

WLC 715 / ENG 715
Theory of Translation
Fall 2021
M 4:00-6:45 PM (remote)

Dr. Giuseppe Natale
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00 (remote)
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Plan of Work

- August 23
- Introduction to the course
 - What is translation?
 - What is Translation Studies?
 - What is translation theory?
- August 30
- The main issues in translation theory
 - Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 1 [LO]
 - J. S. Holmes, *The name and nature of Translation Studies* [R1]
 - S. Bassnett-McGuire, *Translation Studies* Ch. 1 *Central Issues* [C]
 - S. Bassnett-McGuire, *Translation, The Origins and Development of Translation Studies* [LO]
 - Assignment:** *Baker's Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies* [C]
- September 6
- Labor Day
- September 13
- Translation theory before the 20th century
 - Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch.2 [T]
 - S. Bassnett-McGuire, *Translation Studies, History of Translation Theory* Ch. 2 [C]
 - Assignment:** *Robinson, Western Translation Theory* [C]
- September 20
- Bible translation and translation of religious texts
 - Main readings: D. Robinson, *Western Translation Theory* [C]
 - (Aelfric, *Catholic Homilies*; Thomas Aquinas, *Contra errores Graecorum*; Anonymous, *On Translating the Bible*; T. More, *A Dialogue Concerning Heresies and Matters of Religion*; Luther, *Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen*; W. Fulke, *A Defence of the Sincere and True Translations of the Holy Scriptures into the English Tongue*
 - E. Nida, *Toward a Science of Translating*, Ch. 2 [C]
 - T. Wilt, *Bible Translation: Frames of Reference* [LO]
 - Assignment:** *Comparison of Bible verses*
- September 27
- Equivalence and equivalent effect
 - Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch.3 [T]
 - R. Jakobson, *On linguistic aspects of translation* [R]
 - E. Nida, *Principles of correspondence* [R]
 - M. Baker, *Equivalence at the word level / Equivalence above word level*[C]
 - Assignment:** *Munday, Discussion and research point 2 (84)*
- October 4
- Studying translation product and process
 - Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 4 [T]
 - J. C. Catford, *Translation shifts* [R]
 - J.P.Vinay and J.Darbelnet, *A methodology for translation* [R]
 - Assignment:** *Munday, Discussion and research point 1 (110)*

- October 11
- Functional theories of translation
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 5 [T]
 K. Reiss, *Type, kind and individuality of text* [R]
 H. Vermeer, *Skopos and commission in translational action* [R]
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 4 (139)
- October 18
- 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*, Cohesion and coherence, Chs. 2 and 6 [C]
- Assignment: Baker, Exercise 2 (Elizabeth I; Van Gogh) (212-213)
- October 25
- System theories
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 7 [T]
 A. Chesterman, *Memes of translation* (Chapter 3) [LO]
 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]
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 3 (195)
- November 1
- Cultural and ideological turns
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 8 [T]
 S. Bassnett-A.Lefevere, *Translation, history, culture* [LO]
 S. Bassnett, *Translation, Postcolonial Translation; Translation and gender* [LO]
 G. Spivak, *The politics of translation* [R]
 L. Chamberlain, *Gender and the metaphors of translation* [R]
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 3 (221)
- November 8
- Translating the foreign/The role of the translator
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 9 [T]
 A. Berman, *Translation and the trials of the foreign* [R]
 S. J. Levine, *The subversive scribe: Translating Manuel Puig* [LO]
 L. Venuti, *The scandals of translation: Towards and Ethic of Difference* [LO]
 S. Bassnett, P. Bush, *Translator as Writer* [LO]
 S. Bassnett, *Translation: The visibility of the translator* [LO]
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 2 (247)
- November 15
- Philosophical approaches to translation
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies*, Ch. 10 [T]
 W. Benjamin, *The task of the translator* [R]
 J. Derrida, *From 'Des Tours de Babel'* [C]
 E. Pound, *Guido's relations* [R]
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 5 (273)
- November 22
- New Directions
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies* Ch. 11, New directions from the new media
 S. Bassnett, *Translation: Redefining translation in a political age*
- Assignment: Munday, Discussion and research point 2 (301)
- November 29
- Research and commentary projects
- Main readings: J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies* Ch. 12
 Discussion of students' final projects.
- December 5
- Final paper due

