

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A 2017 / 18

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Translation and Comparative Literature

Course Code: LT5626

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation, literature and culture, is involved.

Medium of Assessment: English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation, literature and culture, is involved.

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) CTL5626 Translation and Comparative Literature

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to enable students, through intensive reading and discussion of representative works of major scholars in translation/cultural studies and comparative literature, to achieve a critical awareness of social, cultural, as well as literary issues crucial to comparative studies through translation as an academic discipline. Instead of technical details, the study will look into some fundamental issues in translation and comparative literature studies, such as translatability, cross-cultural differences and commonalities, language and enunciation, translation and nationalism, Orientalism, translation and modern Chinese language, etc. Creative and original application of concepts learned is a primary goal of the course.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick ✓ where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Devise descriptions of a system of knowledgeable of social and historical issues involved in translation and in a culture's perception of literature and translation;		✓	✓	✓
2.	Identify key cultural issues in regards to translation from both Western and Chinese cultural traditions;		✓	✓	✓
3.	Analyze and understand literary and cultural issues from a translation perspective;		✓	✓	✓
4.	Analyze and understand translation issues from literary and cultural perspectives		✓	✓	✓
5.	Conduct independent research on certain topics in these areas of translation and comparative literature.		✓	✓	✓
6.	Communicate effectively on these topics, both verbally and in writing.		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Readings One paper or chapter per week before each lecture. (The international standard is that undergraduates should read at least 210 pages a week or 30 pages a day – i.e. 2 papers or chapters per day.)	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Lectures Theories, concepts, synthesis of readings, classroom discussions	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3	Tutorial presentations Teamwork and public communication by tutorial groups, preferably each consisting of not more than 3 students	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Research and analysis Discovery and analysis of information, using critical reasoning, from a range of sources, including lectures, discussions, books, articles, television, Internet, documentaries, and the mass media.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Essay-writing Production of a written presentation of information and analysis in a coherent and accessible manner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Blackboard Out-of-class online comments, questions, responses, debates, discussions, reviews of lectures, tutorials and readings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Tutorial presentations: students should base their presentations on the themes / concepts discussed in the course for an analytical critique of them and/or for applying to other situations / texts / cultures for comparison.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	40%	
Essay: students are required to write a paper in English, <u>10 – 15</u> pages double-spaced on any topic(s) covered in the course.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	60%	
Examination: % (duration: , if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Tutorial presentations	Ability to collaborate with team members, present critical ideas clearly and respond intelligently to questions from the floor.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Essay	Ability to apply knowledge learnt and present critical perspective persuasively.	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Major interfaces between translation and literatures in the contexts of historical development of civilizations and cross-cultural interaction, as well as the establishment of national language and cultural identity; works by cultural critics and literary and translation scholars in the late 19th and the 20th centuries.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	André Lefevere, <i>Translating Literature: The German Tradition from Luther to Rosenzweig</i> (Amsterdam: Van Gorcum, 1977)
2.	George Steiner, <i>After the Babel</i> (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1975)
3.	Walter Benjamin, <i>Illuminations</i> , trans. Harry Zohn (New York: Schocken Books, 1969)

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	George Lakoff and Mark Turner, <i>More Than Cool Reason: A Field Guide to Poetic Metaphor</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989)
2.	Zhang Longxi, "Metaphor, Transference, and the Problem of Translatability." (Conference paper)
3.	钱钟书: 《林纾的翻译》(北京: 商务, 1981)