

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation  
with effect from Semester A 2024 / 25**

---

---

**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Language and Literature in Translation

**Course Code:** LT5621

**Course Duration:** One Semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** P5

**Medium of Instruction:** English supplemented with Chinese (Cantonese/ Putonghua)

**Medium of Assessment:** English supplemented with Chinese

**Prerequisites:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Precursors:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

**Equivalent Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* CTL5621 Language and Literature in Translation

**Exclusive Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. 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.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick ✓ where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Analyse the English language used in scholarly writing and in literary expression		✓	✓	✓
2.	Evaluate and compare the style and effective ways of expression as represented by exemplary texts in literature and translation		✓	✓	✓
3.	Analyze the meaning and style of important literary texts and develop a good vocabulary and idiomatic usage		✓	✓	✓
4.	Organize ideas creatively into a coherent argument for a scholarly essay		✓	✓	✓
		100%			

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.*

### 3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
1	<b>Lecture:</b> 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.	✓	✓					3 hours
2	<b>Reading:</b> 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.		✓	✓				
3	<b>Group discussion:</b> Students will engage in class discussion enthusiastically to distinguish and address the difficulties in scholarly writing and literary writing reflected from translation works.	✓	✓	✓	✓			
4	<b>Group and individual assignment:</b> Students will work alone or in a group to produce creative pieces of scholarly translation.	✓	✓	✓	✓			

### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 60%								
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.	✓	✓	✓				30%	
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.	✓	✓	✓				30%	
Examination: 40% (duration: 2 hours) 2 pieces of translation (Chinese-to-English and English-to-Chinese) to attempt, and discussion on translation problems/difficulties. (CILO No. 2-4)								
							100%	

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

*(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)*

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Class work and participation	Attending class regularly and engage in class discussion enthusiastically	High attendance and enthusiastic participation in class discussion	Significant attendance and active participation in class discussion	Fair attendance and occasionally active participation in class discussion	Basic attendance and inadequate participation in class discussion	Not reaching marginal level of participation
2. Group Project	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 presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Marginally acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Poor presentation skills showing an inadequate understanding of the concepts and features of high literature in the two systems
3. Examination	Ability to master skills and techniques to translate different types of scholarly texts; demonstrate subject matter knowledge	Highly readable and accurate translation; demonstrate excellent command of subject matter	Largely readable and accurate translation; demonstrate good command of subject matter	Clumsy and/ or occasional inaccuracies; demonstrate fair command of subject matter	Clumsy and plenty of mistranslations; demonstrate marginal command of subject matter	Unreadable and inaccurate translation; demonstrate poor command of subject matter

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Class work and participation	Attending class regularly and engage in class discussion enthusiastically	High attendance and enthusiastic participation in class discussion	Significant attendance and active participation in class discussion	Basic attendance and inadequate participation in class discussion	Not reaching marginal level of participation
2. Group Project	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 presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Good presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Marginally acceptable presentation skills to demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts and features of high literature in the two systems	Poor presentation skills showing an inadequate understanding of the concepts and features of high literature in the two systems
3. Examination	Ability to master skills and techniques to translate different types of scholarly texts; demonstrate subject matter knowledge	Highly readable and accurate translation; demonstrate excellent command of subject matter	Largely readable and accurate translation; demonstrate good command of subject matter	Clumsy and plenty of mistranslations; demonstrate marginal command of subject matter	Unreadable and inaccurate translation; demonstrate poor command of subject matter

### Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

#### 1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

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.

#### 2. Reading List

##### 2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

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

##### 2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Culler, Jonathan (1997). <i>Literary Theory : A Very Short Introduction</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2.	Eagleton, Terry (2008). <i>Literary Theory: An Introduction</i> . Malden/Oxford/Victoria: Blackwell Publishing.
3.	France, Peter ed. (2000). <i>The Oxford Guide to Literature in English Translation</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4.	Jin, Di (2003). <i>Literary Translation: Quest for Artistic Integrity</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.
5.	Lau, Joseph S.M. and Howard Goldblatt eds. (2007). <i>The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
6.	Weinberger, Eliot and Octavio Paz (1987). <i>Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei</i> . London: Moyer Bell.

##### 2.3 Resources

1	<i>Renditions: A Chinese-English Translation Magazine</i> . Hong Kong: Research Centre for Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong. <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/rct/renditions/index.html">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/rct/renditions/index.html</a>
2	<i>The Taipei Chinese PEN: A Quarterly Journal of Contemporary Chinese Literature from Taiwan</i> . Taipei: Chinese P.E.N. Center. <a href="http://www.taipen.org/">http://www.taipen.org/</a>
3	MCLC, Modern Chinese Literature and Culture ( <a href="http://mclc.osu.edu/">http://mclc.osu.edu/</a> ), 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 <i>Modern Chinese Literature and Culture</i> .

4	<p>Our e-sources: Online journals: <i>The English World</i>, <i>Babel</i>, <i>Meta</i>, <i>The Translator</i>, <i>Target</i>, <i>Journal of Translation Studies</i>, <i>Translation Quarterly</i>, <a href="#"><u>Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History</u></a>, <a href="#"><u>International Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies</u></a>, <a href="#"><u>Translation. A Transdisciplinary Journal</u></a>, <a href="#"><u>Translation and Interpreting Studies : TIS</u></a>, 中國翻譯, 翻譯學研究集刊.</p>
---	---