

TRAD 6955 - 202
Seminar
Fundamentals and Methods: Translation of Academic Texts

January - May 2024
Monday 5:30 – 8:20 PM

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Course Description

This advanced seminar will offer experience in translating academic and scholarly texts from a variety of fields in the social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences. The specific texts dealt with will range from journal articles and essays, book excerpts, conference papers, blogs, opinion pieces, and other specialized texts. Parallel texts will be examined for all documents discussed in class, and issues relating to terminology and the application of information and translation technologies will also be explored. The overall objective is to develop research, writing, editing and translation skills in this area of specialization, with special attention given to academic style, research and documentation. Translation theory will also be discussed.

Modality

This course will be offered online on the dates established for the course by the Registrar. Synchronous sessions will be held on the dates provided in the class schedule following the dates established for the course by the Registrar.

Objectives

Students completing this course should be able to:

- A. (Cognitive outcomes)
 - 1. Identify the specific translation problems related to the fields of translation of academic texts.
 - 2. Identify syntactic and stylistic structures particular to academic texts.
 - 3. Identify and apply specialized terminology related to the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
 - 4. Identify various research tools, databases, and portals appropriate to the various fields discussed.
- B. (Performance outcomes)
 - 1. Analyze source texts in order to develop the necessary skills to produce professional translations in a range of subjects and styles specifically related to academic texts.
 - 2. Analyze the inherent difficulties in translating from Spanish to English based on the syntactic, stylistic, and morphological differences between the two languages, as well as cultural differences between source and target languages.
 - 3. Produce professional translations, using a variety of reference, research, and assessment tools, as well as translation technologies.
 - 4. Conduct effective translation-related online research.
 - 5. Create professional glossaries, geared toward specific applications or context-related translation work.
- C. (Affective outcomes)
 - 1. Adjust to the rapidly changing environment that currently defines the translation, editing, and language-processing field, by understanding the requirements inherent to specific specializations.
 - 2. Respond to the prevalent trends in the translation and language-processing field.
 - 3. Develop ethical values and comporment that are appropriate to the translation, editing, and language-processing fields.

Approach and Methodology

The overall approach in this seminar will be to understand appropriate translation strategies in the various fields dealt with, and to discuss the opportunities for translators in these fields. The texts translated and analyzed will vary at times tremendously, not only in terms of difficulty and specialization of language and terminology, but also in style. Students will become familiar not only with the specialized terminology, register and style of the field but will also come to grasp fundamental ideas and theories that are relevant to the profession. Particular issues inherent to the local translation scene in Puerto Rico will also be assessed.

Students will gain experience in the applicable use of a wide range of research tools, including specialized dictionaries, glossaries, related texts, and documents, as well as online sources. Readings that are relevant to the source text will also be provided. Students will be guided in appropriate formatting and punctuation, and in pertinent software and translation technology programs that are currently being used.

Translations will be discussed and critiqued in class in order to better understand individual research and translation approaches. This course will be taught online (See Course Schedule and Course Moodle).

Instructional Strategies

- Interactive instructional modules (via Moodle)
- Reading assignments of specialized articles
- Instructional videos
- Collaborative tasks
- Individual tasks
- Assessment activities (examinations and revision of assignments)
- Practical activities
- Synchronous online meetings

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. (Cert. 33 2020-2021 de Junta de Gobierno - Sección M - Acomodo razonable - Cada recinto o unidad enunciará una aseveración sobre acomodo razonable a ser utilizada en cada uno de los prontuarios ofrecidos en dicha unidad o recinto. Esta aseveración está dirigida a: (a) establecer el derecho del estudiante a solicitar el acomodo razonable; (b) indicar la persona o unidad a quien el estudiante deberá dirigir su solicitud; (c) informar los mecanismos disponibles para tener acceso, a través de diversos formatos, al procedimiento establecido para la tramitación de la solicitud y, (d) a establecer que la solicitud de acomodo razonable no exime al estudiante de cumplir con los requisitos académicos de los programas de estudio. Ejemplo: "Los estudiantes que requieren acomodo razonable o reciben servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el profesor al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo y equipo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la oficina que atiende los asuntos para personas con impedimentos en la unidad.")

