

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2018-19

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE
TRAN2020
ENGLISH TITLE
Writing Skills and Translation
CHINESE TITLE
寫作技巧與翻譯
NUMBER OF UNITS
3
DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the stylistic features and writing skills of English and Chinese, as well as the corresponding translation techniques. Lectures combined with drills aim to raise the students' awareness of the intricacies of the English and Chinese languages and improve their writing and translating skills.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Primarily focusing on the features of both English and Chinese languages, this course aims to enhance students' translation competence and writing skills through highlighting the subtleties and intricacies of the English and Chinese languages.

Issues addressed will focus on languages in use, particularly the confusions and common errors in English writing and C-E translation made by Hong Kong university students. More advanced and sophisticated usage will also be introduced and discussed.

Since this course is relevant to translation, issues about creative writing will not be dealt with. Topics that will be discussed include the usage of English articles, various types of finite and non-finite clauses, defining and non-defining relative clauses, the expressiveness of the English verb system (tense, modality, voice, mood), advanced sentence structures, different styles of writing, the pervasiveness of Europeanized Chinese, all discussed in the context of translation.

The exercises used in class are not fossilized practices on grammar like fill-in-the-blank or multiple-choice questions. Instead, students will be asked to apply their linguistic knowledge acquired in the course to analyse and appreciate the way of presentation by languages in their everyday use and in translation.

The course may involve some jargons in Chinese and English linguistics, but no formal study in English grammar or linguistics is required.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Expected learning outcomes

After completing this course, students are expected to:

1. Develop a more in-depth understanding of the features of the English and Chinese languages, English in particular, as the students in Hong Kong may have been trained to use the language according to rigid grammatical rules. (K and V)
2. Be able to identify features of different genres and styles and thereby apply translation strategies accordingly. (K and S)
3. Develop a self-awareness of the linguistic mannerisms and hence evaluate the appropriateness of the language during translation processes. (K and S)
4. Improve their writing and translation skills in terms of accuracy, fluency and style. (S)
5. Be in a better position to analyse language usage and meanings of both source and target texts at different stages of translation. (S)

Implication for learning activities

Students will be exposed to basic language theories, have chances of critiquing pieces of writing and should be in a better position to make appropriate language choices in writing and translation.

Implication for assessment

Students will be assessed via several assignments, take-home tasks, and a final test, which enables them to apply the skills that they have learnt. These several components ensure that all students have the chance to demonstrate improvements over time instead of having their course grade dependent entirely on one final examination.

LIST OF TOPICS

- Some salient features of the nature of English and Chinese languages
- Evaluating ones' lexical and syntactic inventories
- Sentence types and sentence strategies
- Common cross-linguistic errors
- Advanced structures and sentence patterns
- Formal and informal styles, and style as a matter of vocabulary choice and sentence structures
- The 'myths and facts' of article usage
- The expressiveness and potentials of the English Verb system
- Conciseness vs redundancy in writing and translation
- Effective use of connectors, transitions and discourse markers
- Attaining clarity and conciseness in writing (on redundant language and clichés)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others: Please specify
Hours per week	Hours per week	Hours per week
1 hr 45 min	45 min	N.A.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
Class participation (attendance, participation, in-class drills and discussions)	20%
Two written assignments	40%
Final test	40%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

Required readings to be confirmed but mostly will be selected from the following. As reading materials will be distributed in-class, there is no need to buy any textbook for this course.

王武興 (2004) 《英漢互譯指導》，北京:朝華出版社。

李家樹、謝耀基. (1994). 《漢語的特性和運用》，香港; 香港大學出版社。

余光中 (2001) 《余光中談翻譯》，北京: 中國對外翻譯出版社。

秦秀白 (1986) 《文體學概論》，長沙: 湖南教育出版社

劉宓慶 (1986) 《文體與翻譯》，北京: 中國對外翻譯。

Downing, A. & Locke, P. (2006) *English grammar: A university course*. Florence, NY: Routledge.

