

Course Title	: Eco-translation
Course Code	: TRA4327
Recommended Study Year	: 3-4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2 weekly lectures and 1 weekly tutorial
Category	: Elective (Category A: Skills-Based Courses for students of Year 1 intake up to 2021-22 Category C: Multimedia and Corporate Communication for students of Year 1 intake from 2022-23)
Prerequisite	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

This course introduces students to translation in the natural sciences. To undertake natural science translation, students need basic environmental science literacy. They will acquire aspects of such literacy through the translation of popular and scientific texts, both premodern and contemporary, about Hong Kong / south Chinese species of plant and animal in their ecological contexts. Practical applications include Chinese herbal medical research and environmental impact assessments.

Language of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

This course aims at informing students about environmental challenges, particularly the loss of natural diversity, that Hong Kong faces, as well as about potential solutions. At a time when, more and more, we live through screens, students can realize how interesting the environment is, if only they can learn to pay attention to it and understand what they are looking at. Students can also realize how their lives are tied to the natural environment, for instance how human activities impact the environment and how the environment might yield medicines to improve people's lives. This consideration leads to a final, more practical, aim of the course is to prepare students for the translation of different kinds of natural science texts: popular and technical descriptions, ecological studies (including environmental impact assessments), and medical applications (including traditional Chinese herbal medicine research).

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. observe organisms using natural science concepts and terms;
2. consult natural science resources.
3. analyze various natural science texts, premodern and modern, popular and technical, including traditional Chinese herbal medicine and environmental impact assessment;

4. translate natural science texts according to genre; and
5. compare different translations for quality assessment and improvement.

Indicative Contents:

1. nature observation;
2. natural science terms and concepts, in botany, zoology, ecology, etc.;
3. analysis of natural science texts genres, including descriptions for the layperson, technical descriptions, environmental impact assessments, and academic papers, including on traditional Chinese herbal medical research;
4. genre-based translation of natural science texts;
5. comparison of translation for quality assessment and improvement.

Teaching Method:

Lectures and tutorial discussions. Lectures are to discuss the specific background knowledge students need to complete translation exercises. There will be translation exercises to do every week, but as students are only required to do 4 translations, we will rotate through the students in the course, with roughly 1/3 of students in the class doing a translation in any given week. The tutorials will be for presentations on translation exercises. Presenters will compare the translations done by their peers and explain a model translation. The presentation will be audiovisual, but must include material objects. Students can bring said objects to class, or, if possible, take the class on a field trip on Lingnan campus.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

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

1. A presentation in which the student is required to analyze and compare peer presentations in order to produce and explain a model version (ILOs 1, 3, 5).
2. Four translations of around three hundred words (roughly five hundred characters) in which students demonstrate their natural science literacy and translation ability (ILOs 2, 4).
3. A test in which students are required to demonstrate their natural science literacy and translation ability (ILOs 1, 3, 4).

Assessment:

One presentation:	30%
Four translations:	40%
One final test:	30%

Required/Essential Readings:

香港觀鳥會 (2009)。《香港鳥類圖鑑》。萬里書店。

黎氏、等 (2008)。《香港野外樹木圖鑑》。漁農自然護理署。

饒戈 (2006)。《香港昆蟲圖鑑》。香港鱗翅目學會。

Dudgeon, David and Richard Corlett (2004). *The Ecology and Biodiversity of Hong Kong*. Joint Publishing.

Saunders, Richard M. K. and Chun-Chiu Pang with Sally Grace Bunker (2019). *Portraits of Trees of Hong Kong and Southern China*. Earnshaw Books.

Urban Council of Hong Kong series on Hong Kong flora and fungi (1976-1990).

Recommended/Supplementary Readings:

Bailey, L.H. (1963). *How Plants Get Their Names*. Dover.

Berlin, Brent (1992). *Ethnobiological Classification: Principles of Categorization of Plants and Animals in Traditional Societies*. Princeton University Press.

Cronin, Michael (2017). *Eco-Translation: Translation and Ecology in the Age of the Anthropocene*. Routledge.

Kasprzak, Wojciech (2011). *Translating Nature Terminology*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Sterk, Darryl (2019). "An Ecotranslation Manifesto: On the Translation of Bionyms in Nativist and Nature Writing from Taiwan," in Chia-ju Chang (ed), *Chinese Environmental Humanities: Practices of Environing at the Margins*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Tang, Kin-Ling (2017). *Encountering Development in the Age of Global Capitalism*. Singapore: Springer.

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/>.