

Course Title	: Translation and Sino-Western Cultural Exchange
Course Code	: TRA3242
Recommended Study Year	: 2-4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: Two-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Elective (Category B)
Prerequisite	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

This course explores the multiple roles of translation in the dissemination and reception of Chinese culture in the West. Focusing on exemplary cases in the history of Sino-Western cultural exchange, this course encourages students to conceptualize translation as a medium for cross-cultural meaning making and the construction of knowledge about other cultures. It combines close reading of primary texts with contextual analysis and draws upon the theoretical tools of translation studies and literary studies to illustrate the translation of various cultural forms of China in the West – Chinese poetry, Chinese fiction, Chinese philosophy, the material culture of China etc.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

This course sets out to familiarize students with the history of the dissemination and reception of Chinese culture in the West and the important roles of translation in Sino-Western cultural exchange. It aims to foster a more nuanced understanding of translation as a medium for the construction of cross-cultural knowledge and to enhance the students' competence in (con)textual analysis of translations and cultural practices. It also aims to complement other culture-oriented courses offered by the Department.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. enhance their understanding of the history of Sino-Western cultural exchange;
2. analyse the various roles of translation in the dissemination and reception of Chinese culture in the West;
3. perform textual and contextual analysis of translations;
4. apply the methodological tools of translation studies and literary studies in the analysis of translation and other cultural practices;
5. examine the translation of different cultural forms of China in the West by situating translation practices in specific socio-historical contexts; and

Indicative Contents:

1. Historical overview of the different phases of Sino-Western cultural exchange;
2. Analysis of the key features and recurrent issues in the history of Sino-Western cultural exchange;
3. Discussions of thematic clusters related to the translation of various cultural forms of China – Chinese poetry, Chinese fiction, Chinese philosophy, the material culture of China etc.;
4. Close reading of exemplary translations and related texts, like the translators' discussions of translation, reviews of translations, and other writings on the dissemination and reception of Chinese culture in the West;
5. Contextual analysis that focuses on the socio-historical contexts of translation practices and the culture of reception;
6. Application of the methodological tools and insights from translation studies and literary studies in the analysis of translations and other related texts.
7. Further discussions of how the translation of Chinese culture in the West can shed light on the larger issues of cross-cultural exchange

Teaching Method:

The lectures will examine the translation of various cultural forms of China in the West with the methods and emphasis noted in the indicative content above, while tutorials will be used for discussion and group presentations. Together the lectures and tutorials will bring about the five learning outcomes.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

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

1. A tutorial presentation in groups of two to three, in which students are required to discuss a text related to one of the thematic clusters (ILOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). Students are encouraged to engage in group discussions and assign different segments of the presentation to group members. The assessment will be based on the overall quality of the presentation and individual performance in specific segments of the presentation.
2. A test in which students are required to demonstrate their comprehension of key texts discussed in the course (ILOs 1 and 3).
3. A final take-home essay of independent research, in which students are required to examine a translation, a translator, or some of the thematic issues discussed in the course (ILOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). The recommended citation formats are Chicago and APA.

Assessment:

One tutorial presentation plus discussion: 30%

One test: 30%

One final essay: 40%

Required Readings:

- Dawson, Raymond S. (1967). *The Chinese Chameleon: An Analysis of European Conceptions of Chinese Civilization*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Gambier, Yves, and Luc Van Doorslaer (2010/2011). *Handbook of Translation Studies*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Hawkes, David, (1989). *Classical, Modern and Humane: Essays in Chinese Literature*, edited by John Minford and Siu-kit Wong. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press.
- Minford, John and Joseph S. M. Lau (2000). *Classical Chinese Literature: An Anthology of Translations*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press; New York: Columbia University Press.

Supplementary Readings:

- Chan, Tak-hung Leo (2003). *One into Many: Translation and the Dissemination of Classical Chinese Literature*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Delisle, Jean and Judith Woodsworth (2012). *Translators through History* (revised edition). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Détrie, Muriel (1991). "Translation and Reception of Chinese Poetry in the West". *Tamkang Review* 22: 43-57.
- Honey, David B. (2001). *Incense at the Altar: Pioneering Sinologists and the Development of Classical Chinese Philology*. New Haven, Conn.: American Oriental Society.
- Huang, Yunte (2002). *Transpacific Displacement: Ethnography, Translation, and Intertextual Travel in Twentieth-Century American Literature*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Porter, David (2001). *Ideographia: The Chinese Cipher in Early Modern Europe*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Pym, Anthony (1998). *Method in Translation History*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- Schwartz, Benjamin I. (1985). *The World of Thought in Ancient China*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Yu, Pauline. (2007). "Travels of a Culture: Chinese Poetry and the European Imagination". *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 151(2), 218-229.

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/>.