

Course Title	: Legal Translation (C-E)
Course Code	: TRA4323
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 A)
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

This course deals with the various aspects of translating legal documents from Chinese into English, with a special focus on understanding and translating both civil and criminal case documents from Hong Kong and mainland China, and some legislative documents and legal contracts as well. Elements of legal writing style and background to the fundamentals of law as they relate to legal translation will be introduced. Students will have ample opportunities to practise translating legal documents from both Hong Kong and mainland China.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Objectives:

This course aims to:

1. Equip students with an understanding of the basic legal concepts and practices related to criminal and civil case law, in both Hong Kong and mainland China, as a foundation for undertaking the translation of court documents and other case-related legal texts;
2. Introduce students to the terminology, style and translation of legislative documents and legal contracts;
3. Prepare students to translate a variety of legal texts after their developing an understanding of the relationship between law and culture, legal systems, and the style and elements of legal writing;
4. Provide practical, real-world examples of legal texts so as to improve students' comprehension of what is involved in legal translation; and
5. Prepare students for work or further study in this field.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. Recognise the stylistic elements of legal language in both Chinese and English;
2. Identify different types of legal documents (criminal and civil case documents and legislation in particular), legal institutions, and the cultures and systems of law used in both Hong Kong and mainland China;
3. Demonstrate understanding of such documents and the terminology used therein;
4. Evaluate and properly address the needs of end-users in translating the different types of legal documents discussed;
5. Evaluate and appropriately apply the relevant translation norms to the translation of the different types of legal documents discussed; and
6. Produce clear and accurate translations of legal documents from both Hong Kong and mainland China.

Indicative Content:

1. Types of legal texts.
2. Elements of the style of legal language in both Chinese and English.
3. Differences between the common law and civil law legal systems.
4. Culture-specific items in legal texts and the ways to handle them.
5. The court systems of Hong Kong and mainland China, and the translation of court cases from the two jurisdictions.
6. Differences in procedure and vocabulary between a civil case and a criminal case, and the translation of the two types of cases.
7. Hong Kong's Basic Law as a vehicle for examining legislation in Hong Kong; PRC laws and regulations; legislative vocabulary and translation.
8. Chinese-English contract translation in Hong Kong.
9. Electronic reference tools for translating legal documents.

Teaching Method:

Lectures present the materials outlined above and provide bilingual legal documents and translations for study and comparison. Tutorials are designed to give opportunities for students to practice translating a variety of legal texts, and to equip them with the ability to use legal vocabulary in context. Each student is required to take part in a group project and a presentation.

Measurement of Intended Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Three written assignments designed to test their skills and knowledge acquired, such as translation assignments.
2. A group presentation on a topic relevant to legal translation. .
3. A vocabulary quiz at the end of the term to assess their understanding and usage of key legal terminology.
4. An examination consisting of a) short essay questions on topics covered during lectures and b) the translation of a legal text.

Assessment:

Examination: 40% (One 2-hour paper)

Continuous assessment: 60%

(Three translation assignments 30%, One group presentation 10%, One vocabulary quiz 10%, Tutorial participation 10%)

Alignment of Assessment Tasks/Activities with LOs:

Learning Outcome	Assessment Method				
	Three written assignments	Group presentation	Vocabulary quiz	Tutorial participation	Examination
Students will be able to recognise the stylistic elements of legal language in both Chinese and English	X	X	X	X	X
Students will be able to identify different types of legal documents (criminal	X	X	X	X	X

and civil case documents and legislation in particular), legal institutions, and the cultures and systems of law used in both Hong Kong and mainland China					
Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of such documents and the terminology used therein	X	X	X	X	X
Students will be able to evaluate and properly address the needs of end-users in translating the different types of legal documents discussed	X	X	X	X	X
Students will be able to evaluate and appropriately apply the relevant translation norms to the translation of the different types of legal documents discussed	X	X	X	X	X
Students will be able to produce clear and accurate translations of legal documents from both Hong Kong and mainland China	X	X	X	X	X

Assessment:

Examination: 40% (One 2-hour paper)

Continuous assessment: 60%

(Three written assignments 30%, One group presentation 10%, One vocabulary quiz 10%, Tutorial participation 10%)

Readings:

王道庚：《法律翻譯：理論與實踐》，香港：城市大學出版社，2006年。

陸文慧編：《法律翻譯：從實踐出發》，香港：中華書局，2002年。

程超凡編：《英漢－漢英雙向法律詞典（修訂增補本）》，北京：法律出版社，2007年。

陳可欣：《兩岸三地侵權法主要詞彙》，香港：城市大學出版社，2014年。

Chen, Albert H.Y., *An Introduction to the Legal System of the People's Republic of China*,

Hong Kong: Lexis Nexis, 2004.
Dobinson, Ian and Derek Roebuck, *Introduction to Law in the Hong Kong SAR*, Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 2001.

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.
- To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.