

LT5606: TRANSLATING CULTURES

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Translating Cultures

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5606

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

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5606 Culture in Translation

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to enhance students' awareness of the differences as well as affinities among different cultures in translation works, especially the Chinese and Western cultural traditions. It develops "cultural literacy" in different cultural contexts

and prepares students to handle complex concepts as they occur in various social and cultural conditions and their working environments, thus promoting learners' creative thinking in confronting cultural issues in translation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Engage students to objectively account for main issues related to cultural differences in translation		x	x	
2	Engage students to logically analyze cultural differences and similarities in translation works by making use of effective translation approaches and methods		x	x	x
3	Engage students to apply cultural knowledge and analytical power to translation practice by applying systematic, cross-cultural communication theories		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	Lecture	Students will learn the approaches and concepts relating to the study of culture and translation.	1, 2, 3	
2	In-class discussion and exercises	Students will participate actively in in-class discussion and small-scale exercises	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Group Project	1, 2, 3	30	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. 2. 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. 3. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
2	Group Paper	1, 2, 3	20	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, and solve problems. 2. 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. 3. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
3	Class participation & discussion	2, 3	10	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, and solve problems.	Yes

4	In-class Test	1, 2, 3	40	This is a summative assessment. Use of GenAI is not allowed.	No
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs

In-class Test: 2 translation tasks (1 Chinese-to-English and 1 English-to-Chinese) to attempt to assess students' translating competence, and to test their understanding and application of cultural and cross-cultural theories, concepts, principles and skills in a cross-cultural translation setting.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Group Project & Group Paper

Criterion

1.1 CAPACITY for SELF-DIRECTED and ACTIVE LEARNING in culture-related issues in cross-cultural studies and translation studies

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent in topic selection, problem-solving and teamwork

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good in topic selection, problem-solving and teamwork

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Average in topic selection, problem-solving and teamwork

Marginal

(D) Below average in topic selection, problem-solving and teamwork

Failure

(F) Poor in topic selection, problem-solving and teamwork

Criterion

1.2 ABILITY to find a research question, highlight the key issue(s) of cross-cultural exchanges as reflected clearly from the translated text, and propose a solution or remedy

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent in research skills

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good in research skills

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Below average in research skills

Marginal

(D) Average in research skills

Failure

(F) Poor in research skills

Criterion

1.3 ABILITY to utilize primary and secondary sources related to the original text, the translation, the oral presentation, and the group paper writing

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent in literature review

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good in literature review

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Below average in literature review

Marginal

(D) Average in literature review

Failure

(F) Poor in literature review

Criterion

1.4 COMMAND of academic English

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent command of English and coherent in writing

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good in English and writing

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Below average in English and writing

Marginal

(D) Average in English and writing

Failure

(F) Poor in English and writing

Assessment Task

2. Class participation & discussion

Criterion

Class participation & discussion

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Engage in class discussion enthusiastically

Good

(B+, B, B-) Enthusiastic participation in class discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Participation in class discussion

Marginal

(D) Inadequate participation in class discussion

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level of participation

Assessment Task

3. In-class Test

Criterion

ABILITY to apply critically and effectively translation theories, principles and techniques for the tasks in an intercultural translation setting

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent command of the subject matter, as reflected from applying a most appropriate translation approach and best translation strategies and skills/methods in producing translations

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good command of the subject matter, as reflected from applying an appropriate translation approach and suitable translation strategies and skills/methods in producing translations

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate mediocre command of the subject matter, as reflected from applying an ambiguous translation approach and ordinary translation strategies and skills/methods in producing translations

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate marginal command of the subject matter, as reflected from applying unskilful translation strategies and skills/methods in producing translations

Failure

(F) Demonstrate poor command of the subject matter, as reflected from poorly applying useful translation strategies and skills/methods in producing translations

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Cultures East and West; cross-cultural understanding; cultural stereotypes and cultural dichotomies; globalization and modernity; image of China in the West; language and translation as cultural interactions; cultural turn in translation studies; cultural studies; cultural translation; culture-specific items.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Liang, Tao (Anthea Cheung, tr.) (2025). <i>Bad Nature, Good Mind-Heart: Correcting Misconceptions about Human Nature in the Xunzi</i> . Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11712-025-10015-w

2	Pellatt, V., Liu, T., Chen, Y.Y. Translating Chinese Culture: The Process of Chinese–English Translation. Oxon/ New York: Routledge, 2014.
3	Said, E. (1995). Orientalism. London: Penguin Books, pp.1-28.
4	香港中文大學哲學系現象學與當代哲學資料中心 (2008). 現象學漢語詞體問題(專輯). 現象學與當代哲學, 第2期, 頁1-168.
5	劉國忠 (2019). 《走近清華簡》(增補版) 北京: 清華大學出版社。

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Chan, L. T. (Ed.). (2003). One into Many: Translation and the Dissemination of Classical Chinese Literature. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi.
2	Bellos, David (2012) Is That a Fish in Your Ear?: Translation and the Meaning of Everything. New York: Faber & Faber
3	Deutscher, Guy (2011) Through the Language Glass: Why the World Looks Different in Other Languages. London : Arrow.
4	Fox, Kate. (2004) Watching the English : The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour. London: Hodder and Stoughton.
5	Katan, D. (1999/2004). Translating Cultures. An Introduction for Translators, Interpreters and Mediators. Manchester: St.Jerome/ Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
6	Lu, F. (2009). Translation, manipulation and the transfer of negative cultural images: A. C. Safford' s typical women of China. The Translator, 15(2), 327-349.
7	ØVERÅS, L. (1998). In search of the third code: An investigation of norms in literary translation. Meta, 43(4), 557-570.
8	Rüdiger, P., & Gross, K. (2009). Translation of Cultures. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi.
9	#erban, A. (2004). Presuppositions in literary translation: A Corpus-based approach. Meta, 49(2), 327–342.
10	Sturge, K. (2009). Cultural translation. In M. Baker, & G. Saldanha (Eds.), Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies (2nd ed) (pp.67-70). London/New York: Routledge.
11	Lloyd, G.E.R. (2004). Ancient Worlds, Modern Reflections: Philosophical Perspectives on Greek and Chinese Science and Culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).
12	Wang, B. (2006). Translation as Hermeneutics. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
13	Wang, N. (2006). 文化翻譯與經典闡釋 [Wenhua fanyi yu jingdian chanshi]. Beijing : Zhonghua Book Company.
14	Wang, N. (2009). 翻譯研究的文化轉向 [Fanyi yanjiu de wenhua zhuanxiang]. Beijing: Qinghua University Press.
15	Online journals: Perspectives: Studies in Translatology, Babel, Meta, The Translator, Target, Translation Today, Journal of Translation Studies, Translation Quarterly, Studies of Translation and Interpretation, International Journal of Translation, Interpretation, and Applied Linguistics, The Journal of Specialised Translation: JoSTrans, The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research, Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History, International Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Translation. A Transdisciplinary Journal, Translation and Interpreting Studies: TIS, Computers and Translation, Machine Translation, 中國翻譯, 翻譯學研究集刊.