

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: Theory of Translation

Course Code: LT5603

Course Duration: One Semester

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 and interpretation, bilingual legal drafting, or study of Chinese language, literature and culture, is involved.

Medium of Assessment: English is the main medium of instruction and assessment, but Chinese is allowed in situations where English-Chinese translation and interpretation, bilingual legal drafting, or study of Chinese language, literature and culture, is involved.

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) CTL5603 Theory of Translation

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to give students an overview of the theory of translation and to introduce them to the fundamental aspects of translation as a profession and academic discipline, encouraging them to discover interfaces between different theories as well as creating new modes of conceptualizing translation as an academic discipline with linguistic, communicational, and above all intellectual significance.

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.	Identify and explain the main features of basic theoretical approaches to translation			✓	
2.	Discuss and apply important theoretical considerations in the process of translation		✓	✓	✓
3.	Explain and demonstrate translation studies as a discipline			✓	
4.	Describe analytically the basic concepts of translation. Stimulate critical thinking skills.		✓	✓	✓
5.	Discuss to discover interfaces between the basic concepts of translation			✓	✓
6.	Apply theory to practice and to the evaluation of such practice		✓	✓	✓
7.	Discuss to create new modes of conceptualizing translation with reference to its academic significance and wider significance for the edification of a cultivated global citizen.		✓	✓	✓
		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	5	6	7	
1	Lecture : - Students will have an overview of translation and Translation Studies; - Students will understand the history of translation starting from Holmes and beyond; - Students will an review analytically major theorists and models to illustrate interfaces among such models; -	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	In-class activities - Students will engage in in- class exercise and discussion in assignments to examine some key concepts inside the European, Chinese and 'non-Western' traditions: Some key concepts examined to create new conceptions of translation;, Students will understand key concepts taught by attempting in-class work. Tutorial exercises to test understanding of concepts taught.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

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	5	6	7		
Continuous Assessment: 100%									
1. In-class final test (2 hours): 2 questions to attempt: one on history of Translation Studies and one on essential translation approaches/concepts/principles/theories.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	40%	
2. Group presentation: Reading materials will be provided, and students will engage, in small groups, in evaluating the validity of various translation approaches,	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	40%	

principles, theories and key concepts.									
3. Class participation: Students will participate actively in class work and discussion, to demonstrate their understanding of the history of translation and the key concepts, principles and theories of translation and Translation Studies.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
								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 2025/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. In-class final test	Ability to apply translation theories learned to the evaluation of translated texts.	Excellent mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Excellent linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Good mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Good linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Adequate mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Adequate linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Marginal mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Fair linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Inability to master major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Poor linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.
2. Group presentation	Hands-on translation and discussion	Excellent presentation and analysis of the research issues. All relevant information is excellently covered. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is completely achieved. Style and tone are highly appropriate.	Good presentation and analysis of the research issues. . The information is sufficiently covered. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is achieved. Style and tone are appropriate.	Adequate presentation and analysis of the research issues. Only part of the information is covered. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is partially achieved. Style and tone are somewhat appropriate.	Marginal presentation and analysis of the research issues. Only limited information is included. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is not fully achieved. Style and tone are inappropriate.	Poor presentation and analysis of the research issues. Extremely limited or inaccurate information is included. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is not achieved in any way. Style and tone are totally inappropriate.

3. Class participation	Participation in class discussion.	Excellent engagement. Student shows initiative and commitment. Answers are accurate, complete and informative.	Good engagement. Sufficient commitment. Contribution is sufficient and answers adequate.	Adequate engagement but lacking initiative and follow-up. Contribution meets threshold but does not go beyond it.	Barely adequate engagement. Incorrect and confusing contributions.	Inadequate engagement. Disruptive behaviour. Refusal to commit to tasks. Inadequate answers.
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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. In-class Final Test	Ability to apply translation theories learned to the evaluation of translated texts.	Excellent mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Excellent linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Good mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Good linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required	Marginal mastery of major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Fair linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.	Inability to master major schools of traditional and contemporary translation theories. Poor linguistic competence to present the translation theories effectively and to provide relevant and original examples when required.
2. Group presentation	Hands-on translation and discussion	Excellent presentation and analysis of the research issues. All relevant information is excellently covered. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is completely achieved.	Good presentation and analysis of the research issues. . The information is sufficiently covered. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is achieved. Style and tone are	Marginal presentation and analysis of the research issues. Only limited information is included. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is not fully achieved. Style and	Poor presentation and analysis of the research issues. Extremely limited or inaccurate information is included. The purpose of analysing and presenting the material is not

