

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015**

Part I

Course Title:	Culture in Translation
Course Code:	LT5606
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursors:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	CTL5606 Culture in Translation
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to enhance students' awareness of the differences as well as affinities among different cultures in translation works, especially the Chinese and the Western cultural traditions. It develops "cultural literacy" in different cultural contexts and prepares students to handle complex concepts as they occur in various social and cultural conditions and their working environments, thus promoting learners' creative thinking in confronting cultural issues in translation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Account for main issues related to cultural difference in translation	

2.	Analyze cultural differences and similarities in translation works	
3.	Apply cultural knowledge to translation practice	

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1, 2, 3	Lecture	
CILO 1, 2, 3	Reading and class discussion	
CILO 1, 2, 3	Written assignment	

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1, 2, 3	Group assignment	50%	The group assignment will be a commentary on a translation to discuss culture-related translation issues. The paper should be within 1,200 words.
CILO 2, 3	Semester-end quiz	20%	The quiz will assess students' understanding and application of translation concepts in a cross-cultural setting.
CILO 1, 2, 3	Class work	30%	Four assignments will be arranged for students to apply and revise what they have learned. Only the highest three scores will be counted.

Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations (Attachment) and to the Explanatory Notes.

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on students' performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Excellent (A-, A, A+)	Good (B-, B, B+)	Adequate (C-, C, C+)	Marginal (D)
(i) Clearly presented thesis on the relationship between text in question and cross-cultural studies; (ii) excellent and perceptive use of primary and secondary sources; (iii) interesting and unique argument presented clearly; (iv) excellent command of written academic English	(i) Clearly presented thesis on the relationship between text in question and cross-cultural studies; (ii) good use of primary and secondary sources; (iii) interesting argument presented clearly; (iv) good command of written academic English	(i) Thesis on the relationship between text in question and cross-cultural studies; (ii) an attempt to make use of primary and secondary sources; (iii) moderately clear presentation of argument; (iv) adequate command of written academic English	(i) Unclear thesis on the relationship between text in question and cross-cultural studies; (ii) little attempt to make use of primary or secondary sources; (iii) unclear presentation of argument; (iv) inadequate command of written academic English

Four criteria, of equal weighting, are used to define the student's performance.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Cultures East and West; cross-cultural understanding; cultural stereotypes and cultural dichotomies; globalization and modernity; image of China in the West; language and translation as cultural interactions; cultural turn in translation studies; cultural studies; cultural translation; culture-specific items.

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

(All required readings are in English. A course-pack is prepared for use, which may include slight changes each time the course is taught in a semester)

- Chan, L. T. (Ed.). (2003). *One into Many: Translation and the Dissemination of Classical Chinese Literature*. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi.
- Bellos, David (2012) *Is That a Fish in Your Ear?: Translation and the Meaning of Everything*. New York: Faber & Faber
- Deutscher, Guy (2011) *Through the Language Glass: Why the World Looks Different in Other Languages*. London : Arrow.
- de Bary, Wm. T., & Bloom, I. (Eds.). (1999). *Sources of Chinese tradition* (Vol.1). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Fox, Kate. (2004) *Watching the English : The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour*. London: Hodder and Stoughton.
- Hu, W. (1999) *Aspects of Intercultural Communication: Proceedings of China's 2nd Conference on Intercultural Communication*. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.
- Hung, E. (2005). Review of the *One into many: Translation and the dissemination of classical Chinese literature*, by Leo Tak-hung Chan (Ed.). *Target: International Journal on Translation Studies*, 17(1), 181-183.
- Katan, D. (1999/2004). *Translating Cultures. An Introduction for Translators, Interpreters and Mediators*. Manchester: St.Jerome/ Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
- Lu, F. (2009). Translation, manipulation and the transfer of negative cultural images: A. C. Safford's typical women of China. *The Translator*, 15(2), 327-349.
- ØVERÅS, L. (1998). In search of the third code: An investigation of norms in literary translation. *Meta*, 43(4), 557-570.
- Rüdiger, P., & Gross, K. (2009). *Translation of Cultures*. Amsterdam/New York: Rodopi.
- Şerban, A. (2004). Presuppositions in literary translation: A Corpus-based approach. *Meta*, 49(2), 327-342.
- Steven Shankman and Stephen W. Durrant (eds.), *Early China/Ancient Greece: Thinking through Comparisons* (SUNY Press, 2002).
- Sturge, K. (2009). Cultural translation. In M. Baker, & G. Saldanha (Eds.), *Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies* (2nd ed) (pp.67-70). London/New York: Routledge.
- G. E. R. Lloyd, *Ancient Worlds, Modern Reflections: Philosophical Perspectives on Greek and Chinese Science and Culture* (Oxford UP, 2004).

- Wang, B. (2006). *Translation as Hermeneutics*. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.
- Wang, N. (2006). 文化翻譯與經典闡釋 [Wenhua fanyi yu jingdian chanshi]. Beijing: Zhonghua Book Company.
- Wang, N. (2009). 翻譯研究的文化轉向 [Fanyi yanjiu de wenhua zhuanxiang]. Beijing: Qinghua University Press.
- Zhang Longxi, *Unexpected Affinities: Reading across Cultures* (Toronto UP, 2007).

Online Resources

Nil