Legal Translation and Interpreting - Fall 2022
21:940:360
Professor Stephanie Rodriguez

Contact Information:
Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
415 Conklin Hall
Rutgers University
Newark, NJ 07102
Email: stephanie.rodrig@rutgers.edu

Class Hours: Monday 2:30-3:50PM; Wednesday 1-2:20PM - Conklin Hall Room 348
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:50pm (in person or virtual)

Course Texts:

*All readings will be provided digitally via Canvas

Legal Translation and Interpreting studies the methods and methodology, as well as knowledge about the variety of approaches actually applied in the field. This course will present the examples of the variety of theoretical approaches which have been practiced and developed within legal interpretation and translation and of the solution driven mind of a translator and interpreter in a specialized field to determine the best approach dependent on target audience. By combining different perspectives, we will expand the understanding of the roles played by interpreters and translators, who emerge as linguistic and intercultural mediators. As skilled linguists, we will explore present-day policy, politics, regulations, branches of government, and governing entities, to develop fluency in English legal linguistic system, special concepts in the interpreting and translation of legal English, the various genres of legal interpreting and translation, and the analysis of practical problems in interpreting and translation.

Objective:
- Students will learn to apply the different theoretical translation principles, methods, and strategies in a legal setting.
- Students will learn the Legal Translation Code of Ethics.
- Students will gain knowledge and a detailed overview of legal systems in the US.
- Students will acquire a good command with Immigration law procedures and terminology.
- Students will learn the differences between Federal Statutes and State Statutes.
- Students will understand the ethical, sociological, and professional aspects of legal translation.
- Students will learn how to identify and solve practical problems encountered in legal translation and interpreting.
- Students will learn how to understand and analyze a diverse variety of legal documents.
- Students will learn how to interpret in a court setting and the proper legal terminology that must be used.

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:**
25% - Class participation, preparation, and attendance  
15% - Topic Presentation  
15% - Short Essays  
20% - 1 Theory based exam  
25% - Final Research Paper (5 pages)

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**Course Grading Breakdown:**

**Class Participation (25%):** Completing and thinking about the reading before class is a vital requirement. 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. The short exercises, questions on Canvas, and your legal glossary and termbase will also be counted toward this section.

**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. Once the topic is determined, each student will 1) discuss and analyze the theory and methodology of the translation topic, 2) create project timeline, scope, budget cost, and client expectations, 3) present portfolio of translation completed, 4) include practical problems encountered. You will deliver an oral presentation covering the 4 previously listed presentation requirements.

**Short Essays (15%):** There are a total of three (3) short essays to be completed and submitted by the beginning of class on the day indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be marked down half a grade (i.e. 3 pts) for each day the paper is late. I will not accept papers that are over a week late. Unfinished in-class assignments will receive a 0.

**Theory Exam (20%):** This exam will cover Translation and Interpreting Methodologies, Theories, and Practices previously discussed and exercised during class.

**Research Paper (25%):** I will suggest topics for essays, but if you would like to develop your own topic, you will need to clear it with me before beginning to write.

Research Paper Requirements:

1. 5 pages
2. Font - Times New Roman
3. Font size - 12 pt.
4. Bibliography/References

Required Format:

-a heading with the following elements: <your name> <date> <my name> <course name> <Assignment #>

-<a captivating TITLE for your essay, centered at the top of the page>

-<page number with –your last name, after the first page, centered in footer on all remaining pages>

<Indent the first line of every paragraph, and include a clearly stated thesis and supporting evidence from the text that you are interpreting. Double space and spell and grammar-check your essay before delivering>.

Essays are due at the beginning of class on the day indicated on the syllabus. Late papers will be marked down half a grade (i.e. 3 pts) for each day the paper is late. I will not accept papers that are over a week late. Unfinished in-class assignments will receive a 0.

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

Attendance: If you have to miss a class for a compelling reason (illness, personal or family emergency, religious holiday observance), let me know (in advance when possible). After four absences your grade will go down by 5 pts for each absence. Three late arrivals, mid-class absences or early departures (of more than ten minutes) together will constitute an unexcused absence.

