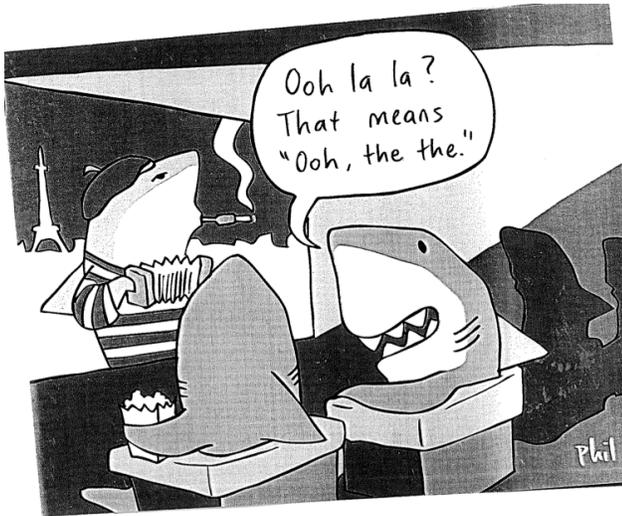


FL 298: Translation as Theory and Practice: Communicating in a Global World



FL 298

Fall 2014

M 3:00-4:30 p.m

JRHH 253

Th 3:30-5:00

Professor: Rebecca Pyatkevich, Ph.D.

Office: 323 Miller

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m, Thursday 1:00 p.m-2:00 pm, and by appt.

E-mail: pyatkevich@lclark.edu

Rationale for the Course:

Translation is one of the oldest and most widespread modes of communication across languages and cultures; it is also a complex linguistic and cognitive activity that requires, together with a prodigious self-awareness, an in-depth knowledge of at least two languages and cultures. In this course, we will work on developing our skills as translators – in various genres -- while becoming more aware of ways in which translation works – and doesn't – across cultures and time periods.

We will examine, on a theoretical and practical level, how translation takes place – across languages, cultures, time periods, and varied media. In the process, we will develop an individual philosophy and practice of translation, and a portfolio of translated work in various genres.

Learning Objectives

Students who approach the course seriously, complete all the readings and engage in its activities with intellectual rigor and excitement should, by the end of the course:

- Develop an understanding of the deeper theoretical and practical issues involved in translation.
- Develop greater sensitivity to and awareness of the ways in which different languages and different cultures convey meaning.
- Develop a personal style and theoretical position on the practice of translation,

- Develop, over the course of the semester, a portfolio of translations in several different genres, as well as some theoretical writings
- Gain knowledge of translation as a career field.
- Gain additional linguistic competence in their foreign language(s).

Course Materials and Methodology

All of the readings for the course will be posted or linked through the course website on Moodle, as will the specific requirements for the translation projects. Final written work is to be submitted through Moodle on the due dates.

The class will proceed through a combination of seminar-type discussion and workshopping; with our theoretical discussions informing our practical ones, and vice versa. It is therefore imperative that you attend class and that you keep up with the assignments, whether reading or practical. You are allowed three unexcused absences for any reason. In addition, illnesses and religious holidays are also excused, although I appreciate advance notice and documentation, when possible. If you miss more than a week of class because of illness, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can arrange for ways to most efficiently catch you up to date. Your participation grade will be evaluated through periodic evaluation that will combine self-evaluation with feedback from the instructor.

Readings are posted or linked through Moodle. Read thoughtfully and carefully, with an eye toward discussion. You will be asked to respond to them in some way; it will behoove you to take notes. I prefer that you bring printouts of the texts to class, but you may use electronic forms if you prefer.

During the course of the semester, we will complete a series of short translation projects and one longer translation project. In lieu of a final exam, you will collect these projects into a portfolio in which you will introduce and analyze your own work.

Summary of Graded Written Projects

	Project	Due Date	Grade %
1	short artistic text (prose or poetry).	September 18	5%
2	short artistic text (prose or poetry)	September 29	5%
3	subtitles	October 16	5%
4	short non-artistic text 1	October 27	5%
5	short non-artistic text 2	November 3	5%
6	longer text (genre/topic of your choice)	December 4	10%
7	Final Portfolio: introduction, analysis, any desired revisions	December 18, 2014	15%

Other graded work

	Work	Due Date	Grade %
1	Attendance	continuous	20%

2	Class participation	continuous	20%
3	Theory presentation/discussion lead	TBA	10%

Office hours: Come with any issues, questions, concerns, ideas, etc. My office hours are listed above, but I am in my office a LOT. Drop by or make an appointment for any other time as well as during office hours.

Email: Please check your campus e-mail regularly, at least once a day, but especially if the campus situation changes due to inclement weather or another type of emergency. I have no other way to efficiently communicate with all of you at once. I will respond to all e-mails in a timely fashion, within 24 hours, unless I specify otherwise.

