

Course Title	: English Writing Workshop for Translators
Course Code	: TRA3227
Recommended Study Year	: 2 or 3
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Seminar-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour seminar per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Required
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

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 analyzed in class, students will gain an understanding of their weaknesses in English writing and how to improve them.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

Based on the premise that a good translator needs to first be a good writer in the target language, this course aims to help translation students improve their English writing skills by: (1) Critically studying different modes of writing in English, such as essays, descriptive writing, dialogue, and narration, after which students will practice producing examples of each type of writing; (2) Analyzing students' writing in class, through a variety of learning activities; and (3) Translating corresponding modes of Chinese writing into English, applying what has been learned in the first two steps, above.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. identify the elements of good English writing in general;
2. identify the features of the different modes of expressive English writing, such as description, narration, and dialogue, and know how to write each mode;
3. critically evaluate other students' writing and offer constructive feedback;
4. recognize areas of weakness in writing and how to correct them; and
5. apply what they have learned to specific Chinese-English translation assignments.

Indicative Content:

1. The fundamentals of good English writing.
2. Critical analysis of different modes of expressive writing in English, such as description, narration, and dialogue, followed by creative writing practice of the various forms.
3. How to analyze and improve a piece of writing or a translation.
4. In-class, anonymous analysis of other students' writing and translation work, so as to determine common errors and areas that need improvement.

5. Translation (C-E) of different text types and modes of writing.

Teaching Method:

Seminars are used to convey key principles of writing and translation, and to critique and discuss examples of different text types and modes of English writing.

Tutorials are used for writing and translation exercises, peer feedback and commenting on others' writing and translated works. Tutorials may also include student presentations of translations of selected and varied texts. Students are encouraged to participate in tutorials and to critically analyze their own and other students' work.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Writing or translation assignments that target the students' understanding of the concepts discussed in the seminars [LOs 1, 2, 5]
2. Teacher observation during tutorials regarding participation and peer feedback [LOs 3-4]
3. An examination consisting of writing and translation exercises [LOs 1, 2, 5].

Assessment:

Examination: 30% (One 2-hour paper)

Continuous assessment: 70%

(Four to six assignments, including writing and translation 60%, Participation and Attendance 10%)

Readings:

To be compiled by the lecturer(s), with selections adopted mainly from but not limited to the following reading list:

Nicholas, Karl J., *Models for Effective Writing*, Longman, 1999.

Nicholas, Karl J. and James R. Nicholl, *Rhetorical Models for Effective Writing*, Scott Foresman & Co., 1985.

Thurman, Susan, *The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need: A One-Stop Source for Every Writing Assignment*, Adams Media, 2003.

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/>.