Abbreviations

[B] Bibliography [C] Canvas [LO] Library Online [R] The Translation Studies Reader [T] Textbook

Course Description

This course is designed for graduate students with knowledge of one foreign language. It will involve readings of the most important texts in the theory of translation, from the early reflections by Cicero and Horace to those by of Jakobson and Derrida. The course will explore 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 the analysis of passages excerpted from a variety of texts in different languages. The common ground to all texts will be English as TL or SL.

Objectives

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

1. To provide students with 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 the comparative differences in literary traditions through the linguistic and literary analysis of original and translated texts.

How Objectives Will Be Met/Learning Outcomes

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 polysystem.

Evaluation Methods and Grading Distribution

The final grade will be based on weekly reports and assignments, and research paper. The final grade will be distributed as follows:

Assignments 60 % (@5% each)

Reports and presentations 10%

Final paper 30%

Grading Scale

A = 100-93

B- = 83-80

D+= 69-68

A- = 92-90

C+ = 79-78

D = 67-64

B+ = 89-88

C = 77-74

D- = 63-60

B = 87-84

C- = 73-70

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. Students may use PowerPoint, handouts, or other media as part of their presentations.

Assignments. Students will be assigned case-studies to give focus and insight to the theories discussed, as indicated in the syllabus. The assignments will be discussed in class and will have to be turned in for grading through the Canvas site.

Final paper. For their final paper, students will be required to provide a comparative analysis of multiple English translations of a well-known literary work. In their final paper, students will analyze their findings against the theoretical frameworks covered in the course. Students can substitute their comparative paper with a specific translation analysis or pure theory project. Details of the project must be arranged with the instructor.

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

Textbooks and Course Material

Munday, Jeremy. *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. Routledge: New York, 2016 (LO)

Textbooks Website

(Introducing Translation Studies)

<https://routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138912557/student.php>

Additional Readings

Baker, Mona. *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (3rd edition). New York: Routledge, 1991 (2010; 2018).

Bassnett-McGuire, Susan. *Translation Studies* (4th edition). New York: Routledge, 2014 [C]

Translation (New York: Routledge, 2014) [LO]

Levine, Suzanne J. *The Subversive Scribe*. México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1998. [LO]

Nida, Eugene. *Toward a Science of Translating: with special reference to principles and procedures involved in Bible translating*. Leiden: Brill, 1964. [C]

Robinson, Douglas. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 2002. [C]

Schulte, Rainer, and John Biguenet. *Theories of translation: an anthology of essays from Dryden to Derrida*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Venuti, Lawrence (ed.). *The Translation Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2000 1st edition [LO]

The scandals of translation: Towards and Ethic of Difference. N.Y.: Routledge, 1998. [LO]

The Translator's Invisibility. New York: Routledge, 1995.

T. Wilt, *Bible Translation: Frames of Reference*. Manchester: St. Jerome, 2003. [LO]

General Bibliography

Amos, Flora Ross. *Early Theories of Translation*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1920.

Apter, Emily. *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability*. London; New York: Verso, 2013.

Arrowsmith, Williams and Roger Shattuck. *The Craft and Context of Translation*. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1961.

Baker, Mona. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*. (New York: 1998) (UNLV Reference P306 .R68 1998).

Bandia, Paul. *Agents of Translation*. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: Johns Benjamin, 2009.

Barnstone, Willis. *The Poetics of Translation: History, Theory, Practice*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1993.

