

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2017-2018

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE TRA3240
ENGLISH TITLE Court Interpreting
CHINESE TITLE 法庭傳譯
NUMBER OF UNITS 3
DESCRIPTION <p>This course provides students with training in interpreting in a court setting, with emphases on sight interpreting and consecutive interpreting.</p> <p>本科訓練學生法庭傳譯技巧，以視譯和接續傳譯為主。</p>

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course gives students a comprehensive account of the special features of courtroom discourse and the various modes of court interpreting in the context of Hong Kong's judicial system. It sensitizes students to the multifaceted problems inherent in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication in court proceedings, prompting them to reflect on the role of the interpreter in the administration of justice as well as to command a clear view of how language works to facilitate communication.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Expected learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to--

1. Give a clear account of the duties of a court interpreter in the judicial system of Hong Kong;
2. Demonstrate a good knowledge of the special features of courtroom discourse in the context of Hong Kong and how they inform the practice of court interpreting; and
3. Perform the various modes of court interpreting such as sight translation of court documents;

consecutive interpreting in examination in chief, cross examination and re-examination; dock-side whispering interpreting of opening and closing of a case, exchange between counsel and between counsel and the judge; simultaneous interpreting of jury direction and delivery of judgment.

Implication for learning activities

1. Court visits: For students to acquaint themselves with the court interpreter in action.
2. Guest lecture(s): For students to learn from professional court interpreters the nature and inherent difficulties of court interpreting, skills and techniques of court interpreting..
3. Interpreting exercises: For students to develop their competence in performing the various modes of court interpreting.
4. Simulated trials: For students to have a hands-on experience in performing court interpreting.

Implication for assessment

1. A written report of around 2500 words on court visits describing the student’s observations and discussing a particular issue relating to court interpreting;
2. Class exercises for practising the various modes of court interpreting;
3. Live performance of court interpreting.

LIST OF TOPICS

1. Court proceedings in the judicial system of Hong Kong;
2. Duties of the court interpreter in Hong Kong;
3. Courtroom discourse and court interpreting;
4. Sight translation of court documents;
5. Consecutive interpreting in various phases of court proceedings;
6. Whispering interpreting in various phases of court proceedings;
7. Simultaneous interpreting in various phases of court proceedings.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others: Please specify
Hours per week	Hours per week	Hours per week
1.5	1.5	

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
1. Class participation	10%

2. Class exercises	40%
3. Live performance	30%
4. Written report	20%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

References

1. Berg-Seligson, Susan. (2002) The bilingual courtroom. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
2. Hale, Sandra Beatriz. (2004) The discourse of court interpreting: practice of the law, the witness and the interpreter. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
3. Lee, Yuk Ming. (1994) The training of court interpreters in Hong Kong. MA thesis. City University of Hong Kong.
4. Ng, Kwai Hang. (2009) The common law in two voices. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
5. Mason, Mariane. (2008) Court interpreting. Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America.
6. Mikkelson, Holly. (2000) Introduction to court interpreting. Boston: St. Jerome.
7. Robinson, Ludmilla. (1994) Handbook for court interpreters. North Ryde, N.S.W. : Law Book,
8. Shlesinger, Miriam and Pochhacker, Franz. Eds. (2010) Doing justice to court interpreting. Amsterdam: John Benjamins,
9. Sin, King Kui and Djong, Sai Hung. (1994) Court interpretation in Hong Kong. Ed. M. Gaylord & H. Traver. Hong Kong: HKUP. 137-144.

Online resources

<http://judiciary.gov.hk>

<http://www.interpreting.hku.hk/>

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
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1	Court proceedings in the judicial system of Hong Kong	Lecture and tutorial
2	Special features of courtroom discourse in Hong Kong	Lecture and tutorial
3.	The nature and problems of court interpreting	Lecture and tutorial
4	Various types of court documents	Lecture and tutorial
5	Sight translation of court documents: Plea-taking; brief facts; cautioned statements, etc.	Lecture and class exercises
6	Note-taking for court interpreting	Lecture and class exercises
7	Interpreting tasks: Opening and closing addresses	Lecture and class exercises
8	Interpreting tasks: Examination-in-chief; cross examination; re-examination	Lecture and class exercises
9	Interpreting tasks: Summing-up; verdict and judgment; mitigation; sentencing	Lecture and class exercises
10	Interpreting tasks: Jury direction; submission by counsel	Lecture and class exercises
11	Mock trial Criminal case	Role play and interpreting
12	Mock trial Civil case	Role play and interpreting
13	Overview and revision	Lecture and tutorial

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
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Teaching Assistant/Tutor	
Name:	
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COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide. **Assignments without the receipt will not be graded.**