

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: Translation and Comparative Literature

Course Code: LT5626

Course Duration: One Semester

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation, literature and culture, is involved.

Prerequisites: NIL

Precursors: NIL

Equivalent Courses: CTL5626 Translation and Comparative Literature

Exclusive Courses: NIL

Part II

1. Course Aims:

This course aims to enable students, through intensive reading and discussion of representative works of major scholars in translation/cultural studies and comparative literature, to achieve a critical awareness of social, cultural, as well as literary issues crucial to comparative studies through translation as an academic discipline. Instead of technical details, the study will look into some fundamental issues in translation and comparative literature studies, such as translatability, cross-cultural differences and commonalities, language and enunciation, translation and nationalism, Orientalism, translation and modern

Chinese language, etc. Creative and original application of concepts learned is a primary goal of the course.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Devise descriptions of a system of knowledgeable of social and historical issues involved in translation and in a culture's perception of literature and translation;	
2.	Identify key cultural issues in regards to translation from both Western and Chinese cultural traditions;	
3.	Analyze and understand literary and cultural issues from a translation perspective;	
4.	Analyze and understand translation issues from literary and cultural perspectives	
5.	Conduct independent research on certain topics in these areas of translation and comparative literature.	
6.	Communicate effectively on these topics, both verbally and in writing.	

3. 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.	TLA	Remarks
1-4	Readings	One paper or chapter per week before each lecture. (The international standard is that undergraduates should read at least 210 pages a week or 30 pages a day – i.e. 2 papers or chapters per day.)
1-4	Lectures	Theories, concepts, synthesis of readings, classroom discussions
1-6	Tutorial presentations	Teamwork and public communication by tutorial groups, preferably each consisting of not more than 3 students

1-6	Research and analysis	Discovery and analysis of information, using critical reasoning, from a range of sources, including lectures, discussions, books, articles, television, Internet, documentaries, and the mass media.
1-6	Essay-writing	Production of a written presentation of information and analysis in a coherent and accessible manner
1-6	Blackboard	Out-of-class online comments, questions, responses, debates, discussions, reviews of lectures, tutorials and readings

4. 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)

100% coursework

CILO NO.	Type of assessment tasks/activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
1-6	Tutorial presentations: students should base their presentations on the themes / concepts discussed in the course for an analytical critique of them and/or for applying to other situations / texts / cultures for comparison.	40%	
1-6	Essay: students are required to write a paper in English, <u>10 – 15</u> pages double-spaced on any topic(s) covered in the course.	60%	

5. Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

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 translation and comparative literature; (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 translation and comparative literature; (ii) good use of primary and secondary sources; (iii) interesting argument presented clearly; (iv) good command of written academic English	(i) A thesis on the relationship between translation and comparative literature; (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 or missing thesis on the relationship between translation and comparative literature; (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:

Major interfaces between translation and literatures in the contexts of historical development of civilizations and cross-cultural interaction, as well as the establishment of national language and cultural identity; works by cultural critics and literary and translation scholars in the late 19th and the 20th centuries.

Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

André Lefevere, *Translating Literature: The German Tradition from Luther to Rosenzweig* (Amsterdam: Van Gorcum, 1977)

George Steiner, *After the Babel* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1975)

George Lakoff and Mark Turner, *More Than Cool Reason: A Field Guide to Poetic Metaphor* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989)

Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations*, trans. Harry Zohn (New York: Schocken Books, 1969)

Zhang Longxi, "Metaphor, Transference, and the Problem of Translatability." (Conference paper)

Martin Heidegger, *On the Way to Language*, trans. Peter Hertz (New York: Harper & Row, 1982)

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1995)

Anuradha Dingwaney and Carol Maier eds. *Between Languages and Cultures: Translation and Cross-cultural Texts* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1995)

Lin Yutang, *Selections from The Wisdom of China and India*, (New York: Modern Library, 1955)

张之洞：《劝学篇》选：“同心”“明纲”“益智”“游学”“广译”“非攻教。”
(北京：中华书局，1991)

严复：《天演论》译例言（郑州：中州古籍出版社，1998）

钱钟书：《林纾的翻译》（北京：商务，1981）

Online Resources: