

LT5621: LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Language and Literature in Translation

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5621

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 supplemented with Chinese (Cantonese/ Putonghua)

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English supplemented with Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5621 Language and Literature in Translation

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details**Abstract**

This course aims to enhance the students' command of English in both understanding and in writing scholarly essays. By reading and analyzing a number of exemplary texts in different literary genres, this course helps students to appreciate the language, the organization, and the style of these exemplary texts, to discover the ways in which effective expression and communication can be achieved, and to have a higher level of understanding by analysis and imitation. Upon completion of this course, the students will (1) gain a conceptual overview of complex texts of various kinds; (2) understand and appreciate the sophistication of texts beyond the level of the common daily language; (3) have a good sense of academic writing; and (4) will effectively and creatively write the kind of scholarly essay when they need to write and express themselves in a sophisticated manner.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Analyse the English language used in scholarly writing and in literary expression		x	x	x
2	Evaluate and compare the style and effective ways of expression as represented by exemplary texts in literature and translation		x	x	x
3	Analyze the meaning and style of important literary texts and develop a good vocabulary and idiomatic usage		x	x	x
4	Organize ideas creatively into a coherent argument for a scholarly essay		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 understand clearly the English language used in scholarly writing and in literary expression and will engage in small-scale creative translating during class.	1, 2	3 hours

2	Reading	Readings and/or exercises on different genres of writing will be provided before class. Students will ponder over their unique styles, features, and wordings, and develop writing/translating strategies for each type.	2, 3	
3	Group discussion	Students will engage in class discussion enthusiastically to distinguish and address the difficulties in scholarly writing and literary writing reflected from translation works.	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Group and individual assignment	Students will work alone or in a group to produce creative pieces of scholarly translation.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class work and participation: Students will participate actively in class work and discussion, to demonstrate their understanding of different literary genres both in English and Chinese and their ability in translating literary and scholarly works.	1, 2, 3	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	Group Project: Readings on major genres and their features of classical Chinese literature will be provided. Students will engage in discovering, in small groups, remarkable similarities and dissimilarities between their English counterparts.	1, 2, 3	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
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Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Exam: 2 pieces of translation (Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese) to attempt, and discussion on translation problems/difficulties. (CILO No. 2-4)

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class work and participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Attending class regularly and engage in class discussion enthusiastically

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High attendance and enthusiastic participation in class discussion

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant attendance and active participation in class discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Fair attendance and occasionally active participation in class discussion

Marginal

(D) Basic attendance and inadequate participation in class discussion

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level of participation

Assessment Task

Group Project (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to identify the remarkable similarities and dissimilarities between classical Chinese literature and high literature in English in terms of major genres and their respective features

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Marginal

(D) Marginally acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Failure

(F) Poor presentation skills showing an inadequate understanding of the concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Assessment Task

Examination (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to master skills and techniques to translate different types of scholarly texts; demonstrate subject matter knowledge

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Highly readable and accurate translation; demonstrate excellent command of subject matter

Good

(B+, B, B-) Largely readable and accurate translation; demonstrate good command of subject matter

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Clumsy and/ or occasional inaccuracies; demonstrate fair command of subject matter

Marginal

(D) Clumsy and plenty of mistranslations; demonstrate marginal command of subject matter

Failure

(F) Unreadable and inaccurate translation; demonstrate poor command of subject matter

Assessment Task

Class work and participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Attending class regularly and engage in class discussion enthusiastically

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High attendance and enthusiastic participation in class discussion

Good

(B+, B) Significant attendance and active participation in class discussion

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic attendance and inadequate participation in class discussion

Failure

(F) Not reaching marginal level of participation

Assessment Task

Group Project (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to identify the remarkable similarities and dissimilarities between classical Chinese literature and high literature in English in terms of major genres and their respective features

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Good

(B+, B) Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginally acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Failure

(F) Poor presentation skills showing an inadequate understanding of the concepts and features of high literature in the two systems

Assessment Task

Examination (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to master skills and techniques to translate different types of scholarly texts; demonstrate subject matter knowledge

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Highly readable and accurate translation; demonstrate excellent command of subject matter

Good

(B+, B) Largely readable and accurate translation; demonstrate good command of subject matter

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Clumsy and plenty of mistranslations; demonstrate marginal command of subject matter

Failure

(F) Unreadable and inaccurate translation; demonstrate poor command of subject matter

Additional Information for AR

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.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Linguistic competence and literary competence; exemplariness of good English writing; effective expression; style of writing; creativity, appreciation and analysis of literary texts; literary language and non-literary language; approaches to critical appreciation of literature; Chinese-English parallel texts.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Denecke Wiebke Li Wai-yee and Tian Xiaofei eds. (2017) The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE – 900 CE). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2	Course outline/short readings/class exercises uploaded to Canvas before class, and handouts after class.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Culler, Jonathan (1997). Literary Theory : A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2	Eagleton, Terry (2008). Literary Theory: An Introduction. Malden/Oxford/Victoria: Blackwell Publishing.
3	France, Peter ed. (2000). The Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4	Jin Di (2003). Literary Translation: Quest for Artistic Integrity. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.
5	Lau, Joseph S.M. and Howard Goldblatt eds. (2007). The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature. New York: Columbia University Press.
6	Weinberger, Eliot and Octavio Paz (1987). Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei. London: Moyer Bell.
7	Resources
8	Renditions: A Chinese-English Translation Magazine. Hong Kong: Research Centre for Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong. http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/rct/renditions/index.html
9	The Taipei Chinese PEN: A Quarterly Journal of Contemporary Chinese Literature from Taiwan. Taipei: Chinese P.E.N. Center. http://www.taipen.org/
10	MCLC, Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (http://mclc.osu.edu/), is a resource center that contains publications and bibliographies of mostly English-language materials on modern Chinese literature, film, art, culture and translation and is maintained in conjunction with the journal Modern Chinese Literature and Culture.

11	Our e-sources: Online journals: The English World, Babel, Meta, The Translator, Target, Journal of Translation Studies, Translation Quarterly, Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History, International Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Translation. A Transdisciplinary Journal, Translation and Interpreting Studies : TIS, 中國翻譯, 翻譯學研究集刊.
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