Introduction to Translation Studies - Fall 2022
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Professor Stephanie Rodriguez

Contact Information:
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Class Hours: Monday & Wednesday 4PM-5:20PM - Engelhard Hall Room 213

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:50pm and 2:30pm – 4pm (in person or virtual)

Course Texts:

*All readings will be provided digitally via Canvas

Introduction to Translation Studies intends to present the fundamental theories as tools to confront the most significant practical problems that may arise in specialized translation. The theories will focus on (a) the acquisition of the fundamentals on translation theory to facilitate the comprehension of multidisciplinary translation and the variety of theoretical approaches, (b) the study and evaluation of primary methods of research to enhance future research and practices, (c) the acquisition of necessary metalanguage, which allows the textual analysis of the translation process, the solution driven mind of a translator, the approach to tackle recurring translation problems, and the evaluation of translated texts.

Objective:
- To gain the basic knowledge of Traductology, its main theories, and paradigms.
- To acquire a solid understanding of the requirements of a translator.
- Comprehend the role of a translator as an intercultural mediator according to the functional focus of the study of translation.
- Formulate the identification of recurring problems in translation and the best approach to solve them as quickly and ethically as possible, by applying strategies from the various areas of translation theory.
- Familiarize the student with the professional context within translation development involving the work of a documentalist, translator, editor, proofreader, reviewer, quality assurance manager.
- To attain fluency in translation processes, research application, professional conduct as a translator, the understanding of continual applied learning, the development of textual analysis, and the creation of target texts.

Teaching format and methods:
Course contents are taught through lectures and guided group discussions on different topics. Teaching methods will promote both individual work and teamwork to develop students’ own specialized knowledge, intellectual skills, and interpersonal qualities. Students will also be provided with opportunities to i) actively participate in and reflect on their own learning processes, ii) structure their
own learning experiences and relate them to the course syllabus, and ii) gradually become critical thinkers.

**Course Requirement and Grading:**

30% - Class participation, preparation, and attendance  
15% - Class presentation of a translation theory covered in lectures  
25% - Midterm Exam  
30% - Final Exam

A = 90-100  B+ = 86-89  
B = 80-85  C+ = 76-79  
C = 70-75  D+ = 66-69  
D = 60-65  F = 59 -

**Course Grading Breakdown:**

**Topic Presentation (15%)**: Each student will sign-up to present a 5-7 minute presentation (you are to create a PowerPoint or video presentation) on a translation topic covered throughout class discussions. The presentations in the class will focus on one class topic of your choice.

For this assignment, students are expected to create either a handout, PowerPoint or video to highlight and guide us through your topic during your presentation. Presenters are expected to become experts on their topic and field questions during the presentations. It is suggested to include samples or supporting evidence to support your topic.

Make sure all sources and references are cited to avoid any case of plagiarism. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will constitute grounds for failing the assignment, potentially the class and may constitute grounds for expulsion from the University. If found guilty of plagiarism, it becomes part of your permanent record. What is plagiarism:

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own  
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source  
- to commit literary theft  
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source

**Class Participation (30%)**: Completing and analyzing the reading before class is a vital requirement, along with submitting your reading responses via Canvas. Your fully engaged attention to our conversation and participation in our class discussions will enrich everyone’s experience. This class will not be solely lecturing, it will be interactive, which will allow each student to ask questions, share experiences, concerns, and practical problems encountered while translating and/or interpreting.

**Midterm Exam (25%)**: This exam will cover Translation and Interpreting Methodologies, Theories, and Practices previously discussed and exercised during class until that point.
**Final Exam (30%):** This exam will cover Translation and Interpreting Methodologies, Theories, and Practices previously discussed and exercised during class from after the midterm.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students who miss a class (excused or not) are required to contact other classmates to obtain information about the class they missed. Please turn off and put away cell phones before class. You are allowed two unexcused absences without grade penalty. Any additional unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 2 percentage points. Late arrivals to class or early departures from class of more than 15 minutes (unexcused) will be counted as an absence. *Please see Covid attendance policies below.*

Documentation for excused absences must be provided to me within a maximum of one week from your return to class. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official university activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. Please note that ALL doctors’ notes are subject to verification. Students who submit false documentation will be reported for academic dishonesty.

**Policies to protect yourself and others from Covid:**

**Attendance:** While class attendance is important, if you aren’t feeling well, it is much safer to stay home. This extends to those that have been in contact with someone exposed to Covid. There will be options and alternative assignment available to make-up work or activities that you were unable to participate in. In cases such as these, the student should get in contact with the professor to discuss an appropriate plan of action for the specific situation.

