

Course Title	: Introduction to Translation Studies
Course Code	: TRA3203
Recommended Study Year	: 3 or 4
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 Elective (Category B)
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

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.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

The course is designed to introduce students to basic concepts of Chinese and Western translation theory, brief histories of translation East and West, and the close link between translation and culture in the present-day world. It also prepares students for more advanced courses on translation theory like Contemporary Translation Theories.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. discuss the essential themes in translation theory;
2. apply basic translation theories to explain the various aspects of translation practice;
3. identify the key differences between Chinese and Western translation histories;
4. analyze the relationship between translation and culture; and
5. grasp the nature of translation studies as an independent academic discipline, with its own methodologies.

Indicative Content:

1. Basic concepts in translation theory: Literal translation vs. semantic translation; faithfulness, comprehensibility and elegance; resemblance in form and in spirit; equivalence (semantic, formal, pragmatic, stylistic);
2. Chinese translation theorists: Yan Fu, Lu Xun, Lin Yutang, Fu Lei;
3. Western approaches to translation: Nida, Newmark, Venuti, Chesterman;
4. Brief historical survey of translation;
5. Translation Studies as an emerging discipline (James Holmes);
6. Translation and culture: impact of bilingualism, ideology, etc.

Teaching Method:

Lectures and tutorial discussions

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

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

1. A term essay designed to enable students to grasp the concepts being discussed in the lectures; (LOs 1-5)
2. A group presentation that allows students to explore the implications of different theories; (LOs 1-5)
3. A quiz which requires students to show their familiarity with the ideas presented in the lectures and tutorials, and their ability to discuss them critically. (LOs 1-5)

Assessment:

Continuous assessment: 100%

(Group presentation: 20%, Term paper: 40%; Quiz: 30%, Class participation: 10%)

Readings:

羅新璋：《翻譯論集》，北京：商務印書館，1984年。

劉宓慶：《新編當代翻譯理論》，北京：中國對外翻譯出版公司，2005年。

謝天振等：《中西翻譯簡史》，上海：外語教育與研究出版社，2009年。

Chesterman, Andrew. ed., *Readings in Translation Theory*, Helsinki: Oy Finn Lectura Ab, 1989.

Fawcett, Peter, *Translation and Language: Translation Theories Explained*, Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997.

Hatim, Basil, and Jeremy Munday, *Translation: An Advanced Resource Book*, London and New York: Routledge, 2004.

Munday, Jeremy, *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*, London & New York: Routledge, 2001.

Nord, Christiane, *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis*, Amsterdam: Rodopi Editions, 1991.

Venuti, Lawrence. ed., *The Translation Studies Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2000.

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/>