Plagiarism. Translation is an activity that depends, at various stages, on the input of others. Professional translators will regularly consult their colleagues, native speakers of the source language, dictionaries, previously published translations. At the same time, translation remains an activity of the individual mind; the translator's name is often listed on the title page. So, the question of plagiarism is a bit fraught when discussing translation. For the purposes of this class, what I'd like is that the majority of the work reflects your own effort and knowledge of the language. You may consult with native speakers on specific questions – specific words or expressions – but your submitted translations should not be edited top to bottom by a native speaker. Online dictionary use is fine; use of online translation aides is a bit more problematic (usually because, as you'll discover, the results are really, really bad). If you've relied on others in making your translation, I would appreciate a sentence to that effect in your commentary.

Rules that apply to all members of the Lewis & Clark Community:

Please see below for LC's code of conduct, academic conduct, and policy on disabilities.
<http://www.lclark.edu/live/files/6594-code-of-conduct-201011>

<https://college.lclark.edu/administration/academicconduct.php>

<http://www.lclark.edu/live/files/6597-college-policies-201011>

<http://www.lclark.edu/live/files/6600-disability-policy>

If you have any issues that need to be addressed under these policies, please come to discuss them with me during office hours.

READING AND ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE (subject to revision as necessary)

	Wk	Day	In class	At home
1	1	September 4	Introductions. Languages discussion. Bad + Good translations. Class organization	Read: Bellos, "Is Translation Avoidable?" (FishEar); Sontag, "The World as India"
2	2	Sep 8	Discussion: languages, translation, empire. In class exercise -- Marot poems (several). Translation: basic problems.	Read: Jerome, "Letter to Pammachus" Read: "Nicholas Perrot d'Ablancourt, "Preface to Lucian" Start thinking of a short text to translate as your first independent assignment.
3		Sep 11	Discussion: Jerome and D'Ablancourt. Marot poems (in-class discussion and exercise, continued)	Read: William Weaver, "The Process of Translation"; Vinay and Darbelnet, "The Process of Translation" Do: pick a short text (1 or 2 paragraphs, fiction, prose; aim for about 300-400 words) to translate as your first independent assignment. Following Weaver's procedure, do a first "crib." Bring the crib to class.
4	3	Sep 15	Discussion: How does practice compare to the theoretical discussions we were working with? Were they helpful? Not? How so or how not? What other issues came up? How do the two methodologies compare? Workshop: apply the Vinay-Darbelnet to crib to produce a first draft as you workshop.	Finish your first translations.
5		Sep 18	PR 1: first translations due.	Read: Friedrich Schleiermacher, "On the Different Methods of Translating" Do: (1) Pick second text -- preferably a poem, definitely different from your first text in some way, if not -- and begin a crib. Bring hard copy of whatever you've done to class.
6	4	Sep 22	Discussion of Schleiermacher	Read: Walter Benjamin, "The Task of the Translator" Do: (2) Keep working on your poetic/second translation. Bring first

				draft to class.
7		Sep 25	In class: Benjamin discussion. 2 nd translation workshopping	Do: (1) Finish second translation (2) Begin thinking of a movie you'd like to do a short subtitle sequence to.
8	5	Sep 29	PR 2: Second translation Reflections/comparisons.	Read: David Bellos, "Custom Cuts: Making Forms Fit."; Hatim and Mason, "Politeness in Screen Translating"
9		Oct 2	In class: discussion	Do: work on subtitle drafts/crib
10	6	Oct 6	Discussion/workshopping	Read: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Translating Into English"
** FALL BREAK ** ** FALL BREAK ** ** FALL BREAK ** ** FALL BREAK **				
11	7	Oct 13	Discussion/workshopping	Do: finish subtitle translations
12		Oct 16	PR 3: subtitles due; Technical translations handed out	Read: Bellos, "A Question of Human Rights"; Read: Mochny, "Translating Law Texts is Translating Culture"
13	8	Oct 20	Workshopping/discussion	Do: crib and draft of tech translation
14		Oct 23	Workshopping/discussion	Do: work on/finish tech translation
15	9	Oct 27	PR 4: technical translation 1 due; second technical translation received	Do: crib and draft of 2 nd tech translation
16		Oct 30	Workshopping/discussion	Do: work on/finish 2 nd tech translation
17	10	Nov 3	PR 5: technical translation 2	Pick a longer piece you want to translate for your portfolio (pick genre/topic). Begin translating.
18		Nov 6	Workshopping of longer translations	Continue work on your longer translation piece (see schedule).
19	11	Nov 10	Workshopping of longer translations	Read and present one theoretical piece to the class (schedule and assignments TBA).
20		Nov 13	Student presentations on specific theories (in pairs)	
21	12	Nov 17		
22		Nov 20		
23	13	Nov 24		
*** THANKSGIVING BREAK *** *** THANKSGIVING BREAK ***				
24	14	Dec 1	Workshopping of longer	Finish your longer translation

			translation drafts	
25		Dec 4	PR 6: longer piece due	Read: Bellos, “The Translation Age: Translation, Technology, and the New Instrumentalism”; Kelly& Zetzschy, “Connecting the World and Advancing Technology in Translation”
26	15	Dec 8	Discussion	Work on portfolio revisions and reflections
27		Dec 17 FINAL	Conclusions: Bilingualism and multilingualism, translation, communication	Final portfolio and reflections due at 11:59 pm