

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR 4-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Language of Instruction: Courses offered by the Translation Department are taught in Chinese and English normally. Exceptions are specified under relevant courses.

TRA2001 Introduction to Computer-aided Translation (3 credits)

This course provides students with basic training in computer-aided translation (CAT), helping them to acquire basic knowledge about machine translation (MT), concepts and available translation technology for translation, and hands-on experience of applying computer tools to enhance translation productivity. The role which computer technology plays in translation will be discussed.

TRA2101 Introduction to Interpreting (C-E) (3 credits)

This is a course that is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of interpreting as well as to the fundamental skills of sight and consecutive interpreting from Cantonese into English. In addition to skills of oral translation, students' bilingual skills will be enhanced as a result, which are conducive to developing their capacity to take up professional and leading roles in society.

TRA2102 Introduction to Interpreting (E-C) (3 credits)

This is a foundation course that introduces students to the basic concepts of interpreting as well as to the fundamental skills of sight and consecutive interpreting from English to Cantonese. In addition to skills of oral translation, students' bilingual skills will be enhanced as a result, which are conducive to developing their capacity to take up professional and leading roles in society.

TRA2103 Introduction to Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with a firm foundation in the basics of Chinese-English translation. General approaches to and specific methods for Chinese-English translation will be covered. The first half of the course will focus on developing students' English writing abilities so as to sharpen their skills in Chinese-English translation. The second half of the course will introduce students to basic Chinese-English translation techniques in such areas of specialised translation as the arts, the media, business and popular culture.

TRA2104 Introduction to Translation (E-C) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic skills and techniques for translating from English into Chinese. Extensive practice and in-class discussions will be conducted to enhance the quality of students' Chinese writings. Texts of various genres will be introduced, including literary works, business correspondence, journalistic writings, and government documents. Through critical textual analysis, students will learn how to identify the main features of Chinese and English writings, and thus formulate effective strategies in coping with translation problems. This course prepares students for more specialised translation courses.

TRA2105 Language Studies for Translation: Phonology and Morphology (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the sounds and sound patterns of English, Mandarin and Cantonese, focusing on differences that have an impact on pronunciation of the three languages and C-E/E-C translation. Topics include: articulatory phonetics; physiological properties of speech; the International Phonetic Alphabet; and suprasegmental features such as stress and pitch. The phonetics-phonology interface is discussed in terms of feature-based rules. Aspects of morphological structure of the three languages are also introduced and compared, and the interaction between phonology and morphology is

discussed.

TRA2106 Language Studies for Translation: Syntax (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction to English and Chinese syntax, particularly focusing on differences which concern C-E/E-C translation. Topics include phrase and clause structure and the semantics-syntax interface in both English and Chinese. The two languages will be compared in terms of their syntactic structures and functions, in other words syntax will be related to pragmatics.

TRA3001 Chinese Writing Workshop for Translators (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in Chinese writing with a view to producing quality works of translation into Chinese, thereby developing their capacity to take up professional and leading roles in society. There are two major areas of focus. The first is to help students develop a sophisticated vocabulary and syntax through close reading of a wide selection of first-rate original Chinese texts and English-Chinese translations. The second is to help students get to grips with the nature of the Chinese language and its defining characteristics at various linguistic levels.

TRA3002 English Through Subtitles (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

With the ever-increasing popularity of closed-captioned videos in English language, modern empirical studies document that video captions, known as intra subtitles, have a great impact on the listening comprehension and vocabulary repertoire of students wishing to improve their English competence. Video captions provide students with aural, visual and textual mediums from an authentic linguistic context. It is widely held now by education experts that this method helps the students not only to speak more fluent English but also to think in English. By implementing this most recent technique, the course exposes students to the English language in its natural settings and thus enhances their command of English. In addition, the course focuses on honing the students' translation and interpretation skills from Chinese into English by incorporating a variety of teaching methods including formal lectures, listening comprehension, role playing in small groups, oral interpretation and written translation exercise. The course will enhance students' capability and confidence in using English as the medium of communication in a multicultural environment, thus developing their capacity to take up professional and leading roles in the increasingly globalised world.

