THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2016-17

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE: TRAN1120B
ENGLISH TITLE: Basic Skills of Translation
CHINESE TITLE: 翻譯基本技巧
NUMBER OF UNITS: 3
DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the fundamental techniques of Chinese-English/English-Chinese translation. Emphasis is placed on practical skills, and exercises are in the form of group projects as well as individual assignments. Common errors are analysed and corrections explained.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course focuses on the acquisition of fundamental techniques of Chinese-English and English-Chinese translation. Emphasis is placed on practical skills and application of basic translation principles on various text-types, preparing students for more advanced and specialized translation courses in future. Common errors in translation will be analyzed, based on real-life examples, and students will be encouraged to explain in their own words the methods they have chosen and the principles violated so that they can produce better translations in future.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students learn to: 1. appreciate and apply the basic practical skills and principles of translation; 2. analyze and express communicatively the strengths and weakness of different source texts and target texts, including their own translations, 3. heighten their sensitivity to language use and cultural reference; 4. increase their awareness of the differences between the reference network of the source text readers and the target text readers; 5. develop appropriate translation strategies for different text-types for different purposes; and 6. cultivate an appropriate mindset for more advanced and specialized translation.

Implication for learning activities

The course is essentially knowledge-based and skill-based. Lectures and interactive tutorials will be the dominant activities. Students learn to apply the writing and translation skills in individual translation assignments. More than half of the tutorials will be conducted in the form of translation drills and group presentations, where students will lead the discussion on problems and strategies involved.

Implication for assessment

Continuous assessment will be carried out. There will be no centralized final examination (本科不設期末考試, 採用整學期持續評核的制度).

LIST OF TOPICS

- Practical skills of translation
- General principles of translation
- Comparative study of Chinese and English
- Equivalence in translation
- Cultural issues in translation
- Basic skills of news translation
- Basic skills of fiction translation
- Translation and recreation

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others: Please specify
Hours per week	**Hours per week**	**Hours per week**
1 hr 45 minutes	45 minutes	

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
Attendance and participation	10%
In-class drills	10%
Assignments	30%
Presentations	10%
Final Test	40%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

1. Newmark, P. 1988a. *A Textbook Of Translation*. Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall.

2. Newmakr, P. 1988b. *Approaches To Translation*. Hemel Hempstead: Prentice Hall.

3. Nida, E. A. 1993. *Language, Culture and Translating*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language

4. Nida, E. A 1982. *Translating Meaning*. CA: English Language Institute.

5. Nida and Taber, Charles R. 1974. *The Theory and Practice of Translation.* Leiden: E.J. Brill.

6. Pellatt, V. and Liu, E. T. 2010. *Thinking Chinese Translation. A Course in Translation Method: Chinese to English*. London & New York: Routledge.

7. Quirk, R. and Greenbaum, S. 1973. *A University Grammar of English*. Harlow: Longman.

8. 陳定安，1992，《翻譯精要》，香港：商務。

9. 陳定安，1992，《英漢比較與翻譯》，香港：商務。

10. 鄧炎昌、劉潤清，1991，《語言與文化》，北京：外語教學與研究。

11. 金隄，1997，《等效翻譯探索》（增訂版），北京：對外翻譯。

12. 思果，1982，《翻譯新究》，香港：大地。

13. 思果，1972，《翻譯研究》，香港：大地。

14. 劉靖之（編），1991a，《翻譯工作者手冊》，香港：商務。

15. 劉靖之，1991，《翻譯新論集》，香港：商務。

16. 劉靖之，1981，《翻譯論集》，香港：三聯。

17. 劉宓慶，1997，《英漢翻譯訓練手冊》，台北：書林。

18. 劉宓慶，1992，《漢英對比與翻譯》，江西：江西教育。

19. 劉宓慶，1986，《文體與翻譯》，北京：對外翻譯。

20. 蕭立明，1992，《翻譯新探》，台北：書林。

21. 張今、陳雲清，1981，《英漢比較語法綱要》，北京：商務。

22. 中國對外翻譯（編），1992，《中譯英技巧文集》，北京：外語教育與研究。

23. 周兆祥，1996，《翻譯初階》，香港：商務。

FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

Students are welcome to provide feedback on the course through

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

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Activities
01	Jan 9	*No tutorial in the first week*	
	Jan 11	**Introduction: translation and writing**	
02	Jan 16	In-class exercise	
	Jan 18	**Do it literally: E-C**	
03	Jan 23	In-class exercise	
	Jan 25	**Do it literally: E-C**	Drill 1
		Lunar New Year	
04	Feb 6	*Presentation 1* – translating article	
	Feb 8	**Working in context: E-C**	Drill 2
05	Feb 13	*Presentation 2* – translating pronoun	
	Feb 15	**Working in context: E-C**	
06	Feb 20	*Presentation 3* – translating adverb	
	Feb 22	**Repertoire and register: E-C**	Assignment 1 due
07	Feb 27	*Presentation 4* – translating passive	
	Mar 1	**Review on Assignment 1** **Proof-reading: E-C**	
08	Mar 6	*Presentation 5* – translating ambiguity	
	Mar 8	**Keep it simple, play it safe: basics for C-E**	
09	Mar 13	*Presentation 6* – translating dialogue	
	Mar 15	**Restructuring: C-E**	Drill 3
10	Mar 20	*Presentation 7* – translating metaphor	
	Mar 22	**Restructuring: C-E**	
11	Mar 27	*Presentation 8* – translating 'geek speak'	
	Mar 29	**Working in context: C-E**	Drill 4
12	Apr 3	*Presentation 9* – translating humor	
	Apr 5	**Working in context: C-E** **Proof-reading: C-E**	Assignment 2 due
13	Apr 10	Mock test: E-C	
	Apr 12	**Review on Assignment 2** Mock test: C-E	
14	Apr 17	*Easter Holiday*	
	April 19	**Final Test**	

CONTACT DETAILS

Instructor	
Name:	Dr Ye Jia
Office Location:	Room 108, Leung Kau Kui Building
Telephone:	3943 7690
Email:	trapeers@gmail.com
Teaching Venue:	TBA
Office Hours:	TBA

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course announcements and materials will be posted on WebCT / distributed in class (please delete as appropriate)

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.