Glenn, C. et. al. (latest edition). *Hodges' Harbrace Handbook*. Boston: Heinle.

Hewings, M. (2005). *Advanced Grammar in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Thorne, S. (1997). *Mastering Advanced English Language*. London: Macmillan Press. Ltd.

Recommended readings

1. 陳定安 (1996) 《英漢修辭與翻譯》，香港：商務印書館。
2. 思果 (2001) 《翻譯新究——這句譯文像中文嗎？》，台北：大地出版社。
3. 陳會軍 (2004) 《中國人英文寫作全攻略——技巧與訓練》，北京：外文出版社。
4. 胡曙中 (1993) 《英漢修辭比較研究》，上海：上海外語教育出版社。
5. 汪福祥 (2002) 《英語寫作技巧新編》，北京：外文出版社。
6. 張今、張克定 (1998) 《英漢語資訊結構對比研究》，開封：河南大學出版社。
7. Broderick, J, P. (2005) *English grammar: Patterns and choices*, Norfolk, VA: Old Dominion University.
8. Crystal, D. and Davy D. (1969). *Investigating English Style*. London: Longman.
9. Crewe, W. J. (1990) 'The illogic of logical connectives', *ELT Journal* 44: 316-25.
10. Darling, C. 'Guide to grammar and writing', available at <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>.
11. Downing, A. & Locke, P. (2006) *English grammar: A university course*, 2nd ed., Florence, KY: Routledge.
12. Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, (1996) *The American heritage book of English usage*, New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company.
13. Fiske, R. H. (2002). *The Dictionary of Concise Writing: 10,000 alternatives to wordy phrases*, Oak Park, IL: Marion Street Press.
14. Loffredo, E. & Perteghella, M. (Eds.) (2006) *Translation and creativity: Perspectives on creative writing and translation studies*, New York, NY: Continuum.
15. Purdue University. Purdue Online Writing Laboratory. <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>.
16. Strunk, W. & White, E. B. (2007) *The Elements of Style*. London: Penguin Books.

FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

Students are welcome to provide feedback on the course through

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Activities/Requirements
1	8 Jan	Lesson 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of course • Examining your bilingual lexical repertoire 	
2	15 Jan	Lesson 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word choice in English writing and translation • Lexical analysis and style 	Reading 1
3	22 Jan	Lesson 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence strategies(1): subordination and coordination • Examining your syntactic repertoire 	
4	29 Jan	Lesson 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced structure (1):participle structures and its variations 	Assignment 1 handed out (29 Jan)
5	5 Feb	Chinese New Year Holiday	
6	12 Feb	Lesson 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced structures (2): Expanding your noun phrase • Article and determiners 	Reading 2
7	19 Feb	Lesson 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced sentence strategies (2): special sentence patterns 	Assignment 1 due (19 Feb)
8	26 Feb	Lesson 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence variety and manipulation • Syntactic analysis of authentic texts 	Reading 4
9	5 Mar	Lesson 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the potentials of the English verb system (1): tense and meaning 	Assignment 2 handed out (5 Mar)
10	12 Mar	Lesson 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the potentials of the English verb system (2): mood, modality and politeness 	Reading 5
11	19 Mar	Lesson 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourse awareness and translation problems 	Assignment 2 due (19 Mar)
12	26 Mar	Lesson 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing across different genres 	Reading 6
13	2 Apr	Lesson 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrastive rhetoric 	
14	9 Apr	Final Test	Final test (9 April)

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
Name:	Eddy Mak Wai Ho (Dr.)
Office Location:	TBC

Telephone:	TBC
Email:	TBC
Teaching Venue:	TBC
Website (optional):	
Office Hours:	TBC

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course announcements and materials will be posted on CU eLearning System 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** will be given.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

All assignments must be submitted via the **VeriGuide** (<https://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/>) for plagiarism detection. A declaration, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon uploading your assignment. Please submit the signed declaration statement together with the hard copy of the assignment to the course teacher, according to the instructions as stipulated by him/her. **Assignments without the receipt will not be graded.**