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. (Cert. 33 2020-2021 de Junta de Gobierno- Sección N- Integridad académica - El prontuario deberá incluir la siguiente aseveración: «La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que "la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre

cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta". Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente.)

Discrimination / Harassment

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination in education, employment and in the provision of services based on race, color, sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, origin or social status, ancestry, marital status, religious or political ideas or beliefs, veteran status, other-abledness (disability), sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms. The university also prohibits sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification No. 130, 2014-2015 of the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment should contact the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for further orientation and/or to file a formal complaint. (**Cert. 39 Núm. 2018-19 del Senado Académico - Normativa sobre discrimen por sexo y género en modalidad de violencia sexual** - "La Universidad de Puerto Rico prohíbe el discrimen por razón de sexo y género en todas las modalidades, incluyendo el hostigamiento sexual. Según la Política Institucional contra el Hostigamiento Sexual en la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Certificación Núm. 130, 2014-2015 de la Junta de Gobierno, si un estudiante está siendo o fue afectado por conductas relacionadas a hostigamiento sexual, puede acudir ante la Oficina de la Procuraduría Estudiantil, al Decanato de Estudiantes o a la Coordinadora de Cumplimiento con Título IX para orientación y/o presentar queja".)

Alternative Instruction Methods

Depending on the needs of the semester, alternative instruction methods may be used for a total of 20% of class contact hours. These may include individual or group research projects, online assignments, etc. As a result, some scheduled synchronous classes may be reorganized as asynchronous.

Contingency plan in case of emergency

In the event of an emergency or interruption of classes, your professor will communicate with you via institutional email to coordinate the continuity of the course offering.

Language

The course will be taught in English. Clarifications and consultations may be provided in Spanish.

Course Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Module	Subject	Activity or Exercise	Date	Status
1	Course Introduction / Discussion of research tools, translator resources, style manuals	See module for translation assignments and readings	1/22/24	synchronous
2	Introduction to translation of texts from the humanities: Resources, register and style	"	1/29/24	synchronous
3	Translation of texts from the humanities	"	2/5/24	synchronous
4	Translation of texts from the humanities	"	2/12/24	synchronous
5	1st Exam	No online session	2/26/24	asynchronous
6	Translation of texts from the humanities	See module for translation assignments and readings	3/4/24	synchronous
7	Introduction to translating texts from the social sciences: Resources, register and style	"	3/11/24	synchronous
8	Translation of texts from the social sciences	"	3/18/24	synchronous
9	Translation of texts from the social sciences			
10	2nd Exam	No online session	3/25/24	asynchronous
11	Translation of texts from the natural sciences: Resources, register and style	See module for translation assignments and readings	4/1/24	synchronous
12	Introduction to translation of texts from the natural sciences	"	4/8/24	synchronous
13	Translation of texts from the natural sciences	"	4/15/24	synchronous
14	Translation of texts from the social sciences/ humanities	"	4/29/24	synchronous
15	Final Exam	"	5/6/24	asynchronous

Evaluation Criteria

Translation examinations	50%
Individual translation work (assignments)	30%
Class attendance and participation	20%

Individual preparation and presentation of assigned work, attendance at each class session and full participation in class are expected of all students. **Absences and excessive lateness will be taken into account in the final grade. The evaluation rubric (which can be found on the course Moodle) will be used to assess student assignments, projects, and examinations. Students are expected to be on-camera with a functioning microphone during synchronous classes.**

Grading Scale:

A	90 – 100
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	59 or lower

Suggested Bibliography

- Alley, Michael. *The Craft of Scientific Writing*. Prentice-Hall, 1987
- Arts and Humanities Research Council. *Translating Cultures*. 2016
<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/fundedthemesandprogrammes/themes/translatingcultures/>
- Bal, Mieke. *Double Exposure. The Subject of Cultural Analysis*. Routledge. 1996
- Benjamin, Walter, "The Task of the Translator" in *Selected Writings Volume I 1913-1926*. Translated by Harry Zohn. Belknap Press, 2002.
- Benson, Morton et al. *The BBI Dictionary of English Word Combinations* (Revised Edition). John Benjamins N.A., 1997.
- Bihych, Oksana B., and Valentyna V. Strilets. "Potential for the Use of ICT in Teaching Scientific and Technical Translation." *Information Technologies and Learning Tools*, Vol. 76, No. 2, April 2020, pp. 86–95,
<https://doi.org/10.33407/itlt.v76i2.2812>
- Carbonell Cortés, Ovidi and Sue-Ann Harding. *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Culture*. Routledge, 2018.
- Fowler, H.W. *Fowler's Modern English Usage*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Harris, Brian. "An Introduction to Technical Translation." Universidad de Valladolid, 2008.
https://www.academia.edu/7032685/Introduction_to_technical_translation_Spanish_English
- Harris, Cyril M. *Dictionary of Architecture and Construction. Fourth Edition*. McGraw-Hill, eBook Edition, 2014.
<https://civilengineering.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/dictionary-of-civil-engineering.pdf>
- House, Juliane. *Translation as Communication across Languages and Cultures*. Routledge, 2016.
- Hurtado Albir, Amparo, and Paul Taylor. "The Acquisition of Translation Competence. Competences, Tasks, and Assessment in Translator Training." *Meta: Journal des traducteurs*, vol. 60, no. 2, 2015, pp. 256–80.
 Crossref, doi: [10.7202/1032857ar](https://doi.org/10.7202/1032857ar)
- Orellana, Marina. *Glosario internacional para el traductor*, (4a edición). Editorial Universitaria, 2013.
- Paz, Octavio. "Voluntad de forma." es.scribd.com/document/260393182/Voluntad-de-Forma-Octavio-Paz
- Robb, Louis A. *Diccionario para ingenieros*. Compañía Editorial Continental, 1956.
<https://higieneysseguridadlaboralcvcs2.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/diccionario-para-ingenieros-espac3b10l-inglc3a9s-inglc3a9s-espac3b10l-robb.pdf>
- Robinson, Douglas. *Becoming a Translator: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Translation*. 4a ed., Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020.
- Rosman, Abraham and Paula G. Rubel. *Translating Cultures: Perspectives on Translation and Anthropology*. Taylor & Francis, 2020.

Snell-Hornby, Mary, Franz Pöchhacker and Klaus Kaindl, (editors). *Translation Studies, An Interdiscipline*.

Philadelphia: John Benjamins North America, 1994

Stockwell, R.P. *The Grammatical Structures of English and Spanish*, Chicago University Press, 1965.

Venuti, Lawrence. *Teaching Translation; Programs, Courses, Pedagogies*. Routledge, 2016

Venuti, Lawrence, ed. *Translation Studies Reader*. Routledge. 2021.

https://translationjournal.net/images/e-Books/PDF_Files/The%20Translation%20Studies%20Reader.pdf

Other online resources:

Archive.org / Wayback Machine

<https://archive.org/>

Centro Virtual Cervantes

<http://cvc.cervantes.es>

Ciarlone, Leonor. Globalization Blog

http://gilbane.com/globalization/2007/01/globalization_project_or_proce.html

Diccionario CLAVE

<http://clave.smdiccionarios.com/>

Fundéu BBVA

<http://www.fundeu.es/>

The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus>

Online Collocation Dictionary

<http://oxforddictionary.so8848.com/>

Online Dictionary of the Social Sciences

<https://bitbucket.icaap.org/dict.pl>

Oxford English Dictionary

<http://oed.com>

Power Thesaurus

<https://www.powerthesaurus.org/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (limited access; other similar reference works on archive.org)

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>