

Dharma Realm Buddhist University
International Institute for the Translation of Buddhist Texts
Certificate Program in Buddhist Translation
TRNC 11 - Translating the Dharma: Theories, Ethics, and Skills
Fall 2019

Time: 2 hr class, 3 hr lab per week

Location: TBD

Units: 3 units

Course Coordinator: TBD

Course Description

This course introduces basic translation theories and ethics, as well as research skills and resources, terminology management, and teamwork skills integrating the Four Committee process used by the Buddhist Text Translation Society (BTTS). This course will also introduce students to selected contemporary scholarship in translation studies. Students will be invited to consider how the Dharma might be translated into different disciplines. Guest lecturers from different fields will share the core values and methods that guide their own translation work. After listening to their perspectives, students will experiment with moving away from meaning-based linguistic equivalence to produce translations that reach out to the modern mind and serve as catalysts for transformation. In the lab component, students will receive guidance and work closely with their advisors on individual translation projects, applying principles and skills of interpretation and translation learned in this course and/or in the Hermeneutics courses of the DRBU MA program. An individual translation project is required to complete this program.

Program Learning Outcomes

- TRAN PLO 1 - Exercise ethical sensibility.
- TRNC PLO 3 - Articulate and apply a range of translation theories and methods.
- TRNC PLO 4 - Explain insights gained from close reading and translation of texts and their contemporary implications for the personal, the social, and the natural worlds.
- TRNC PLO 5 – Create clear, accurate, nuanced translations for various audiences.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate the ability to

- Explain various concepts and types of translation theories and apply them to the translation of Buddhist texts.
- Research foundational sources relevant to Buddhist text translation and Buddhist translators.
- Reflect on ethical norms that guide translation: in particular, contemplate the spirit of the guidelines for translators established by the Buddhist Text Translation Society
- Use key resources such as dictionaries, the electronic Tripitaka, and online databases. Learn to create glossaries of terms and expressions.
- Develop skills in one or more of the various aspects of the translation process: primary translation, revision, editing and polishing.
- Engage in shared inquiry with experienced translators, scholars, and professionals when they give presentations to the class.

Grading Breakdown

- Attendance & Participation (40%)
- Research Assignment (20%)
- Individual Translation Project (40%)

Required Work & Grading

Students will be graded on attendance, participation, several research and translation assignments, and their individual translation project.

Attendance & Participation: Class performance, cumulative understanding, and informed participation in ongoing discussion depend on regular attendance. More than 2 absences will result in a failure for the course.

- Not present for 50% of one class session twice = 1 absence
- Not present for 100% of one class session = 1 absence

Students will be expected to keep current with the weekly reading assignments and engage in class discussion. If you need to miss a class, please contact the course coordinator with the reasons for your absence.

Research Assignment: Students will research a foundational source relevant to Buddhist text translation, which may involve translating into English if needed. They will present their findings to the class.

Individual Translation Assignments: Students will work independently on sections of a text that the class is translating as a group, practicing skills of primary translation, bilingual review, and editing. They will share their work at the end of the semester.

Unit Topics & Descriptions

Week	Lessons/Readings
Wk 1 (8/27) DM Chih	Introduction to the Spirit and Methods of Buddhist Text Translation Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eight Guidelines for Translators - Four Committees - Democratic Process <p>“Dedicating His Life to Propagating the Buddhadharma: The Translation of the Buddhist Canon.” <i>In Memory of the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, Volume One</i>. Burlingame, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 1995.</p> <p>Hsuan Hua. “On the Translation of Terms” and “On Various Interpretations of the Text.” <i>Timely Teachings: Gold Mountain Monastery in the Early 1970s</i>. Burlingame, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 2008, pp. 331-338.</p>