TRA3107 Literature, Culture and Translation (I) (3 credits)

This introductory course provides students with a basic understanding of literature in relation to culture and translation. Classical, modern and/or contemporary literary works from various cultural traditions will be selected. Original and translated texts in both English and Chinese, dealing with a set of themes selected from genres like fiction, poetry, drama and prose, will be examined. Different writers' approaches to these themes and writing techniques will be compared.

TRA3201 General Interpreting (C-E) (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course is designed to improve students' listening and presentation skills and their competence in sight and consecutive interpreting of more complex source texts, on general topics, from Cantonese to English. Students will be provided with knowledge of and practice in consecutive interpreting for various occasions. They will be required to perform interpreting both at booths and in front of the class.

TRA3202 General Interpreting (E-C) (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course is designed to improve students' listening and presentation skills and their competence insight and consecutive interpreting of more complex source texts, on general topics, from English to Chinese (Cantonese or Putonghua). Students will be provided with knowledge of and practice in consecutive interpreting for various occasions. They will be

required to perform interpreting both at booths and in front of the class.

TRA3203 Introduction to Translation Studies (from 2015-16)/General Translation Theory (in 2014-15 or before) (3 credits)

This course aims to focus on translation studies as an academic discipline, included within which are theoretical, historical and cultural components. There is also a basic introduction to the research methodology that has been developed for this field in the past twenty years or so. The translation theories to be discussed include general theories from both China and the West; the relevance of their theories to translation practice will be discussed at some length. Brief historical surveys will be given of specific periods, and attention will be paid to the relationship between translation and culture.

TRA3204 Translation Criticism I (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the methods and principles of criticising translated texts in both Chinese and English. A wide variety of published translations from different literary, linguistic and pragmatic categories will be sampled. Through extensive practice in text analysis, the relationship between translation theory and translation practice will be explored.

TRA3205 Literary Translation A (C-E) (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to approaches to translating Chinese literature into English. Students will learn to identify the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of literary texts in Chinese, and to formulate strategies for translating such texts into English. This will be done by studying and comparing existing translations, and translating previously untranslated texts. The course will concentrate on prose and fiction in modern Chinese, though translation of poetry and drama may also be introduced.

TRA3206 Literary Translation A (E-C) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to approaches to the translation of English literary works. Students will learn to identify the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of such texts and their Chinese counterparts, and to formulate appropriate translation strategies in accordance with the purposes of translation.

TRA3208 Translation for the Media (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the basic techniques of translating for the media, especially in the Hong Kong context. The linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of news reports and other forms of journalistic writing in Chinese and English will be compared, providing a basis for the formulation of strategies for translating such texts between the two languages. Attention will also be paid to the standard reference tools for this kind of translation.

TRA3209 Translation of Texts in Popular Culture (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

This course focuses on the translation of creative works of popular culture in both the English- and the Chinese-speaking worlds (Hong Kong in particular but Taiwan and Mainland China will also be covered). Materials of advertisements, movies, popular music, slangs and cartoons will be used for translation analysis and practice. Concepts, practice and latest research in digital culture as well as multimodal and multimedia translation will be introduced.

TRA3211 Translation of Texts in the Arts (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

The course introduces students to the basic principles associated with the arts in China and in the Western world. Students will be made acquainted with the basic terminology and vocabulary in specific fields of art including music, painting theatre and film. Texts in Chinese and English will be selected to train students to solve the translation problems typical of this genre.

TRA3213 Bilingual Publication Workshop (3 credits)

This course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the publication process, including key disciplines such as writing, editing, interviewing, translating, proofreading, photography, and design. Creative talents, practical skills, individual originality and effective collaboration will be required to successfully produce a publication. Students may produce a bilingual student magazine, newsletter, or a booklet focused on a specific theme.