**Masks:**
Rutgers University will continue to require its students and employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear masks in indoor teaching spaces and libraries in Fall, 2022. Masks will continue to be required in all indoor teaching spaces, libraries and clinical settings, but are no longer required at indoor events and there are no restrictions for outdoor events. For this course, this means that students are required to wear masks in class but not during lab meetings. Students not wearing a mask in class will be asked to leave class. Students who are disruptive and habitually refuse to wear acceptable masks, or persist in wearing them incorrectly, will be reported to Student Conduct.

**Academic Integrity:**
*As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University’s educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/)*

**Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will
be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

Counseling Services: Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/

Weekly Course Schedule:
Week 1 (Wednesday, Sept. 7) - Introduction to the course. What is the Translation Theory and its Importance?

Week 2 (Monday, Sept. 12) - Topic: The Role of a Translator.
Assignment: Read Chapter 1, Exploring Translation Theories. Respond to Discussion on Canvas. Review Translator’s Checklist and What to Expect from a Translator on Canvas.

Week 2 (Wednesday, Sept. 14) - Topic: What is translation? Translation Strategies

Assignment: Read Chapter 1, Researching Cognitive Processes of Translation & Unit A5, Translation. An advanced resource book for students.

Week 3 (Wednesday, Sept. 21) - Topic: Dynamic Equivalence & Textual Pragmatics.

Week 4 (Monday, Sept. 26) - Topic: Translation Relevance and Text Register
Assignment: Read Unit A8 & A9, Translation. An advanced resource book for students.

Week 4 (Wednesday, Sept. 28) - Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting
Assignment: Read Simultaneous Translation of Lectures and Speeches
Watch Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreting videos and complete interpreting exercises (On Canvas).

Week 5 (Monday, Oct. 3) - Topic: Translation Performance
Assignment: Read Self-efficacy in translation.

Week 5 (Wednesday, Oct. 5) - The Analysis of Meaning
Assignment: Read Section B, Unit B5, Translation. An advanced resource book for students. Submit 1-page topic paper (Guidelines on Canvas).

Week 6 (Monday, Oct. 10) - Topic: Cultural Translation
Assignment: Read The impact of cultural background knowledge in the processing of metaphorical expressions & Read Unit A13, Translation. An advanced resource book for students.

Week 6 (Wednesday, Oct. 12) - Topic: Crisis Translation
Assignment: Read *A Translation Crisis on the Border & Managing Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue* Defining Vicarious Trauma and Compassion Fatigue. Complete Week 6 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.

Week 7 (Monday, Oct. 17) - Intro to Legal Terminology and Judicial Proceedings
Assignment: Read *Linguistics of Legal English* (On Canvas)

Week 7 (Wednesday, Oct. 19) - Court Interpreting
Assignment: Read *Cultural Proficiency and Nonverbal Communication in Court Interpreting and Judicial Procedure Transcript* (On Canvas). Complete Week 7 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.

Week 8 (Monday, Oct. 24) - Intro to Literary Translation and Cultural Translation

Week 8 (Wednesday, Oct. 26) - Midterm (Guideline on Canvas). No class.

Week 9 (Monday, Oct. 31) - Translation, Humor & Literature

Week 9 (Wednesday, Nov. 2) - Film Translation & Adaptation

Week 10 (Monday, Nov. 7) - The Process of Subtitling & Dubbing

Week 10 (Wednesday, Nov. 9) - Linguistics of Medical Translation
Assignment: Read Chapter 1, *Medical Translation Step by Step* (On Canvas). Complete Week 10 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.

Week 11 (Monday, Nov. 14) - Medical Translation and Interpreting during COVID-19
Assignment: Read *Life as a medical interpreter during COVID-19 crisis* and *When Coronavirus Care Gets Lost in Translation* (On Canvas).

Week 11 (Wednesday, Nov. 16) Topic: Intro to SDL Trados; Machine Translation exercise

Week 12 (Monday, Nov. 21) - Topic: Localization Project Management and project scope exercise

*No class Wednesday, Nov. 23rd*

Week 12 (Monday, Nov. 28) - Topic Presentations

Week 13 (Wednesday, Nov. 30) - Topic Presentations (Follows Wednesday schedule)
Week 13 (Monday, Dec. 5) - Practical Problems in Translation I  
**Assignment:** Read *Practical Problems in Translation I* (On Canvas).

Week 14 (Wednesday, Dec. 7) - Practical Problems in Translation II.  
**Assignment:** Read *Practical Problems in Translation II* (On Canvas).

Week 14 (Monday, Dec. 12) - Review for Final Exam

Week 15 (Wednesday, Dec. 14) - Review for Final Exam

**Final Exam - Friday, Dec. 16th**