<p>Wks 2-4 (9/3, 9/10, 9/17)</p>	<p>On the Purpose and Methods of Translation</p> <p>Schleiermacher, Friedrich. “From On the Different Methods of Translating.” <i>Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida</i> edited by Rainer Schulte and John Biguenet. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1992.</p> <p>Ortega y Gasset, Jose (1937/2000) ‘The Misery and the Splendour of Translation,’ translated by Elizabeth Gamble Miller, in Lawrence Venuti (ed.) <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i>, London & New York: Routledge, 49-63.</p> <p>Ricoeur, Paul. “Introduction: Ricoeur’s philosophy of translation” and “Translation as challenge and source of happiness.” <i>On Translation</i>. New York: Routledge, 2003, vii-xx, 3-10.</p>
<p>Wks 5-7 (9/24, 10/1, 10/8)</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Prof. Robert Buswell (10/1)</p>	<p>Translating Buddhist Texts</p> <p>Buswell, Robert. <i>Cultivating Original Enlightenment: Wōnhyo’s Exposition of the Vajrasamādhi-Sūtra</i>. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2007.</p> <p>Nattier, Jan. <i>A Guide to the Earliest Chinese Buddhist Translations: Texts from the Eastern Han and Three Kingdoms Periods</i>. Tokyo: The International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhism, 2008.</p> <p>Hung, Eva and David Pollard. “Chinese Tradition.” <i>Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies, Second Edition</i> edited by Baker, Mona, and Gabriela Saldanha. Routledge, 2011, 369-372.</p>
<p>Wk 8 (10/17)</p>	<p>Guan Yin session (no class)</p>
<p>Wk 9-10 (10/22, 10/29)</p>	<p>More on Early Chinese Buddhist Translation</p> <p>Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i>. Manchester: St. Jerome, 2006, 52-110.</p>
<p>Wks 11-13 (11/5, 11/12, 11/19)</p>	<p>Translating Early Chinese Texts into English</p>

	<p>Nylan, Michael. "Translating Texts in Chinese History and Philosophy." <i>Translating China for Western Readers: Reflective, Critical, and Practical Essays</i> edited by Ming Dong Gu with Rainer Schulte. New York: SUNY Press, 2015.</p> <p>Ames, Roger T. and Henry Rosemont. "Introduction" and "Appendix II: Further Remarks on Language, Translation, and Interpretation." <i>The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation</i>. New York: The Random House Publishing Group, 1998, 17-86, 279-317.</p> <p>Ames, Roger T. (2017) "Better late than never: understanding Chinese philosophy and 'translating it' into the western academy." <i>Ethics and Education</i>, 12:1, 6-16, DOI: 10.1080/17449642.2016.1270509.</p> <p>Rosemont, Henry and Roger T. Ames. "On Translation & Interpretation." <i>Eastwards: Western Views on East Asian Culture</i> edited by Frank Kraushaar. Bern: Peter Lang AG, 2010, 39-58.</p>
<p>Wks 14-15 (11/26, 12/3)</p>	<p>More on Translation Theory</p> <p>Cheng, Chung-ying. "Hermeneutic Principles of Understanding as the Logical Foundation of Translation." <i>Translating China for Western Readers: Reflective, Critical, and Practical Essays</i> edited by Ming Dong Gu with Rainer Schulte. New York: SUNY Press, 2015.</p> <p>Ricoeur, Paul. "The paradigm of translation" and "A 'passage': translating the untranslatable." <i>On Translation</i>. New York: Routledge, 2003, 11-39.</p>
<p>Wk 16 (12/10)</p>	<p>Student Research and Translation Projects</p>

Electronics policy

While technology (computers, cell phones, tablets) use is generally not allowed in DRBU classes, students in this course will be allowed to use devices in the lab section and in class for

research and communication **only** for the purposes of translation-related activities. Please respect guest lecturers and those speaking in class discussions by paying full attention and not misusing technology.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

You are responsible for submitting your own, original work. Plagiarism includes copying passages from someone else's work, using someone else's insights without acknowledgement, or paraphrasing another's original phrases without acknowledgement. Using someone else's words or ideas without proper citations will affect your grade or result in failing the course. Be sure that you provide complete citations for *any* material that helps shape your translations, even if you are paraphrasing another person's text in your own words. Papers that do not meet academic standards for citation may not be credited for the course and, if plagiarism is a concern, may be reported to the Program Director.

Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you already receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Please bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. Your professors will hold any information you share with them in the strictest confidence unless you give them permission to do otherwise. If you have not contacted the Office of Disability Services and need accommodations, your professors will be happy to refer you.