TRA3214 Bilingual Oral Workshop (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

This course is designed to complement courses on interpreting between Chinese and English. Students will be taught skills of capturing the audience's attention, including fluency of narrative, voice projection, control of rhythm, variation of styles, and techniques of psychological self-control. Their attention will be drawn to key features of public speaking, such as clarity of speech and impact delivery, which are significant for students to take up professional and leading roles in society in future.

TRA3215 Bilingual Studies in Modern Fiction and Prose (from 2014-15)/ Bilingual Studies in Twentieth-Century Fiction and Prose (in 2013-14 or before) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to modern fiction and other kinds of prose literature since 1900. Students will study Chinese and English texts from a bilingual point of view with special reference to the content and style. Together with TRA3216 Bilingual Studies in Modern Poetry and Drama, it familiarises students with important literary works written by major English and Chinese authors.

TRA3216 Bilingual Studies in Modern Poetry and Drama (from 2014-15)/ Bilingual Studies in Twentieth-Century Poetry and Drama (in 2013-14 or before) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to modern poetry and drama since 1900. Students will study Chinese and English texts from a bilingual point of view with special reference to form, or style, and content. This course is a complement to TRA3215 Bilingual Studies in Modern Fiction and Prose.

TRA3217 Translating Cultures (3 credits)

This course is designed to help translators working between Chinese and English to (a) understand Western culture and (b) explain Chinese culture to an English-speaking audience. It explores the difficulties in comprehending concepts, situations and the underlying social context of culture-bound texts from Western countries, and the way that Chinese culture is viewed through Western eyes. Its dual focus helps give students a firm foundation to translate both into and out of English and to prepare them for their final year translation projects.

TRA3218 Translation in the Hong Kong Context (3 credits)

This course deals with the context of understanding and practising translation related to the social, cultural, historical and political development and issues in Hong Kong. A macroscopic perspective is adopted so as to examine the Hong Kong context in which translation takes place. Issues such as economic growth, the Hong Kong-China relationship, Hong Kong's tri-lingual cultural environment, media operations, and social movements will be discussed. Different texts (in Chinese or English) will be selected from these areas for close study and comparison to sensitise students to the translation strategies employed by the translators.

TRA3219 Literature, Culture and Translation (II) (3 credits)

This course examines the relationship between literature, culture and translation with

reference to certain ideological issues. Questions that may be explored include gender, race, class, colonialism, totalitarianism, humanism and religion. Attention will be paid to the comparison of different writers' approaches in the same cultural tradition, and of differences in approach between different cultural traditions.

TRA3221 Topics in Bilingual Studies: Love in Chinese and Western Literatures (3 credits)

This course examines the concept of love in Chinese and Western literature. Literary works will be selected for a critical analysis of different concepts of love and their implications. The course discusses love as an ideological construction and its relation to gender and sexuality, exploring the cultural similarities and differences between Chinese and Western societies. The literary works will be studied with reference to a number of literary and cultural theories.

TRA3222 Business Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to issues related to the translation of commercial and financial texts from Chinese into English. Drawing attention to the linguistic features of these texts, the course will show students, through examples, ways of translating these texts into English. The course focuses on texts that discuss the business environment of the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, where Chinese-English translation is regularly required. These documents include formal and informal correspondence, news clips, speeches, newsletters, market reviews and promotional texts.

TRA3223 Business Translation (E-C) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to issues in the translation of business texts from English to Chinese, and acquaints them with general matters, including basic terminology, relating to major economic activities in Hong Kong. Business documents used in Hong Kong, such as business correspondence, financial writings and documents relating to listed companies, will be sampled to enhance students' awareness of the linguistic features of these texts and enable them to develop strategies for translating them.

TRA3224 General Interpreting (P-E and E-P) (3 credits)

Training students for interpreting between Putonghua and English, this course is designed to cater to the potential needs in a workplace for oral communication and mediation between the two languages. The content covered ranges from everyday encounters to business negotiations in commercial settings.

