

**City University of Hong Kong**

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

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**Part I**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Advanced Legal Translation
<b>Course Code:</b>	LT6514
<b>Course Duration:</b>	1 Semester
<b>Credit Units:</b>	3
<b>Level:</b>	P6
<b>Medium of Instruction &amp; Assessment:</b>	English is the primary medium of instruction and assessment, but where necessary, Chinese is used for discussing issues relating to legal translation.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Nil
<b>Precursors</b>	LT6505 Legal Translation CTL6505 Legal Translation
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b>	CTL6514 Advanced Legal Translation
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b>	Nil

**Part II**

**Course Aims**

This course aims to help students understand and explore the specific translation problems arising from law and the lexical, syntactic, semantic, discoursal, pragmatic, and sociolinguistic features of legal texts. It develops their analytical and critical ability for tackling the subtle and complex problems inherent in the translation of difficult legal texts.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Identify, explain, and tackle the variety of linguistic and conceptual problems inherent in legal translation	
2.	Identify, explain, and tackle the peculiar problems inherent in the translation of legal texts between English and Chinese	
3.	Translate a variety of difficult legal texts	

### 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 1-3	Lecture; tutorial (classwork and group discussion)	2 hours lecture; 1 hour tutorial

### 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 1-3	Classwork and home assignment	20%	
CILO 1-3	Classwork and home assignment	20%	
CILO 1-3	Classwork and home assignment	20%	
CILO 2-3	Legal Research	10%	
CILOs 1-3	Final examination (3-4 translation questions) 2 hours	30%	

**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 student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

<b>Excellent (A-, A, A+)</b>	<b>Good (B-, B, B+)</b>	<b>Adequate (C-, C, C+)</b>	<b>Marginal (D)</b>
Strong evidence of original thinking in legal translation and critique of translated legal texts; superior grasp of subject matter; strong evidence of extensive knowledge base; excellent capacity in analysing, synthesizing and translating	Some evidence of original thinking in legal translation and critique of translated legal texts; good grasp of subject matter; some evidence of extensive knowledge base; Good evidence of critical capacity, analytical ability and translation skills	Some attempts in original thinking in legal translation and critique of translated legal texts; reasonable understanding of issues in legal translation; some evidence of familiarity with literature; some capacity to analyse and translate	Little evidence of original thinking in legal translation and critique of translated legal texts; limited knowledge and understanding of issues in legal translation; weakness in critical, analytical and translation skills

### **Part III**

#### **Keyword Syllabus**

Linguistic problems in legal translation; further practice in translating English legal texts; translating Chinese legal texts.

#### **Recommended Reading Text(s)**

##### English references

Bidin, Aishah. 1995. "Issues in Translation of Legal Texts in Malaysia." *Perspectives: Studies in Translatology* 3: 2. 205 – 213.

Capellas-Espuny. 1998. "The Problem of Terminological Equivalence in International Maritime Law: the case of hypothec and mortgage in the document Final Act and International Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages." *Translation Journal* URL: <http://accurapid.com/journal/09legal/1.htm>.

Chan, Clara Ho-yun. 2012. Bridging the Gap between Language and Law: Translational Issues in Creating Legal Chinese in Hong Kong. *Babel*. 58(2):127–144. DOI: 10.1075/babel.58.2.01cha

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- Milsky, Constantin. 1989. “In Search of a Term Translation Strategies for Chinese Medical Classics.” In Paul U. Unschuld (Ed.), *Approaches to Traditional Chinese Medical Literature*. London: Kluwer Academic Publishers. 77 – 81.
- Morris, Marshall. Ed. 1995. *Translation and the Law*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Poon, Emily Wai-ye. 2002. The Pitfalls of Linguistic Equivalence: The Challenge for Legal Translation. *Target* 14(1), 75-106.
- Sacco, Rodolfo. 1991. "Legal Formants: A Dynamic Approach to Comparative law." *The American Journal of Comparative Law*. Vol. 39, 1-35.
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- Sarcevic, Susan. 1997. *New Approaches to Legal Translation*. The Hague: Kluwer Law.
- Sommers, Harold. Ed. 1996. *Terminology, LSP And Translation*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Trosborg, Anna. 1997. *Rhetoric Strategies in Legal Language*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag.
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- Woo, H. K. 1927. “The Difficulty of Authenticated Translation of Chinese Laws in Hong Kong Courts: A Case in Point.” *The Hong Kong University Law Journal*. Vol. 1, No. 2, January 1927.
- Yu, Danny Ka Hing. 1986. “Application of the Chinese Language in the Hong Kong Legislative and Judicial Processes.” *Justitia* 1986 Vol. 10. 5 – 18.

- Zhao, Yuhong. 2000. Drafting Policy on Bilingual Legislation: Comments on the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Bill. *The Legislative Council Library, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China*, 1-25, [http://sc.legco.gov.hk/sc/library.legco.gov.hk:1080/search\\*cht/X?SEARCH=m%3A%28drafting+policy+on+bilingual+legislation%29&searchscope=10&l=&m=&Da=&Db=&SORT=D](http://sc.legco.gov.hk/sc/library.legco.gov.hk:1080/search*cht/X?SEARCH=m%3A%28drafting+policy+on+bilingual+legislation%29&searchscope=10&l=&m=&Da=&Db=&SORT=D)]
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- Selected articles of Law Draftsman. *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

### Chinese references

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- 何美歡. 1995. *香港合同法*. 前言. 北京: 北京大學出版社.
- 李宗鏢、潘慧儀編. 1999. *英漢法律大辭典 (English-Chinese Dictionary of Law)*, 香港: 商務; 北京: 法律。
- 陸文慧編. 2002. *法律翻譯: 從實踐出發*, 香港: 中華書局。
- 孫萬彪. 2003. *英漢法律翻譯教程*. 上海: 上海外語教育.
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- 鄭戈. 1999. "法律學術翻譯的規範." *北大法律評論*. 第2卷 第1輯. 300 – 316.

### **Online Resources**

- <http://www.legislation.gov.hk/index.htm>
- <http://www.lexisnexis.com>
- <http://libweb.cityu.edu.hk/lbdinst/westlaw.htm>
- <http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/eres/database/info/chinalawinfo.htm>
- <http://law.moj.gov.tw/>