

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2016-17

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE
TRAN3840
ENGLISH TITLE
Introduction to Legal Translation
CHINESE TITLE
法律翻譯入門
NUMBER OF UNITS
3
DESCRIPTION (as stated in the Student Handbook)
This course aims to familiarize students with the register and discourse characteristics of the relevant legal language variety in both English and Chinese, and to develop and reinforce the skills and techniques required of their translation into/from Chinese/English. This course is essentially practical in that it concentrates on translating representative and graded material through regular home and class assignments.

COURSE OVERVIEW

(Please explain concisely what the course is about, how it will support student learning in the context of the translation programme, how it relates to other courses, whether any prior knowledge is required, etc)

This course is designed to provide training in legal translation for students with no prior knowledge of the subject. Students will be trained to develop and consolidate their skills and techniques for legal translation and thus be able to perform a variety of legal translation tasks.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Introduction: optional (maximum length: 50 words in English and 40 words in Chinese)

Expected learning outcomes (maximum length: 250 words in English and 200 words in Chinese)

(A listing (preferably in point form) of the expected learning outcomes, probably across the knowledge, skills and values/attitudes (KSV) domains, limited to ~15 items to allow students to appreciate the breadth of the programme while not getting lost in minutiae.)

- Understand the theoretical framework of legal translation, legal terminology and culture-bound language of legal discourse
- Be able to identify the basic problems facing, and the solutions available to the legal translator
- Be able to grasp the basic skills in legal translation and translate with ease and skill common types of legal text

- ◇ 理解法律翻譯的理論架構及富文化概念的法律語言和法律辭彙,
- ◇ 增強在法律翻譯過程中發現問題及解決問題的能力
- ◇ 掌握法律翻譯的各種技能,技巧並能翻譯各種類型的法律文本

Implication for learning activities (maximum length: 150 words in English and 120 words in Chinese)

(The statement should describe the range of learning activities that will be used to support the development of these learning outcomes. Some comments on the proportion of each type of learning activity are desirable. Possible learning activities include: lectures, interactive tutorials, laboratory work, discussion of cases, field trips, clinical placement, projects, web-based activities.)

For course where the outcomes are strongly in the knowledge domain, lectures and interactive tutorials will be the dominant activities. Students will be involved in various translation exercises in lectures and group discussion of in-class exercises in the interactive tutorials.

以知識教育成果為主的課程, 講座及互動導修課為主要學習活動. 學生在課堂上需參與各種翻譯練習, 並在導師指導下於互動導修課上分組討論課堂練習.

Implication for assessment (maximum length: 150 words in English and 120 words in Chinese)

(The statement should describe the range of assessment tasks that will be used to gauge attainments of these learning outcomes. Some comments on the proportion of each type of assessment are desirable. Possible assessment strategies include, essay test or examinations, short-answer test or examinations, objective test or examinations, essays, presentations, problem sets, lab reports, projects, cases.)

As a general rule, the course will use a range of continuous assessment and not rely merely on final examination. The continuous assessment consists of class participation, three assignments, one in-class workshop and one final test.

依照一般規定, 本課程採用一系列持續評估方式, 而不只依重期終試作為成績評估的唯一方式. 持續評估包括課堂參與, 三份作業, 一次課堂翻譯工作坊及期終試.

LIST OF TOPICS

- Theoretical framework of legal translation
- Problems in legal translation
- Characteristics of the Hong Kong Common Law legal system
- Understanding legal language of the Common Law
- Translation of legislation
- Translation of judgments
- Translation of contracts
- Translation of other private legal documents

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others: Please specify
Hours per week 2	Hours per week 1	Hours per week

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
● Assignments (2 in total)	40%

● Project	20%
● *Final test	40%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

(Please provide details about any textbooks and/or suggested readings, including title, publisher, edition and year of publication, and list any recommended web pages with specific URL addresses.)

Alcaraz, Enrique & Hughes, Brian (2002) Legal Translation Explained. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.

Bhatia V. K. (1997) Translating Legal Genres. In Anna Trosborg(ed.) Text Typology and Translation. Amsterdam/Philadelphia:John Benjamins Publishing Company, 202-213

Bhatia V. K. (1983) Applied Discourse Analysis of English Legislative Writing. A Language Studies Research Report. Birmingham: University of Aston in Birmingham.

Hiltunen, Risto (1990) Chapters on Legal English: Aspects Past and Present of the Language of the Law.

Kurzon, Dennis (1983) The Linguistic Structure of English Legislative Texts. Hebrew University.

Sarcevic, Susan (1997) New Approach To Legal Translation. The Hague .London. Boston: Kluwer Law International

Sin, King-kui (1998) The common law in Uncommon Chinese: Linguistic Anomalies and Cultural Shocks. Journal of Translation Studies No.2. Hong Kong: Media Production. 127-141.

Tiersma, Peter M. (1999) Legal Language. Chicago: the University of Chicago Press
 Vanstone, Bobby (1998) Understanding Law: Skills and Sources for Students. Addison Wesley Longman Limited.

Varga, Csaba (1992) Comparative Legal Culture. Dartmouth Publishing Co.Ltd.

Watson, Alan (1993) Legal Transplants: An Approach to Comparative Law. The University of Georgia Press.

何勤華等編著 (1994) 中西法律文化通論 復旦大學出版社

陸文慧(主編) 法律翻譯：從實踐出發 香港：中華書局, 2002.

FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

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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	Course Overview Importance of legal translation in Hong Kong What does it take to become a competent translator of legal documents Description of online and other resources	Alcaraz, Enrique & Hughes, Brian. Legal Translation Explained.
2	●Legal translation in Hong Kong	Sin, King-kui. The common law in Uncommon Chinese: Linguistic Anomalies and Cultural Shocks.
3	Introduction to the Hong Kong common law system How to read / translate Hong Kong legislation	Assignment 1 handed out
4	The language of the common law	Bhatia V. K. Translating Legal Genres.
5	Linguistic features of legal English (I)	Assignment 2 handed out Assignment 1 due
6	Linguistic features of legal English (II)	In-class workshop
7	Linguistic features of legal English (III)	Kurzon, Dennis. The Linguistic Structure of English Legislative Texts.
8	Translation of legislation (I)	Bhatia V. K. Applied Discourse Analysis of English Legislative Writing.
9	Translation of Judgments	Project handed out Assignment 2 due
10	Translation of private legal documents-contract (I)	陸文慧(主編) 法律翻譯：從實踐出發
11	Translation of private legal documents-contract (II)	Project due
12	Translation of other private legal documents	Project due
13		Final Test

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	Instructor
Name:	Ling WANG
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Teaching Venue:	
Website (optional):	
Office Hours:	

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course announcements and materials will be posted on WebCT

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

(Please add relevant course-specific information if necessary)

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.

