

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2017-18

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE
TRAN 3860
ENGLISH TITLE
Film and Television Subtitles Translation
CHINESE TITLE
電影與電視字幕翻譯
NUMBER OF UNITS
3
DESCRIPTION
This course aims to train students in translating film and television subtitles. Technical problems in translation are analyzed and cultural issues are discussed. Assignments are chosen from English language films and television programmes. Students are also exposed to the varieties of English and Chinese used in film and television.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is a practical course. Students are trained on the mechanics of subtitling; introduced to the linguistic and cultural features involved. Existing subtitles are used for discussions and there are drills and assignments on E to C translations. Our approach is functionalistic and target oriented. In-class discussion and participation are essential.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Expected learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Know the fundamental skills and tricks of subtitling
- Improve listening skills and learn to focus on form as well as content
- Pay more attention to the register of the language
- Enrich their working vocabulary through the viewing of different genres of programmes
- Be more proactive in interpreting and evaluating their own translation
- Increase their cultural and historical awareness

Implication for learning activities

Learning activities include lectures, interactive tutorials, and presentation:

- Lectures, 50% of class time, provide a chain of unique subtitling knowledge for students to

- pick up step by step
- Interactive tutorials, 25% of class time, are valuable face to face meeting opportunities among fellow students and the lecturer to thoroughly discuss the language values of the assigned movies
 - Presentation, 25% of class time, is an excellent means for student to explore their own interests in this discipline and to share their first hand findings to classmates

Implication for assessment

Assessment areas include Assignments, Tutorials, Presentation and Participation:

- Assignments (35%): Student will be able to work on the scripts of actual TV programmes and movies that are broadcasted or screened
- Tutorials (30%): Students are expected to analyse the language values of the assigned movies in-depth, and to effectively discuss and debate with fellow classmates on the findings
- Presentation (25%): Students will choose their own topics and are encouraged to present their ideas creatively to enlighten the classmate audience
- Participation (10%): Students will be evaluated through their in-class involvement and tutorial contribution

LIST OF TOPICS

Topics to be covered:

1. Introduction and basic rules of film translation
2. Subtitling techniques
3. Technical skills of subtitles production
4. Discourse analysis
5. Cultural issues and Transposition
6. Idioms, puns and slang
7. Movie songs translation
8. TV dramas and documentary subtitles
9. Cantonese subtitles
10. Dubbing translation
11. History of subtitling

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
Assignments	35%
Tutorials	30%
Presentation	20%
Presentation trailer	5%
Class participation	10%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

- Anderman, Gunilla and Jorge Diaz-Cintas (2009). Audiovisual Translation. Language Transfer on Screen. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Chiaro, Delia, Christine Heiss and Chiara Bucaria (2008). Between Text and Image: Updating Research in Screen Translation. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Fong, Gilbert and Kenneth K. L. Au (eds.) (2009). Dubbing and Subtitling in a World Context. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press.
- 麻爭旗 (2005)。《影視譯製概論》。北京：中國傳媒大學出版社。

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
1	Course Introduction	
2	Basic Rules of Subtitling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Segmentation Exercise •Assignment 01
3	Subtitling Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assignment 02
4	<i>Tutorial 01</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Movie 01 Discussions
5	Discourse Analysis	
6	Movie Songs Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assignment 03
7	<i>Tutorial 02</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Movie 02 Discussions
8	Cultural issues & Transposition	

9	Idiom, Slang & Pun	•Assignment 04
10	<i>Tutorial 03</i>	•Movie 03 Discussions
11	TV Programmes Subtitles	•Presentation Group 1-3
12	Dubbing Translation	•Presentation Group 4-6
13	Cantonese Subtitles	•Presentation Group 7-9
14	History of Subtitling	

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
Name:	Tam, Kam Lun Alan
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Teaching Venue:	LHC 106
Website (optional):	
Office Hours:	

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/>.

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.