

LT4362: SPECIALIZED TRANSLATION IN LAW

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Specialized Translation in Law

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

4362

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English and Chinese

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English and Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

LT3349 Legal Translation

Equivalent Courses

CTL4362 Specialized Translation in Law

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course further develops students' ability to translate more difficult texts for legal purposes by (1) sensitizing them to the subtle linguistic, cultural and legal issues involved; (2) stimulating them to explore for solutions to the multi-faceted problems confronting them; and (3) developing professionalism in performing a variety of tasks in legal settings.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe the work environment of legal translators in Hong Kong.		x		
2 Demonstrate a working knowledge of the legal system in Hong Kong.		x		
3 Translate with an in-depth knowledge of the requirements of translation in the world of legal writing.		x	x	
4 Translate with a better understanding of the principles and techniques of translating documents used in law and the administration of justice.		x	x	
5 Produce professionally acceptable translation of various types of legal documents.		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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures: - Transformation from a unilingual to a bilingual legal system - Evolution of legal language in Hong Kong - Language problems confronting Hong Kong's legal profession - Different types of translation problem - Problems arising from the syntactic, stylistic, and discourse of legal English and legal Chinese - Bridging conceptual gaps; semantic reference scheme and equivalence in legal meaning - Translating legal terminology - Lexical analysis, componential analysis, terminological principles - Coode's analysis of legislative texts, structural analysis, restructuring	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	In-class activities: - Open class discussion - Small group discussion	1, 2, 3, 4	
3	Translating legislation, judgments, private legal documents, witness statements	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
Class participation / in-class exercises: Students' general performance throughout the semester, including in-class vocab exercises, practical translation exercises, and discussions	1, 2	10	
Class Assignments: Translation of selected legal texts related to topics covered in lectures	3, 4, 5	40	

3	Research paper: Students are asked to conduct research on a legal topic or visit the court and write a court visit report on court proceedings and translators at work	3, 4, 5	20	
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Continuous Assessment (%)

70

Examination (%)

30

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Class Participation

Criterion

Attendance and participation in group discussion

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-)

Moderate attendance and some participation in class discussion

Marginal (D)

Basic attendance and inadequate participation in class discussion

Failure (F)

Not reaching marginal level of participation

Assessment Task

2. Written Assignments and Examination

Criterion

Ability to apply and master skills and techniques to translating different legal texts

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of legal concepts and demonstrate excellent translation skills

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of legal concepts and demonstrate good translation skills

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command of legal concepts and demonstrate adequate translation skills

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of legal concepts and translate with limited accuracy and fidelity

Failure (F)

Failure to meet most or all the criterion

Assessment Task

3. Research paper

Criterion

A research assignment for students to understand how our legal system works.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent research and rich content with coherent writing

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good research and fair content with coherent writing

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate research and content with incoherent writing

Marginal (D)

Marginally adequate research and content with incoherent writing

Failure (F)

Inadequate research and content with incoherent writing

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Legal translation in Hong Kong: work environment and bilingual legal system; translation problems arising from legal language; principles and methods of legal translation; practice in legal translation

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Sarcevic, S. (1997) <i>New Approaches to Legal Translation</i> . The Hague: Kluwer Law.
2	陳可欣著 (2014) 《法律翻譯系列：兩岸三地合約法主要詞彙》 (Legal Translation Series: Key Terms in Contract Law of Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan) 香港：香港城市大學出版社。
3	陳可欣著 (2015) 《法律翻譯系列：兩岸三地侵權法主要詞彙》 (Legal Translation Series: Key Terms in Tort Law of Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan) 香港：香港城市大學出版社。
4	李克興著 (2013) 《高級法律翻譯與寫作》。北京：北京大學耶版社。
5	李克興著 (2011) 《英漢法律翻譯案例講評》。北京：外文出版社。
6	陸文慧著 (1991) 「基本法的英譯問題」，載於劉靖之編《翻譯新論集》。香港：商務印書館，頁319 – 334。
7	陸文慧編 (2002) 《法律翻譯：從實踐出發》。香港：中華書局。
8	孫萬彪著 (2003) 《英漢法律翻譯教程》。上海：上海外語教育。
9	王道庚著 (2006) 《法律翻譯：理論與實踐》。香港：香港城市大學出版社。

Additional Readings

	Title
1	陳弘毅等合編 (1999) 《香港法概論》。香港：三聯。
2	何美歡 (1999) 《香港合同法》。香港：中文大學出版社。
3	李昌道、龔曉航 (1990) 《30常用香港法例新解》。香港：三聯書店。
4	李啟恩主編 (1991) 《香港法教程》。韶關：中山大學出版社。
5	李澤沛主編 (1987) 《香港法律概述》。北京：法律出版社。
6	李宗鏗著 (1986) 《香港合約法與公司法》。香港：商務印書館。
7	李宗鏗著 (1988) 《香港房地產法》。香港：商務印書館。
8	李宗鏗著 (1991) 《香港日用法律大全》。香港：商務印書館。
9	呂光、楊楨著 (1984) 《英美契約法概論》。台北：天工書局。
10	余振龍主編 (1989 - 1991) 《香港法例中譯參考》。上海：上海翻譯出版公司。
11	張學仁主編 (1992) 《香港法概論》。武漢：武漢大學出版社。
12	Wesley-Smith, Peter. (1998) An Introduction to the Hong Kong Legal System. 3rd ed. Hong Kong: oxford University Press. A brief and clear introduction to the legal system and constitutional framework of Hong Kong.
13	Nida, Eugene A. (1971) "Semantic components in translation theory." In G. E. Perren and J. L. M. Trun (Eds.), Applications of Linguistics: Selected Papers of the Second International Congress of Applied Linguistics. Cambridge: CUP. 341 - 348.
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16	https://www.hklii.hk/chi/
17	http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/eres/database/info/chinalawinfo.htm
18	http://en.pkulaw.cn/
19	http://www.lexisnexis.com