

Course Title	: Translation Project (E-C and/or C-E)
Course Code	: TRA4319/4320/4318
Recommended Study Year	: 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3 (Year course)
Mode of Tuition	: Seven-week 2 hours taught unit and Individual supervision
Class Contact Hours	: 0.5 hour per week (including the 7-week 2-hours taught unit)
Category	: Required
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

Students are required to work on a long translation project, either from English into Chinese or from Chinese into English or both, and to write a critical introduction to their translation. The source text should be at least 9,000 English words (excluding punctuation marks) or 10,000 Chinese characters words (including punctuation marks) in length. The last 3,000 words or characters are to be translated without supervision. Students may also choose to translate two half-length texts, one in each direction.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

This course provides an opportunity for students to apply and integrate what they have learned in the Translation Programme, and to bring into full play their translation skills and their honours potential in exercising judgment on the appropriate relationship between the source and the target text.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. demonstrate an adequate level of competency of both the source and target language for the translation of a moderately complex text;
2. locate items specific to the source culture that may cause problems for the translation of the text;
3. identify the potential readership of the target text;
4. develop appropriate strategies for the translation of the source text by working through a number of drafts;
5. produce a target text which would satisfy a typical user;
6. use any reference tools that may be related to the translation work at hand; and reflect critically in writing on one's own translation work.

Approach to the Project:

1. Selection of texts: In consultation with a full-time teacher of the Department, students will select a text that is related to their intellectual pursuit and that should be able to serve some purpose in the target culture; the chosen text will need to be approved by the Department by the end of the students' penultimate year of study.
2. Preliminary reading and research: Students are expected to read extensively in the general area from which their text has been chosen, and to conduct some research before

attempting any translation. They need to ensure that they have access to reference works for technical or specialised terminology used in the chosen text.

3. The course will begin with a seven-week taught unit designed to give specific guidance to students before they start the one-to-one supervision with their supervisors.
4. Second draft and final version: Students will work independently on the second draft of the translation, based on discussions with the supervisors. The final draft will need to be submitted in the designated format.
5. The introduction: Students are required to write, without supervision, an introduction with at least 2,000 English words for an English translation and 3,000 Chinese characters for a Chinese translation. Those who have chosen to translate two half-length texts may decide for themselves which text to write an introduction to. Depending on the circumstances, students may give an account of the nature of the source text, the purpose of their translation and their intended readership. Most importantly, they should summarise their experience, identify any difficulties encountered, explain their translation strategies, and discuss the limitations of their translation.

Teaching Method:

Individual supervision of half an hour every two weeks for two terms, or one hour every two weeks for one term.

Apart from the initial seven-week taught unit, there is no formal teaching for this course. In the supervision sessions the supervisor will closely monitor the performance of the student, provide formative feedback based on drafts submitted, and suggest ways of improvement.

Students are required to produce one draft under supervision for the supervised.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	
	Introduction to the project	Translation project
Demonstrate an adequate level of competency of both the source and target language for the translation of a moderately complex text		X
Locate items specific to the source culture that may cause problems for the translation of the text;	X	X
Identify the potential readership of the target text;	X	X
Develop appropriate strategies for the translation of the source text by working through a number of drafts;	X	X
Produce a target text which would satisfy a typical user;		X
Use any reference tools that may be related to the translation work at hand; and		X
Reflect critically in writing on one's own translation work.	X	

Assessment:

Continuous assessment: 100%

The project will be assessed by the supervisor and at least one other teacher. The procedure for the assessment of the project is as follows:

1. After supervisors submit their marks, a double-blind second assessment exercise will be

- conducted for all projects.
2. All staff members except the one who has been elected the “Judge of Final Appeal” will take part in the exercise. The second assessor for each project will be assigned by the Department Office. Second assessment will be mainly based on the unsupervised part and the second half of the first draft, but reference may be made to the supervised part if deemed necessary.
 3. When the grade given by the supervisor and that by the second assessor differ by one sub-grade, the former will usually prevail (but the Project Assessment Panel, consisting of about half of the teaching staff, may decide that the higher grades should prevail for that particular year). When they differ by two sub-grades, the middle grade will be taken.
 4. If the two grades differ by more than two sub-grades, the project will be subjected to third assessment conducted by members of the Project Assessment Panel. Third assessors will also be assigned by the Department Office.
 5. Supervisors may appeal against any upward or downward adjustment resulting from second or third assessment. These appeals are also handled by the Panel.
 6. The grades given by the Panel will be final, no matter whether they fall inside or outside the range between the grades given by the supervisor and the assessor(s).
 7. The Panel may refer difficult cases to the “Judge of Final Appeal”, who is not involved in second and third assessments.
 8. The “Judge of Final Appeal” also handles appeals lodged by students.
 9. Cases mentioned in Points 7 and 8 will be handled by another member of staff if the project concerned has been supervised by the “Judge of Final Appeal”.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 0.5 hour of class contact (including the seven-week taught unit) and 8.5 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/>.