Legal Translation and Interpreting - Fall 2020
21:940:360
Professor Stephanie Rodriguez

Contact Information:
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Virtual Class Hours: Monday 12-2PM
Office Hours: Monday 2-4PM, or by appointment

Course Texts:

All other materials will be provided by the instructor or posted on Blackboard for you to reference and download.

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% - Short Essays  
25% - 1 Theory based exam  
35% - Final Research Paper (5 pages)

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:**

**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 Blackboard, and your legal glossary and termbase will also be counted toward this section.

**Short Essays (15%):** There are a total of two (2) 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.

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. (Please see
Theory Exam (25%): This exam will cover Translation and Interpreting Methodologies, Theories, and Practices previously discussed and exercised during class.

Research Paper (35%): 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 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](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).

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

**Weekly Course Schedule:**

**Lesson 1 (September 8)** - What is legal translation and interpreting? Legal Genres and configurations

**Lesson 2 (September 14)** - Linguistics of Legal Translation

**Assignment:** Read Chapter 1, *Legal Translation Explained.*
Lesson 3 (September 21) - 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*.  
**Begin legal glossary and termbase spreadsheet, add 10 terms to it each week.**

Lesson 4 (September 28) - Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpreting  
**Assignment:** Read *Simultaneous Translation of Lectures and Speeches*  
Watch Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreting videos and complete interpreting exercises (On Blackboard).

Lesson 5 (October 5) - 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 Blackboard).

Lesson 6 (October 12) - Read *Simultaneous Translation of Lectures and Speeches*  
Watch Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreting videos and complete interpreting exercises (On Blackboard).

Lesson 6 (October 19) - Court Interpreting  
**Assignment:** Read *Cultural Proficiency and Nonverbal Communication in Court Interpreting* and *Judicial Procedure Transcript* (On Blackboard).

Lesson 7 (October 26) - 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 Blackboard).

Lesson 8 (November 2) - Legal Systems of New Jersey  
**Assignment:** Read *Welcome to the New Jersey State Courts* and *New Jersey Court System*. **Complete short essay** (1 page, double spaced) (On Blackboard).

Lesson 9 (November 9) - Midterm Exam

Lesson 10 (November 16) - Civil and Criminal Cases  
**Assignment:** Read *Civil Law vs. Criminal Law* and watch Video-Course: Overview of Criminal Law - Module 1 of 5 (On Blackboard).

Lesson 12 (November 23) - Jury Trials and the Adversary System  
**Assignment:** Read *Expert Evidence, the Adversary System, and the Jury* and complete Witness Testimony translation and interpreting exercise (On Blackboard).
Lesson 13 (November 30) - 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*. **Complete short essay (1 page, double spaced).** (On Blackboard)

Lesson 14 (December 7) - Legal Culture and Social Development and Practical Problems in Translation and Interpreting
**Assignment:** Read *Legal Culture and Social Development* and submit responses to the 5 listed questions (On Blackboard). Read Chapter 7 & 8, *Legal Translation Explained.*

Lesson 15 (December 15) - Final Essay Due