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.
- Boase-Beier, Jean; Antoinette Fawcett; Philip Wilson (eds.). *Literary Translation: Redrawing the Boundaries*. New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2014
- Brower, Reuben. *On Translation*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1974.
- Catford, J.C. *A Linguistic Theory of Translation*. London: Oxford University Press, 1974.
- Chalvin, Antoine and Anne Lange, Daniele Monticelli, eds. *Between cultures and texts: itineraries in translation history*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2011.
- Chestermann, Andrew. *Reflections on translation theory: selected papers 1993-2014*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2017.
- Memes of Translation: The Spread of Ideas in Translation Theory*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1997.
- Cohen, J.M. *English Translators and Translations*. London: Longmans, 1962
- Davis, Kathleen. *Deconstruction and Translation*. Manchester: St. Jerome, 2001.
- Desjardins, Renée. *Translation and social media: in theory, in training and in professional practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- Fawcett, Antoinette, Karla Guadarrama, Hyde Parker. *Translation theory and practice in dialogue*. London; New York: Continuum, 2010.
- Frost, William, ed. *Dryden and the Art of Translation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955.
- Gambier, Yves and Luc van Doorslaer, Handbook of translation studies. Vols. 1-2. Amsterdam ; Philadelphia : John Benjamins, 2010
- Gentzler, Edwin. *Translation and identity in the Americas: new directions in translation theory*. London; New York: Routledge 2008.
- Translation and Rewriting in the Age of Post-Translation Studies*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- 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.
- Huang, Libo. *Style in Translation: A Corpus-based Perspective*. Heidelberg: Springer, 2015.
- Incalcaterra McLoughlin, Laura; Marie Biscio; Máire Áine Ní Mhainnín. *Translation subtitles and subtitling: theory and practice*. Oxford; New York: Peter Lang, 2011.
- Inghilleri, Moira. *Translation and Migration*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Kelly, Louis. *The True Interpreter: A History of Translation Theory and Practice in the West*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1979.
- Larson, Mildred. *Translation theory and practice, tension and interdependence*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2008.
- Lefevere, André. *Translating Literature: Practice and Theory in a Comparative Literature Context*. New York: Modern Language Association, 1992.
- Translation, Rewriting, and the Manipulation of Literary Fame*. New York: Routledge, 1992 (rpt. 2017).
- Morini, Massimiliano. *The pragmatic translator an integral theory of translation*. London; New York: Bloomsbury Publishing 2013.
- Low, Peter. *Translating Song*. New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Newmark, Peter. *Approaches to Translation*. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1988.
- Pérez, María Caldaza. Apropos of ideology: translation studies on ideology-- ideologies in translation studies. Manchester, St. Jerome, 2003.
- Pym, Anthony. *Exploring Translation Theories*. London and New York: Routledge, 2010.
- Popovič, Anton. *Dictionary for the Analysis of Literary Translation*. Edmonton: The University of Alberta, 1976.
- Reiss, Katharina and Hans J Vermeer. Christiane Nord translator; Marina Dudenhöfer editor. *Towards a general theory of translational action: skopos theory explained*. New York, Routledge, 2014.
- Reynolds, Matthew. *The Poetry of Translation: From Chaucer & Petrarch to Homer & Logue*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- 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.
- 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.
- Scott, Clive. *Literary Translation and the Rediscovery of Reading*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- Venuti, Larence. *Translation changes everything: theory and practice*. New York: Routledge 2013.
- Weissbort, Daniel and Astradur Eysteinnsson, ed. *Translation: theory and practice: a historical reader*. Oxford; New York : Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Zin, Lhu. *The translator-centered multidisciplinary construction Douglas Robinson's translation theories explored*. Bern: Peter Lang, 2012.

General Class Policies

During class students are expected to:

- behave in a manner consonant with an academic environment and respectful of other students;
- avoid using cell phones or any other electronic devices that are not pertinent to class instruction.

Students who engage in a disruptive behavior in class sessions may be asked to leave the classroom.

UNLV Policies and Statements

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to me during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The makeup will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching —The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library Resources - Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center – One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within Web Campus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.