		Style and tone are highly appropriate.	appropriate.	tone are inappropriate.	achieved in any way. Style and tone are totally inappropriate.
3. Class participation	Participation in class discussion.	Excellent engagement. Student shows initiative and commitment. Answers are accurate, complete and informative.	Good enagement. Sufficient commitment. Contribution is sufficient and answers adequate.	Barely adequate engagement. Incorrect and confusing contributions.	Inadequate engagement. Disruptive behaviour. Refusal to commit to tasks. Inadequate answers.

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.)

Major historical and contemporary approaches to translation; issues central to the theory of translation; issues central to the process of translation; overview of translation as a profession and an academic discipline.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

The handouts and readings uploaded to Canvas by the subject lecturer.

(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.)

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Baker, M. (ed.). 2011. <i>The Routledge encyclopedia of translation studies. (2n Ed.)</i> . London: Routledge.
2.	Bassnett, S. & Lefevere, L. (eds.). 1990. <i>Translation, history and culture</i> . London: Pinter.
3.	Benjamin, A. 1989. <i>Translation and the nature of philosophy: A new theory of words</i> . London: Routledge.
4.	Briggs, K. 2017. <i>This Little Art</i> . London: Fitzcarraldo.
5.	Catford, J.C. 1965. <i>A linguistic theory of translation</i> . London: Oxford University Press.
6.	Chesterman, A. and E. Wagner. 2002. <i>Can theory help translators? : a dialogue between the ivory tower and the wordface</i> . Manchester, UK ; Northampton, MA : St. Jerome.
7.	Gentzler, E. 2001. <i>Contemporary translation theories. (2nd ed.)</i> . Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
8.	Hatim, B. & Mason, I. 1997. <i>The translator as communicator</i> . London: Routledge.
9.	Hermans, T. 1999. <i>Translation in systems</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome.
10.	House, J. 2018. <i>Translation: The basics</i> . London: Routledge.
11.	Newmark, P. 1988. <i>A textbook of translation</i> . New York: Prentice Hall.
12.	Nida, E.A. & Taber, C.R. 1969. <i>The theory and practice of translation</i> . Leiden: E.J. Brill.
13.	Nord, C. 1997. <i>Translating as a purposeful activity: Functionalist approaches explained</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome.
14.	Polizzotti, M. 2018. <i>Sympathy for the traitor. A Translation Manifesto</i> . Cambridge, MIT Press.
15.	Steiner, G. 1998. <i>After Babel: aspects of language and translation. (3rd Ed.)</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
16.	Toury, G. 1995. <i>Descriptive translation studies – And beyond</i> . Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
17.	Venuti, L. 1995. <i>The translator's invisibility: A history of translation</i> . London: Routledge.
18.	Venuti, L. (ed.). 2004. <i>The translation studies reader. (2nd Ed.)</i> . London: Routledge.
19.	陳德鴻, 張南峰. (編). 2000. <i>西方翻譯理論精選</i> . 香港: 香港城市大學出版社.
20.	沈蘇儒. 1998. <i>論信, 達, 雅 : 嚴復翻譯理論研究</i> . 北京: 商務印書館.

21.	<p>Online journals:</p> <p><i>Perspectives: Studies in Translatology, Babel, Meta, The Translator, Target, Translation Today, Translation and Interpreting Studies: The Journal of the American Translation & Interpreting Studies Association, Journal of Translation Studies, Translation Quarterly, Studies of Translation and Interpretation, International Journal of Translation, Interpretation, and Applied Linguistics, The Journal of Specialised Translation: JoSTrans, The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research, Chronotopos: A Journal of Translation History, International Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Translation. A Transdisciplinary Journal, Translation and Interpreting Studies : TIS, Computers and Translation, Machine translation, 中國翻譯, 翻譯學研究集刊.</i></p>
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