

**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 2021**

**Time:** Thursday 8:30-10:30 Class  
Monday 8:00-11:00 Lab  
Tue-Fri 7:00-7:45 am (meditation lab)  
Mon-Wed 6:30-7:30 pm (recitation lab)

**Units:** 5 units

**Course Coordinator:** Heng Yin, Brenda Li, Yang Liu

**Lab:** Bhikshuni Heng Yin, Yang Liu

**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 for different contexts. 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 work individually to translate, review, or edit sections of text, applying principles and skills of interpretation and translation learned in this and other courses. During part of the lab, the class will collectively review and revise what students have produced independently.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

- TRNC PLO 1 - Exercise ethical sensibility.
- TRNC PLO 2 - Articulate insights gained from major Buddhist methods and practices, close reading, and translation of texts and their implications for the personal, social, and natural worlds.
- TRNC PLO 3 - Create clear, accurate, nuanced translations adapted to 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.
- 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%)
- Written Assignments (e.g. Reflections) (20%)
- Individual Translation Work (Lab) (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.

Translation Assignments: Students will translate sections of a text—either primary translation, bilingual review, or editing. Work will be reviewed in class as a group.

Contemplative Exercises: As part of experiential learning and emulating the translator-practitioners they are studying, students will participate in three hours of sitting meditation and three hours of ceremonial recitation each week. This may be supplemented by occasional opportunities to explore additional practices.

Written Assignments: To encourage students to engage with the readings as aids to growth and change in one's translation practice, we ask that they self-reflect in writing on their development as a translator at the end of the semester. Other small assignments may be given throughout the semester.

### **Unit Topics & Descriptions**

Wk (Fall)	Lessons/Readings
Wk 1 8/16 (lab) 8/19 (class)	Introduction to the Spirit and Methods of Buddhist Text Translation Society  - Eight Guidelines for Translators - Four Committees - Democratic Process  The Rhetoric of Translation I - Justin Howe  “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.  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.
Wk 2 8/23 Lab 8/26	Rosemont, Henry. “On Translation and Interpretation.” <i>Vajra Bodhi Sea</i> , June 2014, pp. 25–28, July 2014, pp. 32–35, Aug. 2014, pp. 24–28, Sept. 2014, pp. 32–38.
Wk 3 8/30 Lab 9/2	The Rhetoric of Translation II (Justin)
Wk 4 9/6(Labor Day, No Lab) 9/9	Heuman, Linda. “Whose Buddhism is Truest?” in <i>Tricycle: The Buddhist Review</i> . Summer 2011.  Yang, Wenfen. “Brief Study on Domestication and Foreignization in Translation.” <i>Journal of Language Teaching and Research</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 77-80, January 2010
Wk 5 9/13 Lab 9/16	The Rhetoric of Translation III (Justin)
Wk 6 9/23	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.
Wk 7 9/27 9/30	CEI week
Wk 8 10/3 10/7	Guest Speaker DM Chih 10/3 9-11 am  Lab will be 10/3 8-9 am and 10/7 8:30-10:30 am
Wk 9 10/11 Lab 10/14	The Rhetoric of Translation IV (DM Yi)
Wk 10	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From</i>

10/18 Lab 10/21	<i>Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 52-113.
Wk 11 10/25 Lab 10/28	The Rhetoric of Translation V (Justin)
Wk 12 11/1 Lab 11/4	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 52-113.
Wk 13 11/8 Lab 11/11	Guest Speaker - Fedde Devries, UC Berkeley Group in Buddhist Studies
Wk 14 11/15 Lab 11/18	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 52-113.
Wk 15 11/22 Lab 11/25	<p>Introduction by Justin</p> <p>Sutherland, Annie. "The Importance of Translation in the Diffusion of Christianity" British Library - Discovering Sacred Texts, published Sep. 23, 2019. &lt;<a href="https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/articles/the-importance-of-translation-in-the-diffusion-of-christianity">https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/articles/the-importance-of-translation-in-the-diffusion-of-christianity</a>&gt;, accessed June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Two Letters of St. Jerome and Martin Luther on the Translation of the Bible:</p> <p>Translated by W.H. Fremantle, G. Lewis and W.G. Martley. From <i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i>, Second Series, Vol. 6. Edited by Philip Schaff and Henry Wace. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1893.) Revised and edited for <i>New Advent</i> by Kevin Knight. &lt;<a href="http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3001057.htm">http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3001057.htm</a>&gt;, accessed June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Luther, Martin. "An Open Letter on Translating." Translated from "Ein sendbrief D. M. Luthers. Von Dolmetzschen und Fürbit der heiligenn" in Dr. <i>Martin Luthers Werke</i>, (Weimar: Hermann Boehlaus Nachfolger, 1909), Band 30, Teil II, pp. 632-646. Revised and annotated by Michael D. Marlowe, June 2003. &lt;<a href="http://www.bible-researcher.com/luther01.html">http://www.bible-researcher.com/luther01.html</a>&gt;, accessed June 30, 2020</p>
Wk 16 11/29 Lab 12/2	Guest Speaker - Dr. Catherine Dalton, Rangjung Yeshe Institute 12/2
Wk 17 12/6 Lab 12/9	Guest Speaker - DM Sure - time TBD
Wk 18 12/13 Lab	Lab only this week

### **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.