

Dharma Realm Buddhist University
International Institute for the Translation of Buddhist Texts
Certificate Program in Buddhist Translation
TRNC 12 - Translating the Dharma: Theories, Ethics, and Skills
Spring 2022

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

Units: 5 units

Course Coordinator: Bhikshuni Heng Yin, Huali Yuan

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.

Translation Assignments: In the lab, 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 recitation each week. Students will explore various meditation techniques in a guided meditation period before class and practice each technique for one week. Students will also participate in the university-wide Contemplative Exercise Immersion retreat.

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. Students will also keep a reflective journal on their

spiritual and translation practices, and also log questions/reflections on the readings during the semester.

Unit Topics & Descriptions

Wk (Fall)	Lessons/Readings
Wk 1 1/18	Review Eight Guidelines and Translation Instructions Intro to Syllabus and Practice Schedule
Wk 2 1/24 Lab 1/25	Vinay, Jean-Paul and Jean Darbelnet. "A Methodology for Translation," translated by Juan C. Sager and M.-J. Hamel. <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i> , edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 84–93
Wk 3 1/31 Lab 2/1	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 113-129.
Wk 4 2/7 Lab 2/8	The Rhetoric of Translation - On Annotations & References
Wk 5 2/14 Lab 2/15	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 148-152, 156-168.
Wk 6 2/25 2/26	CEI (2/21 - 2/24)
Wk 7 2/28 Lab 3/1	The Rhetoric of Translation - "Yichang-The Rigorous Methodology of Buddhist Sūtra Translation in Ancient China" - by Cao Shibang 譯場——中國古代翻譯佛經嚴謹方式 by 曹仕邦
Wk 8 3/7 Lab 3/8	The Rhetoric of Translation - "Yichang-The Rigorous Methodology of Buddhist Sūtra Translation in Ancient China" - by Cao Shibang 譯場——中國古代翻譯佛經嚴謹方式 by 曹仕邦
Wk 9 3/14 Lab 3/15	Steiner, George. "The Hermeneutic Motion." <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i> , edited by Lawrence Venuti, Routledge, 2000, pp. 186–191.
Wk 10 3/21 Lab 3/22	Tibetan Buddhist Translation Changkya Rolpai Dorje. "Preface to 'A Lexicon Resource for the Learned,'""

(Guanyin Session)	<p>translated by Alexander Berzin.</p> <p>https://studybuddhism.com/en/tibetan-buddhism/original-texts/sutra-texts/preface-to-a-lexicon-resource-for-the-learned</p> <p>Sherrer-Schaub, Cristina. "Translation, Transmission, Tradition: Suggestions from Ninth-Century Tibet." <i>Journal of Indian Philosophy</i> 27 (1999): 67-77.</p>
Wk 11 3/28 - 4/1	Spring Break
Wk 12 4/4 Lab 4/5	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.
Wk 13 4/11 Lab 4/12	<p>Bible Translation</p> <p>Sutherland, Annie. "The Importance of Translation in the Diffusion of Christianity" British Library - Discovering Sacred Texts, published Sep. 23, 2019. <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/articles/the-importance-of-translation-in-the-diffusion-of-christianity>, accessed June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Luther, Martin. "An Open Letter on Translating." Translated from "Ein sendbrief D. M. Luthers. Von Dolmetzschenn 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. <http://www.bible-researcher.com/luther01.html>, accessed June 30, 2020</p>
Wk 14 4/18 Lab 4/19	Guest Speaker: Dr. Snjezana Akpinar
Wk 15 4/25 Lab 4/26	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.
Wk 16 5/2 Lab 5/3	Guest Speaker: TBA
Wk 17 5/9 Lab 5/10	Teiser, Stephen F. "Ornamenting the Departed: Notes on the Language of Chinese Buddhist Ritual Texts." <i>Asia Major</i> , Third Series, 22, no. 1 (2009): 201-37.
Wk 18 5/17-5/20	Student Conference

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.