

**University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
School of Humanities
Graduate Program in Translation**

A) Course Title

Semiotics

B) Course Code

TRAD 6455

C) Number of Credits

03 Credits

D) Prerequisites, co-requisites and other requirements

Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Translation

E) Course Description

This course is aimed at providing the students with an understanding of semiotics and its application to translation. Among other things, the course will introduce students to the concept of intersemiotic translation proposed by Roman Jakobson, which encourages freedom beyond paraphrase, reconceptualizing to different media, educational level, time period, genre, and culture. Further development of semiotic studies in phonology, morphology, syntax, advertisement, literary works and social life will also be discussed. Readings and discussions will center on various major semiotic theories, such as those presented by Saussure, Barthes, Peirce, Eco, and Kristeva. Students will report on specific applications of semiotics to translation and ultimately write individual papers consisting of their own intersemiotic translation or an evaluation of an already-extant intersemiotic translation.

F) Objectives

Students completing this course will

1. Recognize and apply terminology used in semiotics.
2. Acquire a general historical overview of semiotics.
3. Confront and analyze differing opinions in semiotics.

4. Make practical application of semiotic theory to translation.
5. Analyze the inherent difficulties in translating texts based on semiotic theory.
6. Formulate opinions based on readings in semiotic theory.
7. Conduct effective translation-related research on the Internet.
8. Apply critical thinking skills to translation based on semiotic theory.
9. Produce a revised, polished research paper on translation and semiotics using a range of reference, research and assessment tools.
10. Develop ethical values and comporment that are appropriate to the translation and language-processing field.

G) Course Summary and Distribution of Class Hours

Topic	Class Hours
Justification of semiotics’ relevance to translation – Jakobson and intralingual, interlingual and intersemiotic translation	3 hours
Barthes’ summary of Saussure’s <i>Cours de linguistique générale</i>	12 hours
Sebeok’s interpretation of Peirce	6 hours
Eco’s synthesis: Semiotics as lying / Definition of semiotics / Theory of Codes	6 hours
Kristeva’s semiotics as seduction	3 hours
Papers – Application of semiotics to translation	6 hours
Oral presentation of student projects	9 hours
Total	45 hours
(45 credits per semester)	

H) Instruction Techniques

Students will analyze and discuss a range of texts based on the designated thematic modules. Semiotic concepts such as *langue / parole*, “signifier / signified,” “syntagm / system,” “denotation / connotation,” structural analysis, Structuralism, Post-structuralism and Deconstruction, and semantic systems will be discussed. Notions of interlingual, intralingual, and intersemiotic translation will also be discussed in direct application to the discipline and practice of translation.

Students will receive guidance in the applicable use of research tools, including specialized dictionaries, style guides, glossaries, related texts and documents, as well as online sources. Specific websites will also be consulted, and library orientation will be provided.

I) Educational Resources

Students will have access to appropriate library materials online, paid by the University of Puerto Rico.

J) Course Calendar

TRAD 6455-001”Semiotics.”Spring 2021; Dr. M. Charlotte Ward. Mon.9-11:50AM

January 18: Introduction to syllabus and course exoectatiuons, Jakobson essay assigned

January 25: 1st essay of 500 words defining term “semiotics” assigned

February 1: Read Barthes I.“Language and Speech,” II.”Signifier and Signified.”

February 8: Read Barthes III.”Syntagm and System,” IV.”Denotation and Connotation.”

February 15: Open-book test on Barthes. Begin Sebeok.

February 22: Continue Sebeok, modifying de Saussure’s bipart model with tripart Peirce.

March 1: Test on Sebeok. Begin Eco.

March 8: Read Eco,” Introduction.”

March 15: Read Eco, 1.”Signification and Communication,” 2.”Theory of Codes,” 3.”Theory of Sign Production,” 4.”The Subject of Semiotics.”

March 22: Read Kristeva’s essays “Giotto’s Joy,””Moyherhood according to Bellini.” Test on Eco and Kristeva

March 29: Individual critiques of articles applying semiotics to translation by 4 students

April 5: Individual critiques of articles applying semiotics to translation by 4 students

April 12: Circulation of 1st drafts of term papers, “Team” discussion by sudents 1, 2, 3

April 19: Circulation of drafts of term papers by students 4, 5, 6 and “Team” discussion

April 26: Circulation of drafts of term papers by students 7 and 8 and “Team” discussion

May 3: Final instructions for corrected term papers

May 10: Final papers due, minimum 2500 words, analyzing a semiotic translation of your choice, with at least 10 relevant items in the bibliography not covered in class

Texts: Roman Jakobson, “On Linguistic Aspects of Translation,” *On Translation*, ed. Reuben Brower {Harvard UP, 1959}; Roland Barthes, *Elements of Semiology*, trans. Anette Lavers and Colin Smith (1964; Jonathan Cape, 1967); Thomas Sebeok, *Signs: An Introduction to Semiotics* (Toronto UP, 2001); Umberto Eco, *A Theory of Semiotics* (Indiana UP, 1979); Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art* , ed. Leon S. Roudiez, trans. Thomas

Gora, Alice Jardine, Roudiez (Columbia UP, 1980) articles “Giuoto’s Joy,” “Motherhood according to Bellini.”

