



## **ENG 280 Translation Theory**

**ECTS:** 5

**Instructor:** Vasso Giannakopoulou

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**Classes time and place:** Mondays and Thursdays, 16:30-18:00, Room A110

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10:00-14:00, Office M004 (Dept. of English Studies, Kallipoleos)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the main theoretical debates regarding translation in history, and to examine how the phenomenon of translation has been understood differently through time and space. It will be based on selected readings from classical antiquity, the medieval and renaissance periods, the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, through to modernity, postmodernity, and up to the present, when the field has grown impressively and has become staggeringly diversified. By the end of the semester, students will have developed a broad understanding of translation as an activity that goes far beyond the transference of texts across linguistic boundaries, and will have been introduced to cultural and philosophical questions regarding translation.

### **INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the semester, in terms of perception you will be expected to:

- have developed a historically-informed understanding of the major traditions in translation thought through the ages and see the various perceptions of translation as directly related with the socio-historical needs of the culture they were produced within
- be aware of the major questions posited with regard to translation through the ages
- understand the role of translation in history

In terms of skills, you will be expected to:

- have a full grasp of the main positions in each text

- be able to present theoretically-informed critical positions, comparing and contrasting, evaluating, and providing historical causation behind the various approaches to translation across cultures and time
- combine multiple sources and present arguments in a scholarly fashion to critically discuss competing theoretical perspectives on translation
- be able to bring the various questions presented during the semester to date by linking them with present-day approaches regarding translation

## WEEKLY BREAKDOWN

### Week 1: Classical Antiquity: The Romans

Marcus Tullius Cicero (55 BC). "Translating Greek Orations into Latin." *De oratore*, *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, p. 7.

--- (46 BC). "The Best Kind of Orator." *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 7-10.

--- (45-44 BC). "Translating Greek Philosophy into Latin." *De finibus bonorum et malorum* in *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 10-12.

### Week 2: Jerome

Jerome (Eusebius Hieronymus) (395). "The Best Kind of Translator," Letter to Pammachius in *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 22-30.

### Week 3: Middle Ages

Dante Alighieri (1304-07). "Translation Destroys the Sweetness of the Original," from *Il Convivio* in Douglas Robinson. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, St. Jerome, pp. 47-48.

Martin Luther (1530). *Circular Letter on Translation* in Douglas Robinson. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 83-89.

### Week 4: The Renaissance

John Dryden (1680). "The Three Types of Translation," from Preface to Ovid's Epistles in Douglas Robinson. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, St. Jerome,

1997, pp. 171-75.

Alexander Fraser Tytler (1790). "The Proper Task of a Translator," from *Essay on the Principles of Translation in Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 208-12.

Week 5: 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Romantics

Schleiermacher, Friedrich (1813). *On the Different Methods of Translating in Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*, edited by Douglas Robinson, St. Jerome, 1997, pp. 225-38.

Week 6: 20<sup>th</sup> century. Philosophical Approaches: Benjamin and Derrida

Benjamin, Walter (1923). "The Task of the Translator," translated by Harry Zohn. *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 15-25.

Derrida, Jacques and Lawrence Venuti (2001). "What is a 'Relevant' Translation?" *Critical Inquiry* 27: 2, 174-200. Also accessible at < <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1344247> >

Week 7: Linguistic Approaches: Jakobson

Jakobson, Roman (1959). "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 113-18.

Week 8: Translation as a Discipline: Holmes, Nida

Nida, Eugene (1964). "Principles of Correspondance." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 126-40.

Holmes, James (1972). "The Name and Nature of Translation Studies." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 172-185.

Week 9: The Cultural Turn. Functionalism

Snell-Hornby, Mary. "The cultural turn of the 1980s." *The Turns of Translation Studies*. Benjamins, 2006, pp. 47-56.

Vermeer, Hans J. (1989). "Skopos and Commission in Translational Action." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 221-32.

Week 10: Systemic Approaches: Even-Zohar, Toury

Even-Zohar, Itamar (1978). "The Position of Translated Literature within the Literary

Polysystem." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 192-97.

Toury, Gideon (1978). "The Nature and Role of Norms in Translation." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 198-211.

#### Week 11: Venuti: Foreignization vs. Domestication

Venuti, Lawrence (1994). *Translation Theory and Practice. A Historical Reader*, edited by Daniel Weissbort and Astradur Eysteinnsson, OUP, 2006, Chapter 5.18. pp. 546-557.

Snell-Hornby, Mary. "Venuti's foreignization: a new paradigm?" *The Turns of Translation Studies. New paradigms or shifting viewpoints*. Benjamins, 2006, pp. 145-148.

#### Week 12-13: Postcolonial and Gender Perspectives; Translation and Globalization

Chamberlain, Lori (1988). "Gender and the Metaphorics of Translation." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 314-329.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty (1992). "The Politics of Translation." *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 397-416.

#### Week 14: Trends and Future Perspectives

Cronin, Michael (2013). "Translation and Globalization." *The Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies*, edited by Carmen Millán and Francesca Bartrina, Routledge, pp. 491-502.

Brems, Elke, Reine Meylaerts and Luc van Doorslaer. "Introduction." *The Known Unknowns in Translation Studies*, edited by Elke Brems and Reine Meylaerts, Benjamins, 2014, pp. 1-16.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Materials.** All the materials will be uploaded in PDF format on Blackboard.

**Class Preparation.** You are expected to come to class having read the materials assigned for that day, noted down the main points, and prepared questions and thoughts to discuss in class. The class discussions cannot be perceived as a substitute to your own study of the primary sources.

**Class Participation.** Meaningful engagement with the texts in class will not only enhance your grade, but will give you the opportunity to have a better grasp of the texts discussed.

**Attendance.** Attendance is mandatory at the University of Cyprus. In case of absence, it

is your responsibility to cover for the material presented during that class.

**Plagiarism Policy.** Please be warned that no form of plagiarism will be tolerated and any sign of it will lead to your immediate failure in the course. If in doubt regarding what consists plagiarism, please consult the relevant very analytical document of the UCY Library at < [http://library.ucy.ac.cy/per-page-files/services/references/plagiarism/plagiarism\\_25112017.pdf](http://library.ucy.ac.cy/per-page-files/services/references/plagiarism/plagiarism_25112017.pdf)>.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The course grade will be apportioned as follows:

- 45% for in-class midterm exam on 18 March
- 50% for the final in-class exam
- 5% for meaningful participation in the class discussions