

**THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION**

**2017–18**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>COURSE CODE</b> TRAN6114
<b>ENGLISH TITLE</b> Translation Criticism
<b>CHINESE TITLE</b> 翻譯評論
<b>NUMBER OF UNITS</b> 3
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>  This course aims to facilitate students' systematic exposure to translated materials of various genres and to help them appreciate critically both the merits and the demerits in the translation products concerned. It is hoped that students will finish the course with new insights into different possibilities of treating a variety of texts for translation.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course aims at developing students' abilities to apply translation theories and principles for assessment of translated texts, and subsequently, to make informed decisions in the process of translation. Students will be guided to compare and evaluate different translations of the same text, and to explore the important roles of translation ideology, cultural politics and institutional patronage in shaping the process and product of translation. The coursework will involve 3 short commentaries and one final project of translation criticism.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Expected learning outcomes**

After completing the course, students will be able :

- To identify major translation approaches currently in practice;
- To critically evaluate different solutions to translation problems;
- To assess translations from multiple perspectives that include both linguistic and non-linguistic
- (philosophical, historical, and socio-cultural) considerations

**Implication for learning activities**

The course will consist chiefly of lectures by the instructor and (if student numbers allow) student-led seminars.

Seminars will be based on readings drawn from theoretical writings and representative translations assigned to particular weeks / topics. Students are expected to work in small groups to produce critical commentaries on the translations and their reception in specific cultural contexts.

There will be 3 short commentary exercises and a final Criticism project (about 2500 words).

**Implication for assessment**

Students will be assessed for their performance in three commentary assignments (30%), one Translation-Criticism presentation (15%), and one short final project (45%). Class attendance and participation will also be factored into the final grade (10%).

**LIST OF TOPICS**

1. Approaches of translation criticism
2. The Story of the Stone ( C-E)
  - a. David Hawkes and China
  - b. Translating “ upwards” and “ downwards” – a comparison of DH and the Yangs
  - c. Universalism and translation
3. Alice’s adventures in Wonderland ( E-C)
  - a. Zhao Yuanren and the linguistic experiment
  - b. Translation as representation: Who is Alice?
  - c. Language as a game : Zhao and the Alice translators after him

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>Others:</b> Please specify
<b>Hours per week</b> 2 hrs. 15 mins.	<b>Hours per week</b>	<b>Hours per week</b>

**ASSESSMENT SCHEME**

<b>Task nature</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Commentary assignments	30%
Class participation	10%
Seminar presentations	15%
Final project	45%

## RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

### A. The Story of the Stone

1. David Hawkes (trans.) (1973). *The Story of the Stone*. Penguin. Vol. 1.
2. Yang, Hsien-yi and Gladys Yang (trans.) (1978). *A Dream of Red Mansions*. Peking: Foreign Languages press. Vol. 1.
3. David Hawkes (2000). 《紅樓夢英譯筆記》。香港：嶺南大學出版社。
4. Schonebaum, Andrew and Tina Lu (eds.) (c2012). *Approaches to Teaching The Story of the Stone (Dream of the Red Chamber)*. New York: Modern Language Association of America.
5. Shen Dan (1995). *Literary Stylistics and Fictional Translation*. Beijing: Beijing University Press.
6. 曹雪芹 (1987)。《紅樓夢》。北京：北京師範大學出版社。
7. 朱一玄編 (1986)。《紅樓夢脂評校錄》。濟南：齊魯書社。
8. David Hawkes Archive, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

### B. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

1. Gardner, Martin (ed.) (2000). *The Annotated Alice: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll. New York: Norton.
2. 趙元任譯 (1988)。《阿麗思漫遊奇境記》。北京：商務印書館。
3. 陳複庵譯 (1981)。《阿麗思漫遊奇境記》。北京：中國對外翻譯出版公司。
4. Jon A. Lindseth (ed.) (2015). *Alice in a World of Wonderlands: the Translations of Lewis Carroll's Masterpiece*. New Castle, Delaware: Oak Knoll Press in cooperation with the Lewis Carroll Society of North America.

### C. Translation Criticism

1. Reiss, Katharina (2000). *Translation Criticism, the Potentials and Limitations*. Manchester, England: St. Jerome Publishing.

## 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 : Approaches to Translation Criticism	
2	Zhao's Alice – translation as a linguistic experiment	Reading 1
3	Approaches to translating Alice – Zhao and Chen compared	Commentary exercise 1

4	Language games and Translation	Reading 2
5	Representing Alice in the early Republican period.	Seminar Presentation
6	Summing-up	Seminar Presentation
7	The Story of the Stone : The Translator as Editor ( a)	Reading 3 Seminar Presentation
8	The Story of the Stone : The Translator as Editor ( b)	Seminar Presentation Commentary exercise 2
9	The Story of the Stone : The Translator As Scholar	Reading 4 Seminar Presentation
10	The Story of the Stone : Translator as Cultural Interpreter	Seminar Presentation
11	Translating “upwards” and “downwards” – DH and Yang compared	Reading 5 Seminar Presentation Commentary Exercise 3
12	What is “fidelity”? – assessing DH’s poetic translations	Seminar Presentation
13	DH’s Universalism	Seminar Presentation
14	Review	

*(Tentative)*

### CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Professor/Lecturer/Instructor</b>	
Name:	Prof. Chan Man Sing
Office Location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	mschan@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 a failure grade 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 a failure grade 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.