. *The Map: A Beginner's Guide to Doing Research in Translation Studies*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 2002.

Websites

www.logos.net	Translation course
www.catranslation.org	Center for art in Translation
http://www.lai.com/companion.html	The Translator's Home Companion
http://www.mcelhearn.com/lit.html	Literary Translation Resources
http://fuzzy.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/cetra/people.htm	Center for Translation and Communication
http://www.erudit.org/erudit/meta/	Meta
http://www.translatum.gr/trjournal.htm	Translation Journals

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<http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>
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