

**THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION**

**2017-18**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| <b>COURSE CODE</b><br>TRAN1010B  |
| <b>ENGLISH TITLE</b><br>Principles of Translation  |
| <b>CHINESE TITLE</b><br>翻譯概論   |
| <b>NUMBER OF UNITS</b><br>3  |
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b><br><br>This course acquaints students with the general principles of translation. Theory is introduced in so far as it provides an intellectual framework and conceptual background to the practice of translation between Chinese and English. |

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This is an elementary translation course to introduce the general issues about the nature and process of translation. Emphasis is placed on the nature of translation as a communicative act and relevant topics concerning English and Chinese as the working languages. Basic theories and concepts of translation studies will be discussed and examples of different text types are used to illustrate the dynamics in translation practices.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- be equipped with a basic framework of the elementary knowledge on translation (K);
- be aware of the basic problems encountered in English <-> Chinese translation (KS);
- be alerted to various factors affecting the translators' decisions and strategies (KS);
- acquire the basic techniques for analysing and evaluating translated texts (KSV);
- be able to reflect on the nature of translation as a communicative act (KV).

**Implication for learning activities**

The course is made up of interactive lectures and tutorial workshops. Students are introduced to the basic concepts and theories in translation studies in the interactive lectures, where they are provided with translation examples and different text types to enhance their understanding of relevant ideas, and are invited to respond to various issues under discussion. As for the tutorial workshops, students are expected to work in small groups to produce appropriate translations through active discussion and collaboration, and be able to account for their translation strategies and decisions.

Special topics are used to facilitate a focused study of specific texts or cases so as to stimulate interest in the discipline.

### Implication for assessment

Students are assessed on their translation and analytical skills (mainly through individual assignments and tutorial workshops), and learning initiative and communication skills (through their participation in class and tutorial discussions). Through continuous assessment, students are given the opportunity to improve overtime. There is a final translation test which assesses students' ability to produce satisfactory translations within a realistic time frame.

### LIST OF TOPICS

- Concepts in Translation Studies such as 'equivalence', 'literal translation' and 'free translation', 'meaning', and "discourse";;
- The linguistic aspects of translation;
- The cultural aspects of translation;
- The relationship between text type and translation skills;
- General translation strategies

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

| Lecture                       | Tutorial                 | Others: Please specify |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Hours per week<br>1 hr 45 min | Hours per week<br>45 min | Hours per week         |

### ASSESSMENT SCHEME

| Task nature                           | Weight |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Class participation                   | 10%    |
| Translation assignments and workshops | 50%    |
| Term-end translation test             | 40%    |

### RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

#### Required readings

- 1 · Baker, Mona (1992) *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. London and New York: Routledge.
- 2 · Jin Di & Eugene A. Nida. (1984). *On translation: With special reference to Chinese and English*. Beijing: China Translation & Publish Corporation.
- 3 · Munday, Jeremy (2008). *Introducing Translation Studies* (2nd ed.). London & New York: Routledge.
- 4 · 陳定安 (1990) 《翻譯精要》。香港:商務印書館。
- 5 · -- (1992) 《英漢比較與翻譯》。香港:商務印書館。
- 6 · 周兆祥 (1996) 《翻譯初階》。香港:商務印書館。

### Recommended readings

1. Bassnett, Susan (1991) *Translation Studies*. London: Routledge.
2. Newmark, Peter (1988) *A Textbook of Translation*. London and New York: Prentice Hall.
3. Nida, Eugene A. (1993) *Language, Culture and Translating*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
4. – (1982) *Translating Meaning*. CA: English Language Institute.
5. Pellatt, Valerie and Eric T. Liu. ( 2010 ) *Thinking Chinese translation : a course in translation method : Chinese to English*. London; New York : Routledge.
6. 金聖華，黃國彬（1996）《因難見巧：名家翻譯經驗談》。台北：書林。
7. 思果（1992）《翻譯研究》。台北：大地出版社。
8. --（1994）《翻譯新究》。台北：大地出版社。
9. 孫述宇，金聖華（1981）《英譯中：英漢翻譯概論》。香港：香港中文大學校外進修部。
10. 譚載喜(1984)《奈達論翻譯》。北京：中國對外翻譯出版公司。
11. 張培基導編（1993）《英漢翻譯教程》。香港：三聯書店。

### FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

Students are welcome to provide feedback on the course through:

- mid-term questionnaires
- end-of-term questionnaires
- emails

### COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week | Topic  | Activities/Requirements         |
|------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Introduction: principles vs. practice                        | Reading 1<br>Class discussion   |
| 2    | Translating meaning (1)                                      | Reading 2<br>Workshop           |
| 3    | Translating meaning (2)                                      | Reading 3<br>Workshop           |
| 4    | Methods of translation                                       | Reading 4<br>Workshop           |
| 5    | Equivalence: linguistic issues in translation                | Reading 5<br>Workshop           |
| 6    | Equivalence: cultural issues in translation                  | Assignment 1 due<br>Workshop    |
| 7    | A comparative study of the Chinese and English languages (1) | Workshop                        |
| 8    | A comparative study of the Chinese and English languages (2) | Workshop<br>Review Assignment 1 |
| 9    | Text type and text function                                  | Reading 6<br>Workshop           |

|    |  |                                 |
|----|--|---------------------------------|
| 10 | Translation of literary and creative texts | Assignment 2 due<br>Workshop    |
| 11 | Translation of commercial texts            | Workshop                        |
| 12 | Translation of legal texts                 | Workshop<br>Review Assignment 2 |
| 13 | Translation Test                           | Review                          |

### CONTACT DETAILS

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Professor/Lecturer/Instructor</b> |                |
| Name:                                | Dr. Elsie Chan |
| Office Location:                     |                |
| Telephone:                           |                |
| Email:                               | tba            |
| Teaching Venue:                      |                |
| Website (optional):                  |                |
| Office Hours:                        |                |

### COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course announcements and materials will be posted on CU eLearning System and/or distributed in class.

#### **Policy on Absenteeism**

In respect of individual courses, a student who, without permission to take leave, has been absent for a continuous period exceeding 4 weeks shall, subject to the Department Board's approval, be given Grade F for the course(s) concerned.

#### **Policy on Penalties for Late Submission of Written Work**

Late submission of written work 1-7 days: Minus **ONE** Sub-grade.

Late submission of written work beyond 7 days: The work will not be graded and **Grade F** be given.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the

declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.