

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2017-18

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE TRAN2110 (UGEC2272)
ENGLISH TITLE Culture and Translation
CHINESE TITLE 文化與翻譯
NUMBER OF UNITS 3
DESCRIPTION This course examines the distance between source text and target text cultures, considers the origins of this difference, addresses the issues of translation and cultural exchange, and studies the techniques of finding information needed to understand cultural specifics. (Not for students who have taken UGEC2272.)

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces students to the larger cultural forces at work in translation such as the ideology, poetics and patronage of both the source and target cultures. It also investigates a variety of bumps and barriers faced by the translator due to differences in customs, manners, imagination, values and beliefs underlying the two cultures under study. Texts of different genres and backgrounds will be selected to address the complex and dynamic relationship between culture and translation. Students will be engaged in critical analyses of translated texts to heighten their cultural sensitivity and awareness as well as creative exercises to enhance their competence in translating and rewriting culture-specific items.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to
- understand the larger cultural forces at work in translation
 - identify cultural resonances and culture-specific elements within texts
 - comment on translated examples of culture-specific texts
 - acquire strategies for translating culture-specific texts
 - enhance their cultural sensitivity and awareness
 - think and translate critically and creatively

Implication for learning activities

The course will be taught in the form of weekly lectures plus tutorials which emphasize active engagement of all participants. The first part of lectures focuses on translation and cultural theories, and the second part, translation skills and strategies. Tutorials will run in seminar format and a group of three to five students (depending on class enrolment) will be responsible for a presentation on an assigned topic with reference to lecture notes and reading materials required and recommended by the course teacher. Learning activities also include two home assignments and a term test designed to evaluate and enhance students' understanding of the theories and strategies taught and discussed in lectures and tutorials.

Implication for assessment

Students will be assessed in terms of their performance in group presentations (20%), home assignments (30%) and the test scheduled at the end of the course (30%). Class attendance and performance is essential and will be factored into the final grade (20%). Creativity, critical thinking and commitment to learning will be emphasized.

LIST OF TOPICS

- Relationship between culture and translation in both conceptual and practical terms
- Cultural forces that govern the production and reception of translated texts
- Definition of culture-specific items and the related translation strategies
- Analysis of existing translations of culture-specific texts with reference to translation and cultural theories

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others:
Hours per week 1 hour 45 minutes	Hours per week 45 minutes	Hours per week

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
Course participation (engagement in in-class and online discussion)	10%
Group presentation	20%
Home assignments (translation, essays)	40%
Term test	30%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

- Franco Aixelá, J. (1996). Culture-Specific items in translation. In Román Álvarez and M. Carmen-África Vidal (Eds.), *Translation, power, subversion* (pp. 52-78). Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- Baker, M. (1992). *In other words: A coursebook on translation*. (2nd edn.). London: Routledge.
- Bassnett, S., & Lefevere, A. (1998). *Constructing cultures: Essays on literary translation*. Clevedon; Philadelphia: Multilingual Matters.
- Delabastita, D. (Ed.) (1996). *Wordplay and translation*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- Fung, M. M. Y. (1995). Translation of metaphor. In Chan Sin-wai and David E. Pollard (Eds.), *An encyclopaedia of translation (Chinese-English/English-Chinese)* (pp. 658-671). Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.
- Guo, J.-Z. (1995). Translatability in CE/EC translation. In Chan Sin-wai and David E. Pollard (Eds.), *An encyclopaedia of translation (Chinese-English/English-Chinese)* (pp. 1057-1067). Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.
- Lefevere, A. (1992). *Translation, rewriting, and the manipulation of literary fame*. London: Routledge.
- Leppihalme, R. (1997). *Culture bumps: An empirical approach to the translation of allusions*. Clevedon; Philadelphia: Multilingual Matters.
- Newmark, P. (1998). *A textbook of translation*. Hertfordshire: Prentice Hall.
- Nida, E. A. (2001). *Language and culture: Context and translating*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
- Vandaele, Jeroen (Ed.) (2002). *Translating humour*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- Venuti, L. (1995). *The translator's invisibility: A history of translation* (2nd ed.). Oxon: Routledge.
- Zabalbeascoa, P. (2005). Humor and translation? An interdisciplinary, *Humor 18* (2), 185–207.
- 包惠南、包昂編著（2004）。《中國文化與漢英翻譯》。北京：外文出版社。
- 李延林、潘利鋒、郭勇主編（2003）。《英語文化翻譯學教程》。長沙：中南大學出版社。
- 邵志洪（2005）。《漢英對比翻譯導論》。上海：華東理工大學出版社。
- 趙明編（2003）。《語際翻譯與文化交融：漢英互譯的理論與實踐》。徐州：中國礦業大學出版社。
- 張南峰（2004）。《中西譯學批評》。北京：清華大學出版社。
- 莊柔玉（2008）。《多元的解構——從結構到後結構的翻譯研究》。臺北：臺灣學生書局。

FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

Students are welcome to provide feedback on the course through

- mid-term questionnaires
- end-of-term questionnaires
- email

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Lecture	Activities / Requirements
1	Course Introduction Culture & Translation: General issues	Group discussion
2	Untranslatability of cultural items Foreignization and domestication	Group discussion
3	Translation of Culture-specific Items	Group presentation arrangement
4	Translation of Idioms and Metaphors	Group discussion
5	Translation of Allusions	Group discussion Home Assignment 1
6	Translation of Euphemisms	Group discussion
7	Translation of Puns	Group discussion Home Assignment 1 due
8	Humour & Translation	Group discussion Home Assignment 2
9	Translation & Ideology	Translation & Patronage
10	Review of Home Assignment 1	Group discussion
11	Presentations 1 - 3	Presentations 4, 5
12	Presentations 6 - 8 Course review	Presentations 9, 10
13	Test	
14	Home Assignment 2 due	

CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer	
Name:	Dr Law Wai On, Kurt
Office Location:	Room106, 1/F., Leung Kau Kui Building
Telephone:	3943 7693
Email:	wolaw@arts.cuhk.edu.hk
Teaching Venue:	
Website (optional):	
Office Hours:	

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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