TRAD 6455-201”Semiotics”Spring 2021; Dr. M. Charlotte Ward. Wed.5:30-8:20PM

- January 20: Introduction to syllabus and course expectations, Jakoson essay assigned
- January 27: 1st essay of 500 words definng term “semiotics” assigned
- February 3: Read Barthes I”Language and Speech,”II.”Signifier and Signified.”
- February 10: Read Barthes III.”Syntagm and System,”IV.”Denotation and Connotation.”
- February 17: Open-book test on Barthes. Begin Sebeok.
- February 24: Continue Sebeok, modifying de Saussure’s bipart model with tripart Peirce
- March 3: Test on Sebeok. Begin Eco.
- March 10: Read Eco, “Introduction.”
- March 17: Read Eco, 1.”Signification and Communication,” 2.”Theory of Codes,” 3.”Theory of Sign Production,” 4.”The Subject of Semiotics.”
- March 24: Read Kristeva’s essays “Giotto’s Joy,” “Motherhood according to Bellini.” Test on Eco and Kristeva
- March 31: Individual critiques of articles applying semiotics to translation by students
- April 7: NO CLASS. Easter Recess
- April 14: Circulation of 1st drafts of term papers, “Team” discussion by students 1, 2, 3, 4
- April 21: Circulation of drafts of term papers by students 5, 6, 7, 8 and “Team” discussion
- April 28: Circulation of draft of term paper by student 9 and “Team” discussion, final instructions
- May 5: Final term papers due minimum 2500 words, analyzing a semiotic translation of your choice, with at least 10 relevant items in the bibliography not covered in class

K) Evaluation

Quizzes	40 %
Critques.....	10 %
Final term paper	50 %
Total	100 %

(Evaluation will take into consideration the particularities of students with special needs.)

L) Reasonable Accommodation

Students receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that reasonable accommodation and any necessary equipment can be provided, in keeping with the recommendations of the Coordinating Office for People with Disabilities (Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos -- OAPI) under the Office

of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students with special needs must also inform the instructor of any accommodation-related needs.

M) Academic Integrity

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR General Student Bylaws (Certification No. 13, 2009-2010, of the UPR Board of Trustees) establishes that “academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: fraudulent actions, obtaining grades or academic degrees using false or fraudulent pretexts, entirely or partially copying academic work from another person, entirely or partially plagiarizing the work of another person, entirely or partially copying responses from another person to examination questions, having another person take any test, oral or written examination on the student’s behalf, as well as assisting or facilitating any person to incur in the aforementioned conduct.” Fraudulent conduct refers to “behavior with the intent to defraud, including, but not limited to, malicious alteration or falsification of grades, records, identification cards or other official documents of the University of Puerto Rico or any other institution.” Any of these actions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the respective disciplinary procedure, as stated in the current UPR Student Bylaws.

N) Grading Scale

Quantifiable (A, B, C, D, F).

O) Bibliography

Semiotics and Translation

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- _____. "Tracing the Traceless Antelope: Toward an Interartistic Semiotics of the Chinese Sister Arts." *College Literature* 23 (February 1996): 36-66.
- Pounds, Michael C., and Peter H. Salus. "Specular Information." *Semiotics 1984*. Ed. John Deely. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1985, Semiotic Society of America, October 11-14, 1984.
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Web Resources

[www.academia.edu/15450360/TRADADO DE SEMIOTICA GENERAL](http://www.academia.edu/15450360/TRADADO_DE_SEMIOTICA_GENERAL)

[free pdf, Spanish translation of Eco's *A Theory of Semiotics*]

[www.academia.edu/1320236/KRISTEVA S DESIRE IN LANGUAGE](http://www.academia.edu/1320236/KRISTEVA_S_DESIRE_IN_LANGUAGE)

[free pdf, includes articles "Giotto's Joy" and "Motherhood according to Bellini"]

[www.academia.edu/Roman Jokobsons Functions of Language](http://www.academia.edu/Roman_Jokobsons_Functions_of_Language)

[free pdf], sic spelling]

[monoskop.org/images/0/07/Sebeok Thomas Signs An Introduction](https://monoskop.org/images/0/07/Sebeok_Thomas_Signs_An_Introduction)

[full text]

[monoskop.org/images/2/2c/Barthes Roland Elements of Semiology](https://monoskop.org/images/2/2c/Barthes_Roland_Elements_of_Semiology)

[full text, English translation of French *Elements de Semiotique*]

P) Institutional Policies

- [Guía para la creación uniforme y registro de cursos en la UPR \(Cert. 33, 2020-2021, JG que enmienda la Cert. 42 2019-2020 JG\)](#)
- [Ley 51 y Prontuarios \(Circ 09 2002 2003 DAA\)](#)
- [Incorporación de Bibliografías e Incorporación de Referencias Electrónicas en Prontuarios \(Circ 10 2005 2006 DAA\)](#)
- [Circular 5 \(2017-2018\) Programación de la Oferta Académica y Matrícula Mínima en Secciones](#)
- [Cert. Núm. 39 2018-2019 del Senado Académico](#) Normativa sobre discrimen por sexo y género en modalidad de violencia sexual en los prontuarios/sílabos de los cursos del Recinto de Río Piedras.