

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 科目簡介

COURSES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Language of Instruction: Courses offered by the Translation Department are taught in Chinese and English normally.

TRA501 Translation Theory: Traditional and Modern (3 credits)

This course focuses on traditional discourses on translation, and translation theories that contributed to the development of translation studies into an academic discipline in the period from the 1960s to the 1980s, including linguistics-based applied theories and structuralist descriptive theories. The applicability of these theories to translation practice and research and the cultural values behind these theories will be discussed. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA502 Methods in Translation and Interpreting Research (3 credits)

This course trains and prepares students for advanced research in translation and interpreting studies. In particular, it will focus on various research methods and paradigms as well as on the written and oral presentation of research projects and results. During the course, students will design a specific research project in the area of Translation and/or Interpreting Studies, which may serve as the basis for further research at a more advanced level.

TRA503 Chinese-English Translation (3 credits)

This course introduces students to general approaches and specific methods for translating from Chinese into English. Emphasis will be laid upon developing students' English writing abilities so as to sharpen their skills in Chinese-English translation. After building up a solid foundation of knowledge, students will be introduced to some basic techniques in specialised translation in areas such as the arts, the media, business and popular culture. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA504 Advanced Translation Studies (3 credits)

This course examines the nature 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 deconstructive, feminist and postcolonial approaches. The applicability of these theories in case studies will also be discussed. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA505 Business Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to complicated linguistic and stylistic 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 effective English. Greater emphasis would be given to the English translation of business documents, commercial texts, economic policies and crucial financial news from the Mainland, given the wider international needs to be efficiently informed about China's economic information. The course focuses on texts that discuss the business environment of the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, where Chinese-English translation is required. These documents include formal and informal correspondence, news clips, speeches, newsletters, financial analysis, market reviews and promotional texts. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of

translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA506 Comparative Language Studies (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the linguistic differences and similarities between English and Chinese, especially where syntax and grammar are concerned. It helps students understand the distinctive characteristics of Chinese and English, which are essential to solving problems in cross-cultural communication. Topics include morphological structures for word formation, phrase and clause structure and semantic-syntax interface in English and Chinese. The two languages will be compared in terms of their linguistic features. Emphasis is put on those aspects of linguistics that are closely related to translation. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume and quality, critical understanding of how meanings are expressed in the two language systems, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA507 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), basic principles and available technology for CAT, and most importantly hands-on experience of applying available MT systems and CAT tools to enhance translation productivity. The strengths and limitations of MT and CAT and their economic and socio-cultural relevance will be discussed. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of the use of variety of translation technologies, quality of translation, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA508 History of Translation and Interpreting in China (3 credits)

This course explores the history of translation and interpreting in China over a period of over two millennia – from the pre-Qin to the present day. 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. As this is a Master's level course, it will be much more demanding than an equivalent undergraduate course in terms of quality of writing and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA509 Journalistic Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the techniques of translating from Chinese into English for the media, especially the printed media, in the context of Hong Kong and that of mainland China. The linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of news reports and other forms of journalistic writing in Chinese and English will be studied, providing a basis for the formulation of strategies for translating/adapting Chinese texts into English. Special attention will be paid to the ideologies behind different terms, phrases, dialectal features and styles of reporting. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA510 Legal Translation (3 credits)

This course deals with the various aspects of translating legal documents between Chinese and English, with a special focus on understanding and translating various legal documents including civil and criminal case documents, legislative documents and legal contracts from Hong Kong and mainland China. The characteristics of legal language and methods of legal translation will be studied. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA511 Literary Translation (C-E) (3 credits)

This course will acquaint students with the ways to tackle problems involved in the translation of different genres, styles and registers of literary texts between Chinese and English. Students are expected to study closely the linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of such texts, formulate appropriate translation strategies in accordance with the purposes of translation, and critically analyze how social and cultural factors like ideology influence the translation methods used. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA512 Translation and Culture (3 credits)

This course is academic as it is practical. One part of the course 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. Another part of the course focuses on developing students' skills in translating culture-specific items in a wide range of genres. The dual focus of this course will serve students in good stead in both Chinese-English and English-Chinese translation work in other courses. As this is a Master's level course, it will be much more demanding than an equivalent undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA513 Translation Criticism (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the principles and methods in the critique of 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. Special attention will be paid to the way in which social and cultural background affects translation practice. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA514 Translating for Popular Culture (3 credits)

This course focuses on the translation of creative works of popular culture in both the English-speaking and the Chinese-speaking world (mainland China in particular but Taiwan and Hong Kong 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 multimodal, multimedia translation and digital culture are to be introduced. Special attention will be paid to the language and ideologies within the texts of popular culture in Hong Kong, Taiwan, mainland China and the West. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course and students would be asked to think critically and analyze deeply about the intricate relationships between translation, technology and the globalised world.

TRA515 Translating for the Creative Industries (3 credits)

This course trains and prepares students for transcreation projects assigned by direct clients in the design and fashion industries, niche translation houses and/or advertising agencies. During the course, students will develop the three fundamentals of a good creative translator: excellent writing skills; the courage to move away from the source; and subject knowledge and the ways of its acquisition. Students will also learn the terminology used in the design and fashion industries so that they can communicate effectively and confidently with practitioners in these

fields. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of translation volume, quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.

TRA516 Dissertation (6 credits)

Students are required to write a research paper in or related to translation or interpreting studies. The length of the paper should be at least 8,000 words in English (excluding punctuation marks and references) or 15,000 characters in Chinese (including punctuation marks but excluding references).

TRA517 Translation Project (6 credits)

Students are required to work on a translation project, either from English into Chinese or from Chinese into English. The source text should be at least 7,000 English words (excluding punctuation marks) or 8,000 Chinese characters words (including punctuation marks) in length. The last 3,000 words or characters are to be translated without supervision. Students are also required to write an extended introduction to reflect critically on their translation work. As this course is part of an MA programme, it will be much more demanding than an undergraduate course in terms of quality of writing, and sophistication of analysis required of students.