

LT5626: TRANSLATION AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Translation and Comparative Literature

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5626

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, 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, literature and culture, is involved.

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5626 Translation and Comparative Literature

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details**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.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-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;		x	x	x
2	Identify key cultural issues in regards to translation from both Western and Chinese cultural traditions;		x	x	x
3	Analyze and understand literary and cultural issues from a translation perspective;		x	x	x
4	Analyze and understand translation issues from literary and cultural perspectives;		x	x	x
5	Conduct independent research on certain topics in these areas of translation and comparative literature;		x	x	x
6	Communicate effectively on these topics, both verbally and in writing.		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	Readings One or two essays or book chapters per week before each lecture.	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	2	Lectures Theories, concepts, synthesis of readings, classroom discussions	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	3	Tutorial presentations Teamwork and public communication by tutorial groups, preferably each consisting of 3 to 4 students.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
4	4	Translation exercises with Commentary Productions that show linguistic command and critical awareness	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
5	5	Essay-writing Production of a written presentation of information and analysis in a coherent and accessible manner	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Tutorial presentations (Group work): One oral presentation on translation and one on comparative literature. Students are expected to show linguistic sensitivity, critical awareness, and grasp of concepts.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	20	Graded as a group
2	Translation exercises (individual work): Students are required to hand in one translation from English to Chinese, and one from Chinese to English, with a commentary of about 300 words for each piece.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	30	Graded individually

3	Term Essays: Students are required to write an 8-page (double-spaced) term paper in English, on any topic(s) covered in the course.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	50	
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Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Ability to present ideas clearly and answer questions intelligently

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Eloquent presentation leading to spirited floor discussion

Good

(B+, B, B-) Clear presentation leading to some floor discussion

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Presentation not easy to follow and not followed by any discussion

Marginal

(D) Presentation extremely hard to follow and not followed by any discussion

Failure

(F) Presentation not making any sense and not followed by any discussion

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

a. Ability to produce fluent and accurate translation b. Critical awareness of issues regarding translation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Translation is nuanced and theoretically informed

Good

(B+, B, B-) Translation is accurate but not quite informed by theory

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Translation is not quite accurate and not informed at all by any theory

Marginal

(D) Translation is inaccurate and not informed by any theory

Failure

(F) Translation is inaccurate, unreadable and completely arbitrary

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Grasp of important issues of the topics covered in the course

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Full grasp of important issues and evidence of original insights

Good

(B+, B, B-) Adequate grasp of important issues and evidence of some insights

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Inadequate grasp of important issues and no evidence of any insights

Marginal

(D) Nearly non-existent understanding of important issues and no evidence of any insight

Failure

(F) No understanding of important issues and no evidence of any insights

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to present ideas clearly and answer questions intelligently

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Eloquent presentation leading to spirited floor discussion

Good

(B+, B) Clear presentation leading to some floor discussion

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Presentation not easy to follow and not followed by any discussion

Failure

(F) Presentation not making any sense and not followed by any discussion

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

a. Ability to produce fluent and accurate translation b. Critical awareness of issues regarding translation

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Translation is nuanced and theoretically informed

Good

(B+, B) Translation is accurate but not quite informed by theory

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Translation is not quite accurate and not informed at all by any theory

Failure

(F) Translation is inaccurate, unreadable and completely arbitrary

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Grasp of important issues of the topics covered in the course

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Full grasp of important issues and evidence of original insights

Good

(B+, B) Adequate grasp of important issues and evidence of some insights

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Inadequate grasp of important issues and no evidence of any insights

Failure

(F) No understanding of important issues and no evidence of any insights

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

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.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Selections from literary works (prose, poetry, and drama); samples of translations and their criticism
2	Selected essays or book chapters on translation and comparative literature by Apter, Auden, Dominguez, Lefevere, Ouyang, Rorty, Zhang, etc.
3	張隆溪，著。《比較文學研究入門》。復旦大學出版社：上海，2008。

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bellos, David. <i>Is That a Fish in Your Ear?—Translation and the Meaning of Everything</i> . New York: Faber and Faber, 2011.
2	Wong, Laurence K. P., and Chan Sin-wai eds. <i>The Dancer and the Dance: Essays in Translation Studies</i> . Cambridge Scholars Publishing: New Castle upon Tyne, UK, 2013.
3	陳德鴻、張南峰，編。《西方翻譯理論精選》。香港城市大學出版社：香港，2000。
4	彭鏡禧，主編。《文學翻譯自由談》。書林：臺北，2016。