

Course Title	: Literature, Culture and Translation (I)
Course Code	: TRA3107
Recommended Study Year	: 3
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Required
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

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.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

Through organized reading and discussion, this course aims at sensitizing students to cultural differences in dealing with translation and other kinds of cross-cultural work.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. describe Chinese and Western views on any theme as expressed in the literary works chosen for study;
2. identify the social, ideological and historical influences on the works studied;
3. master basic techniques in reading and analyzing literature;
4. show a basic knowledge of the differences between cultures; and
5. apply their understanding of literary texts to their translation.

Indicative Content:

This course is structured according to theme. Specific themes include:

1. women and society;
2. tradition and modernity;
3. the individual and society; and
4. history and human affairs.

Teaching Method:

Lectures and tutorials that include oral presentations and class discussion. Emphasis will be put on interactive and constructivist learning.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

Students' progress towards the learning outcomes will be measured by means of:

1. An oral presentation on the issues related to one (or more) of the texts, with an emphasis on independent judgment and ability to use basic research tools. [LOs 1-3]
2. A short essay that analyzes one (or more) of the texts discussed in class in relation to the theme highlighted for the course. [LOs 1-3]
3. A translation of an extract taken from the texts. [LO 5]
4. An examination with questions that require students to analyze Chinese and English texts in relation to the main theme from a critical angle. [LOs 1-5]

Assessment:

Examination: 50% (One 2-hour paper)

Continuous assessment: 50%

(Oral presentation 20%, Short essay 10%, Translation 10%, Class participation 10%)

Required/Essential Readings:

Texts may vary from year to year and according to instructor. Examples are the works of the following modern authors (pre-modern ones can also be chosen for study):

Chinese: 郁達夫、楊絳、張辛欣、劉索拉、張潔、舒婷、王安憶、張抗抗、殘雪、史鐵生、劉青、阿城、莫言、張賢亮、沙葉新、顧城、高行健、王朔、白先勇、王文興、陳映真、張大春、西西、聶華苓、於梨華

Western: Albert Camus, Anton Chekhov, Joseph Conrad, George Eliot, William Faulkner, John Fowles, Elizabeth Gaskell, André Gide, Thomas Hardy, Ernest Hemingway, Franz Kafka, D. H. Lawrence, Thomas Mann, W. Somerset Maugham, Virginia Woolf.

Supplementary Readings:

Guerin, Wilfred. et al., *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Hirsch, E.D. et al., *The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, 3rd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Minford, John and Lau, Joseph S.M., eds., *Classical Chinese Literature*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2000.

Seldon, Raman, *Practicing Theory and Reading Literature: An Introduction*, Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1989.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.