TRA3226 Studies in Comparative Literature (3 credits)

This course offers a comparative study of representative works in Chinese, English and European literature, with balanced emphasis on thematic concerns, formal techniques, aesthetic qualities, and cultural-historical contexts. Attention will be paid to the cultivation of a broad understanding of literary and cultural developments from their early beginnings.

TRA3227 English Writing Workshop for Translators (3 credits)

This course helps students to build a strong foundation in English writing in order to improve the quality of their Chinese-English translation work. Emphasis will be placed on target-language acquisition and writing skills such as grammar, diction, and style, with a view to creating readable, accurate and correct English writing and translation. Through peer feedback and by having students' writing anonymously analysed in class, students will gain an understanding of their weaknesses in English writing and how to improve them.

TRA3228 Liaison Interpreting (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students who have taken TRA3201 General Interpreting (C-E) or TRA3202 General Interpreting (E-C) are not allowed to take this course.)

This course is designed to lay the foundation for knowledge and skills of liaison interpreting. Liaison interpreting is often the mode of interpreting used in business, health care, social work and legal settings. Through the course, students will be trained to equip with the techniques and skills for liaison interpreting with authentic materials and in simulated settings.

TRA3238 Cross-cultural Perspectives in Film: Thematic Comparisons (3 credits)

This course uses films to examine different cultures, focusing particularly on East-West contrasts. The films selected for comparison are chosen according to a common theme, so that different perspectives on human nature can be explored, in order to appreciate the different paradigms underlying different traditions. The approach is a study of culture through film, and the readings will focus on a comparison of cultures and cultural values.

TRA4301 Advanced Interpreting (C-E) (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course provides students with advanced training in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting from Cantonese to English. Students are trained to take on consecutive interpreting for official functions from Cantonese into English. Exercises of increasing difficulty are introduced to equip students with the basic techniques of simultaneous interpreting and to increase their confidence and competence in consecutive interpreting.

TRA4302 Advanced Interpreting (E-C) (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course provides students with advanced training in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting from English to Cantonese. Students are trained to take on consecutive interpreting for official functions from English into Cantonese. Exercises of increasing difficulty are introduced to equip students with the basic techniques of simultaneous interpreting and to increase their confidence and competence in consecutive interpreting.

TRA4303 Contemporary Translation Theory (3 credits)

This course examines the concept of translation studies as an academic discipline, and critiques major translation theories. It will focus on contemporary issues in translation and translation studies, and on major schools of translation theories that have emerged in recent decades, including Polysystem theory and poststructuralist, feminist and postcolonial approaches. The applicability of these theories in case studies will also be discussed.

TRA4305 Literary Translation B (C-E) (3 credits)

The course will emphasise language acquisition of English (the target language) to enable students to improve their capacity to render Chinese literature into idiomatic and apt English. Students will be expected to analyse closely the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of the source text and approach to difficult translation problems by working out optimal strategies.

TRA4306 Literary Translation B (E-C) (3 credits)

This course is designed to develop students' skills in translating different genres, styles and registers of more advanced English literary texts. Students will be able to develop their sensitivity to the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of such texts and their Chinese counterparts, and to formulate appropriate translation strategies in accordance with the purposes of translation.

TRA4307 Gender, Language and Translation (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the theories and practices of feminism and issues related to gender, language and translation. Chinese and English texts and multi-media

materials relating to questions of sexism in language, subjectivities and writing, text and representation, and cultural identity will be discussed. The development of feminist translation theory will also be studied.

TRA4308 History of Translation (3 credits)

This course is a general introduction to the history of translation in Europe, North America and China, with other parts of the world being discussed where relevant. One part of the course will examine the works, activities and roles of important translators in history, while another part of the course will look at the role of translation in the dissemination of knowledge and culture.

TRA4310 Translation for Science and Technology (E-C & C-E) (3 credits)

This course aims to train students in the translation of scientific and technical writings. Concepts and terminology of a range of scientific and technical topics, including electrical appliances, computers, medicine, environmental science, information science, and other scientific and technical topics with significant social impact and high news profile will be introduced and discussed. Students will be familiarised with technical dictionaries and other reference materials.