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
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)** - What is legal translation and interpreting? Legal Genres and configurations

**Week 2 (Monday, Sept. 12)** - Linguistics of Legal Translation  
Assignment: Read Chapter 1, *Legal Translation Explained.*

**Week 2 (Wednesday, Sept. 14)** - Legal Interpreting, Equivalence and Legal Lexical Units; Legal Terminology and Language  
Assignment: Read Chapter 2, *Legal Translation Explained.* Read Chapter 3.5-3.9, *Legal Translation Explained.*

**Week 3 (Monday, Sept. 19)** - Legal Translation & Legal Interpreting  
Assignment: Read *Legal Translation Versus Legal Interpretation*

**Week 3 (Wednesday, Sept. 21)** - The Cognitive Process of Legal Translation & Interpreting  
Assignment: Read *Cognitive Stylistic Conceptualization of Legal Translation & Perspectives on Legal Translation.* Complete Week 3 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.

**Week 4 (Monday, Sept. 26)** - 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 4 (Wednesday, Sept. 28)** - Note-Taking in Consecutive Interpreting  

**Week 5 (Monday, Oct. 3)** - Court Interpreting I  
Assignment: Read *Court Interpreting, The Routledge handbook of interpreting* (On Canvas).
Week 5 (Wednesday, Oct. 5) - Court Interpreting II
Assignment: Read Cultural Proficiency and Nonverbal Communication in Court Interpreting and Motivations for and experiences of court interpreting examined through interviews with court interpreters. (On Canvas). **Submit 2-page topic paper (Guidelines on Canvas).**

Week 6 (Monday, Oct. 10) - Types of Courts and Jurisdictions
Assignment: Read Court Role and Structure, review Types of Courts flowchart, and submit responses to the 5 listed questions (On Canvas).

Week 6 (Wednesday, Oct. 12) - Legal Systems of New Jersey
Assignment: Read Welcome to the New Jersey State Courts and New Jersey Court System. **Complete Week 6 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.**

Week 7 (Monday, Oct. 17) - Civil and Criminal Cases
Assignment: Read Civil Law vs. Criminal Law and watch Video-Course: Overview of Criminal Law - Module 1 of 5 (On Canvas).

Week 7 (Wednesday, Oct. 19) - Jury Trials and the Adversary System
Assignment: Read Expert Evidence, the Adversary System, and the Jury (On Canvas). **Complete Week 7 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.**

Week 8 (Monday, Oct. 24) - US Immigration and Citizenship Law
Assignment: Read How the United States Immigration System Works, An Overview of U.S. Refugee Law and Policy, Employment-Based Immigrant Visas, President Trump’s Executive Orders on Immigration and Refugees. **Submit 2-page topic paper (Guidelines on Canvas).**

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

Week 9 (Monday, Oct. 31) - Legal Culture and Social Development in Translation and Interpreting
Assignment: Read Legal Culture and Social Development and submit responses to the 5 listed questions (On Canvas). Read Chapter 7 & 8, Legal Translation Explained.

Week 9 (Wednesday, Nov. 2) - Genres in Legal Translation
Assignment: Read Chapter 5 and 6, Legal Translation Explained. Review various legal documents and provide analysis from the view of a translator (On Canvas).

Week 10 (Monday, Nov. 7) - Courtroom Demonstrations
Assignment: View Direct Examination, Cross Examination, and Superior Court videos (On Canvas). **Complete Week 9 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.**

Week 10 (Wednesday, Nov. 9) - Court Interpreting Written & Oral Exam
Assignment: Read Written & Oral Exam Preparation Materials (On Canvas).

Week 11 (Monday, Nov. 14) - Conference Interpreting
Assignment: Read Conference Interpreting and new technologies & Conference Interpreting in the UN (On Canvas). **Complete Week 11 Questions under Assignments on Canvas.**

Week 11 (Wednesday, Nov. 16) Topic: Legal Translation Tech
Assignment: Read *Impacts of Machine Translation Technology on Law Firms*.

**Week 12 (Monday, Nov. 21)** - Topic: Professional Challenges in Legal Translation  
Assignment: Read *Non-equivalence in Legal Translation* (On Canvas). **Submit 2-page topic paper (Guidelines on Canvas).**

*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  
Assignment: Read *Practical Problems in Translation I* (On Canvas).

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

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

**Week 15 (Wednesday, Dec. 14)** - Final Essay Due