

Course Title	: History of Translation
Course Code	: TRA4308
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	: Elective (Category B)
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

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.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

This course is designed to familiarize students with the histories of translation in both China and the West over the centuries, and to give them the opportunity to ponder the issue of how societies have been affected by translation in the past.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. analyze the historical development of translation in China for specified periods;
2. analyze the historical development of translation in the West for specified periods;
3. discuss the role played by a number of eminent translators in history;
4. determine the role of translation in the dissemination of knowledge and culture; and
5. undertake preliminary research on certain issues in translation history.

Indicative Content:

1. Issues in translation historiography;
2. Brief survey of Western translation history;
3. Brief survey of Chinese translation history;
4. Individual periods (Western): Possible topics include:
 - (a) vernacular translations in the medieval period
 - (b) European translations of the Chinese classics
 - (c) American translations of fiction from Mainland China
 - (d) contemporary translations of modern Chinese poetry
5. Individual periods (Chinese): Possible topics include:
 - (a) Buddhist translations of the medieval period and the Tang dynasty
 - (b) Ming-Qing technological and scientific translations
 - (c) literary translations of the early twentieth century
 - (d) the Translation Boom of the 1980s
6. The role of translators in shaping history;
7. The historical role of translation in disseminating knowledge;

8. The historical role of translation in disseminating culture.

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 paper, in which they will discuss in depth a particular theme or issue in translation history, either in the West or in China, and a tutorial presentation which deals with one of the topics covered in the lectures, making use of primary and secondary sources available; [LOs 1-5]
2. A test that requires students to show a clear understanding of the historical issues covered in the course. [LOs 1-5]

Assessment:

Test: 30%

Continuous assessment: 70%

(Class participation 10%; One term paper 40%; Group presentation 20%)

Readings:

馬祖毅：《中國翻譯史》，漢口：湖北教育出版社，1999年。

李偉：《中國近代翻譯史》，濟南：齊魯書社，2005年。

謝天振等著：《中西翻譯簡史》，北京：外語教學與研究出版社，2009年。

Baker, Mona, ed., *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*, New York: Routledge, 1998.

Bastin, Georges L. and Paul F. Bandia, eds., *Charting the Future of Translation History*.

Delisle, Jean, and Judith Woodsworth, eds., *Translators through History*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins Pub., Co, 1995.

Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2006.

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/>.