

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2017-18

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE TRAN3870
ENGLISH TITLE Translation of Texts in the Social Sciences
CHINESE TITLE 社會科學文本翻譯
NUMBER OF UNITS 3
DESCRIPTION <p>This course introduces students to some of the central issues and basic concepts involved in the study of society and human relationships, in order to help students develop strategies for translating texts that engage with these issues and concepts. Topics to be covered in this course include globalization, gender and sexuality, families, ethnicity, mass media, and education.</p> <p>本科講授社會科學常用的辭彙和核心的概念，幫助學生掌握適當的技巧去翻譯牽涉到有關辭彙和概念的文章，涉及的課題包括：全球化、性別角色、家庭、種族、傳媒、教育，等等。</p>

COURSE OVERVIEW

The aim of this course is threefold. Firstly, it provides students with the basic knowledge, skills and techniques in translating the variety of social science texts in the translation industry, social surveys, academic research, and other related fields. Secondly, it sensitizes students to the distinctive problems inherent in social science texts and equips them with the research and conceptual tools for tackling such problems. Thirdly, it reinforces students' generic knowledge in translation studies and sharpens their generic skills in translation acquired through other courses in the programme, enabling them to command a clearer view of the workings of language in various domains of intellectual endeavours.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Expected learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:

- be able to analyze, describe and explain the lexical, textual, discoursal and stylistic features of a variety of social science texts and the problems they pose for translation;
- demonstrate their ability in translating social science texts of various types;

- demonstrate their analytical ability and critical attitude in tackling the specific problems confronting them in the translation of social science texts;
- have a deepened understanding of the socio-cultural significance of translation activities and translation works in the field of social sciences;
- have acquired the essential research tools and skills for translating social science texts.

Implication for learning activities

Exposure to and familiarization with the variety of social science texts is essential for this course. Students will be encouraged to read extensively and analytically both original and translated works in the social sciences to gain a firm understanding of how language works in the social sciences and of the problems it poses for translation.

Implication for assessment

Short exercises will be designed to help students analyze and tackle specific translation problems. Students will be required to write a short term paper on a specific problem relating to the translation of social science texts to demonstrate their understanding of the nature of the problem and their ability to devise an appropriate strategy for tackling it.

LIST OF TOPICS

1. Introduction to the social sciences as a distinctive discipline and their socio-cultural imports for translation studies
2. Linguistic and discursal features of social science texts
3. Concept-formation in the social sciences: Problems in translating social science terminologies
4. Meaning-making in the social sciences: Problems in translating social science texts
5. Special topics
 - Globalization and translation
 - Language, power and translation
 - Politically correct language and translation
 - Gender, sexuality and translation
 - Family-related language and translation
 - Disability language and translation
 - Ethnicity and translation
 - Translating political texts
 - Translating questionnaires and reports in the social sciences
 - For social surveys
 - For academic research
 - Translating social science texts in the commercial world
 - Translating scholarly texts in the social sciences

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	Others: Please specify
2 hours per week	1 hour per week	Assigned reading: 3 hours per week

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight
Participation in class discussion	10%
Class exercises	20%
Home assignments	50%
Term paper on a specific issue (2000 words)	20%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Readings:

1. Heim, H Michael and Andrzej, W Tymowski. 2006. Guidelines for the translation of social science texts. http://www.acls.org/sstp_guidelines.pdf
2. Price, M Joshua. Translating Social Science. Good versus bad utopianism. Target 20:2 (2008), 348–364.

Recommended Readings:

1. Dye, Thomas R. and Brigid C. Harrison. 2005. *Power and society: an introduction to the social sciences*, 10th ed. Portland: Wadsworth Publishing Co.
2. Strada, Michael J. 2009. *Through the global lens: An introduction to the social sciences*. 3rd ed. New York: VangoBooks.
3. Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1981. Concepts in the Social Sciences: Problems of Translation. In Marilyn Gaddis Rose (ed.). *Translation Spectrum: Essays in Theory and Practice*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 88-98.

Weekly assigned readings will be announced before each class. Other references and articles will be introduced / distributed throughout the course.

Students can also conduct an online search via EBSCOhost, IngentaConnet, and SpringerLink etc. with the library system of CUHK for the electronic journal articles which offer various perspectives on the topics discussed (punching keywords like "translation" and "culture").

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	Introduction to the social sciences as a distinctive discipline and their socio-cultural imports for translation studies	Quiz on general knowledge of the social sciences
2	Linguistic and discursal features of social science texts	Close reading and analysis of short selected texts
3	Concept-formation in the social sciences: Problems in translating social science terminologies	Class discussion: Evaluating existing translations of social science terms
4	Meaning-making in the social sciences: Problems in translating social science texts	Home assignment 1: Translation of a selected text
5	Globalization and translation	Class discussion
6	Politically correct language and translation: Special topic 1	Class discussion and exercise
7	Politically correct language and translation: Special topic 2	Class discussion and exercise
8	Translating political texts	Home assignment 2: Translation of a selected text
9	Translating questionnaires in the social sciences	Class discussion and exercise
10	Translating reports in the social sciences	Class discussion and exercise
11	Translating social science texts in the commercial world	Home assignment 3: Survey on translated best sellers in the social sciences
12	Translating scholarly texts in the social sciences	Class discussion and exercise
13	Overall review of the course	Class discussion

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
Name:	Sin King-kui
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Teaching Venue:	UCC 110
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

(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.