

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 2020

Time: Tuesday 3:00-5:00 Class
Monday 1:00-4:00 Lab

Units: 3 units

Course Coordinator: Justin Howe, Yang Liu

Lab: Bhikshuni Heng Yin

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 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%)
- 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 write a short paragraph and present their findings to the class.

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.

Unit Topics & Descriptions

Wk (Fall)	Lessons/Readings
Wk 1 8/11 8/10 Lab	Introduction to the Spirit and Methods of Buddhist Text Translation Society - Eight Guidelines for Translators - Four Committees - Democratic Process “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.” Timely Teachings: Gold Mountain Monastery in the Early 1970s. Burlingame, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 2008, pp. 331-338.
Wk 2 8/18 8/17 Lab	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 8/25 8/24 Lab	The Rhetoric of Translation
Wk 4 9/1 8/31 Lab	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 9/8 9/7 Lab	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 6 9/15	CEI week
Wk 7 9/22 9/21 Lab	The Rhetoric of Translation
Wk 8 9/29 9/28 Lab	DM Jin Chuan <i>One Thought, Ten Dharma Realms</i>
Wk 9 10/6 10/5 Lab	Dr. Ron Epstein <i>The Shurangama Sutra</i>
Wk 10 10/13 10/12 Lab	The Rhetoric of Translation
Wk 11 10/20 10/19 Lab	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.
Wk 12 10/27 10/26 Lab	Two Letters of St. Jerome and Martin Luther on the Translation of the Bible: 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. < http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3001057.htm >, accessed June 30, 2020.

	Luther, Martin. "An Open Letter on Translating." Translated from "Ein sendbrief D. M. Luthers. Von Dolmetzschén 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
Wk 13 11/3 11/2 Lab	The Rhetoric of Translation
Wk 14 11/10 11/9 Lab	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 11/17 11/16 Lab	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): 52-113.

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.