TRA4315 Selected Research Topics (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

The course deals with selected areas and topics in two major areas: (a) language and translation studies, and (b) literary and cultural studies. Topics will be chosen according to the research specialisation of the teacher. The course aims to provide a forum for staff and students to explore and discuss ideas, themes, issues and problems in selected areas of translation research. Through the process, students are exposed to intellectual activities in which scholars are engaged and helps prepare students for further studies in translation.

TRA4315a Selected Research Topics: Translation of Hong Kong Literature (3 credits) (deleted from 2020-21)

This course helps students develop a comparative approach in their reading of Hong Kong writing and “writing Hong Kong”. Representative works, drawn largely from contemporary fiction written in Chinese and English, will be examined in the contexts of Chinese and Western literature. Lectures will be topically arranged, focusing on areas such as literary appreciation and critical assessment, with special reference to the question of Hong Kong “identity”.

TRA4318 Translation Project (E-C) and (C-E) (6 credits) or

TRA4319 Translation Project (E-C) (6 credits) or

TRA4320 Translation Project (C-E) (6 credits)

Students are required to work on a long translation project, either from English into Chinese or from Chinese into English or both, and to write a critical introduction to their translation. The source text should be at least 9,000 English words (excluding punctuation marks) or 10,000 Chinese characters words (including punctuation marks) in length. The last 3,000 words or characters are to be translated without supervision. Students may also choose to translate two half-length texts, one in each direction.

TRA4321 Selected Translation Project (E-C) (3 credits) or

TRA4322 Selected Translation Project (C-E) (3 credits)

Students are required to work on a short translation project, either from English into Chinese or from Chinese into English. It will be in a direction opposite to that they have chosen or are going to choose for the Translation Project. Students who choose to translate in both directions for the long project (TRA4318) are not allowed to take this course. The source text should be at least 4,500 English words (excluding punctuation marks) or 5,000 Chinese characters words (including punctuation marks) in length. The last 1,500 words or characters are to be translated without supervision.

TRA4323 Legal Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course deals with the various aspects of translating legal documents from Chinese into English, with a special focus on understanding and translating both civil and criminal case documents from Hong Kong and mainland China, and some legislative documents and legal contracts as well. Elements of legal writing style and background to the fundamentals of law as they relate to legal translation will be introduced. Students will have ample opportunities to practise translating legal documents from both Hong Kong and mainland China.

TRA4324 Legal Translation (E-C) (3 credits)

This course deals with translating legal documents from English into Chinese, with a special focus on understanding and translating a variety of legal contracts and other business-related legal documents that commonly require English-Chinese translation. Various aspects of business-related laws, such as corporate law, environmental law, intellectual property law and labour law, will be introduced and relevant documents from these areas studied and translated. Elements of legal writing style as they relate to such documents will be introduced as essential preparation for this type of formal translation work.

TRA4325 Translation Studies Research Project (6 credits) (from 2020-21)

Students are required to write a thesis related to translation studies of 8-10,000 words (excluding notes and bibliography) in English. The thesis should deal with selected areas and topics in two major areas of translation studies: (a) language use, and (b) literary and cultural factors. Topics will be chosen according to the student's interests and the teacher's research specialization. The course aims to provide a forum for staff and students to explore and discuss ideas, themes, issues and problems in selected areas of translation research. In the process, students are exposed to intellectual activities in which scholars are engaged in preparation for further studies.

TRA4326 Conference Interpreting (3 credits) (from 2020-21)

(Restriction(s): Students who have taken TRA4301 Advanced Interpreting (C-E) or TRA4302 Advanced Interpreting (E-C) are not allowed to take this course.)

This course is designed to lay the foundation for knowledge and skills of simultaneous interpreting. Simultaneous interpreting is often the mode of interpreting used for international conferences. Through the course, students will be trained to equip with the techniques and skills for performing simultaneous interpreting with authentic materials and in simulated settings.