

LT5604: TRANSLATION METHODOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Translation Methodology

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5604

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation and interpretation, bilingual legal drafting, or study of Chinese language, literature and culture, is involved.

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation and interpretation, bilingual legal drafting, or study of Chinese language, literature and culture, is involved.

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5604 Translation Methodology

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details**Abstract**

This course aims to give a first introduction to aspects of translation method (both in translation from Chinese to English and from English to Chinese), so as to equip students with a key understanding of commonly recurring translation problems and the various strategies or conceptual approaches that may be used to deal with them. It has a strongly practical focus.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify key recurrent problems in the translation of Chinese to English and English to Chinese, using an appropriate terminological framework.		x	x	x
2	Apply appropriate strategies for and creative solutions to such problems.		x	x	x
3	Translate accurately and appropriately in a range of fields and text-types.		x	x	x
4	Apply critically their own translation output, using an appropriate conceptual framework.		x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lecture Students will engage in lectures and discussion of key concepts, problems and strategies.	1, 2, 3	

2	2	In-class discussions exercises Students will complete exercises in small groups, or where appropriate, individually. These will focus on identification of problems, translation of selected words, sentence patterns and paragraph-length text-samples. Class discussion of students' choices will follow.	1, 2, 3, 4	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class activities and participation Class translation activities and discussions in class	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

2	Translation assignment Individual assignment. It will involve a translation with critical commentary on translation problems.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
3	Mid-term quiz Students will complete a quiz on English-Chinese and Chinese-English translation	1, 2, 3, 4	20	"_"	No
4	Semester-end quiz Students will complete a quiz on translation from English to Chinese or Chinese to English, plus commentary on translation problems.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	"_"	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class activities and participation

Criterion

Assessing students' general performance through the semester, for instance in practical class translation activities and discussions in class or on Canvas or other eLearning platforms

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Abundant evidence of quality input as observed in in-class and online participation

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant evidence of in-class and online participation

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Some evidence of in-class and online participation

Marginal (D)

Little evidence of in-class and online participation

Failure (F)

Little to no evidence of in-class and online participation

Assessment Task

Translation assignment

Criterion

Identifying recurrent translation problems, formulating appropriate strategies for addressing such problems, generating creative solutions to such problems, translating accurately and appropriately, and reflecting critically on their own translation output, all within an appropriate conceptual framework.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of the course content

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of the course content

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair command of the course content

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of the course content

Failure (F)

Inadequate command of the course content

Assessment Task

Mid-term quiz

Criterion

Translating accurately and appropriately

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent translation skills and language ability

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good translation skills and language ability

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair translation skills and language ability

Marginal (D)

Marginal translation skills and language ability

Failure (F)

Poor translation skills and language ability

Assessment Task

Semester-end quiz

Criterion

Identifying recurrent translation problems, formulating appropriate strategies for addressing such problems, generating creative solutions to such problems, translating accurately and appropriately, and reflecting critically on their own translation output, all within an appropriate conceptual framework.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Demonstration of excellent command of subject matter related to literary translation; Excellent analytical, problem-solving abilities and creativity; Excellent analysis and translation of source texts provided

Good (B+, B, B-)

Demonstration of good command of subject matter related to literary translation; Good analytical, problem-solving abilities and creativity; Good analysis and translation of source texts provided

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Demonstration of adequate command of subject matter related to literary translation; Adequate analytical, problem-solving abilities and creativity; Adequate analysis and translation of source texts provided

Marginal (D)

Demonstration of marginal command of subject matter related to literary translation; Marginal analytical, problem-solving abilities and creativity; Marginal analysis and translation of source texts

Failure (F)

Failure to meet most or all the criterion

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Ways of approaching translation; Source and Target text; cultural problems in translation; translation strategies, calque, neologism, domestication, foreignization, etc.; paratextual devices; lexical gaps; contrastive sentence patterns in Chinese and English; syntactic structures in translation; genre and text-typological issues.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Baker, Mona, In Other Words: a Coursebook on Translation London: Routledge, 1992.
2	Chen, Qiujin Baldauf, Richard & Etheridge David (2005). Theory and practice of translation between English and Chinese. Wuhan University Press.
3	Hatim Basil Communication Across Cultures: Translation Theory and Contrastive Text Linguistics Exeter: Exeter University Press, 1997.
4	Hatim Basil, and Jeremy Munday, Translation: An Advanced Resource Book London and New York: Routledge 2004.

5	Hua , Xianfa & Shao, Yi (2004). A New Coursebook on English-Chinese Translation. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
6	House, Juliane. Translation. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2018.
7	Newmark, Peter, A Textbook of Translation New York: Prentice-Hall, 1988.
8	Newmark Peter Approaches to Translation Prentice Hall, 1988.