**Dharma Realm Buddhist University**

**International Institute for the Translation of Buddhist Texts**

**Certificate Program in Buddhist Translation**

**TRNC 31 – Hermeneutics of Self**

**Fall 2022**

**Time:** Mon 6:00-8:00 am

**Location: online**

**Units:** 2 units

**Lecturers:** Bhikshuni Heng Yi, Huali Yuan, Grace Woo (Translation Fellow)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the more subjective dimension of Buddhist translation—how understanding and interpreting is determined by the presuppositions and beliefs of the interpreter. Hermeneutics of Self is concerned with determining the psychological, emotional, and mental *conditions* that make both understanding and misunderstanding possible. Through the study of biographies and autobiographical records of eminent Buddhist translator-practitioners, personal diaries, journals, poetry, and lived-encounters we explore how in their effort to produce accurate translations of texts, they also struggled to uncover and transform the unexamined biases and predispositions that might cloud their work.

As a corollary to translation work and close reading of primary texts, students in the translation certificate program will engage in contemplative practice and self-cultivation exercises embedded and advocated in the texts they are reading and translating. This hermeneutical approach, where intellectual inquiry is enhanced through meditative exercises, aims to give students a holistic appreciation of what it means to be a translator-practitioner as understood and derived from Buddhist sources. The insights acquired through these readings along with direct laboratory experience provide a study-practice hermeneutical dimension that students may reference in their translation work in the program.

**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.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Students will demonstrate the ability to

* Explore the lives and spiritual practices of 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
* Reflect on how insights gained in self-cultivation carry over to translation and vice versa

**Grading Breakdown**

* Class Attendance & Participation (50%)
* Weekly Reading Reflection (25%)
* Reflection Journal (25%)

**Required Work & Grading**

Attendance & Participation: Class performance, cumulative understanding, and informed participation in ongoing discussion depend on regular attendance. Students may be asked to take turns facilitating class discussions. More than **2** absences from class will result in a failure for the course. You 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.

Weekly Reading Reflection and Homework: As part of preparing for class, you are asked to read the assigned readings and post written reflections and discussion questions, or, if inspired, additional research on the topic. Occasional homework assignments may be given for certain readings.

Reflection Journal: In order to more fully explore the theme of this course, which is to “determine the psychological, emotional, and mental *conditions* that make both understanding and misunderstanding possible,” you are asked to keep a journal of your reflections, questions, and experiences while engaging in contemplative exercises and shared inquiry on assigned readings.

| Week 1 (8/15)**Introduction to the Course** | Readings:* Olendzsky, Andrew. “What the Buddha Taught.” In *Unlimiting Mind: The Radically Experiential Psychology of Buddhism*, pp.21-23. Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2010.
* Rev. Heng Sure and Martin Verhoeven. “*The Sixth Patriarch’s Dharma Jewel Platform Sutra:* Excerpt from the Translator’s Introduction.” Berkeley Buddhist Monastery, 2014.
 |
| --- | --- |
| Week 2 (8/22)**The Conditioned Mind and the True Mind** | Readings* *The Surangama Sutra: A New Translation*. (Ukiah, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 2009), pp. 29-53.
 |
| Week 3 (8/29)**Constructed Self-****Five Skandhas** | Readings* The Five Aggregates Arise from Delusion, *The Surangama Sutra,* pp. 457-462.
* Ajahn Sumedho, *Direct Realization*, “You are not a permanent person,” pp. 357-363.
* Ajahn Sucitto, “Contemplation of the Aggregates.”

\* Reference: Buswell Jr., Robert E.; Donald S., Jr. Lopez. “Five Aggregates.” *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*. |
| Week 4 (9/5)Labor Day | No Class |
| Week 5 (9/12)**Emptiness of Five Skandhas** Skandhas Lab | Readings:* Master Hsuan Hua, *The Heart of Prajna Paramita, Verses without A Stand And Prose Commentary*, pp. 51-83; 138-143.
 |
| Week 6 (9/16-22) | CEI Week, No Class |
| Week 7 (9/26)**Journey to Translation** | Debrief Skandhas LabReadings:* Porter, Bill and Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder. “Lone Moon Lights Cold Spring: An Interview with Bill Porter.” In *Emergence Magazine*. <https://emergencemagazine.org/story/lone-moon-lights-cold-spring/>
* Red Pine. *Dancing with the Dead.* Longhouse, 2006.
 |
| Week 8 (10/3)**Klesa (Afflictions)**Klesa Lab  | Presentation 1 (Upasaka Zhi Qian 支謙, DM Kang Senghui 康僧會)Readings:* Master Hua*, A Commentary on Shasta on the Door to Understand One Hundred Dharma*, BTTS 2005, pp. 92-109.
* Acariya Maha Boowa Nanasampanno, *Venerable Ajahn Mun Buuridatta Thera, A Spiritual Biography,* A Forest Dhamma Publication, 2010. pp.145-159, 288-298.
 |
| Week 9 (10/10)**Karma** | Presentation 1 (Upasaka Zhi Qian 支謙, DM Kang Senghui 康僧會)Readings:* *Ambalatthika-rahulovada Sutta: Instructions to Rahula at Mango Stone* <https://www.dhammatalks.org/suttas/MN/MN61.html>
* *Lonaphala Sutta: The Salt Crystal* <https://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/an/an03/an03.099.than.html>
* Thanissaro Bhikkhu, *Everything you wanted to know about karma but were afraid to ask.* 2016
 |
| Week 10 (10/17)**Transparency of Self** | Debrief Klesha LabReadings:* *Ta Hsueh and Chung Yung,* Translated by Adrew Plaks, Penguin Books, 2003. pp. 11-12
* Book 5 and 8, *Meditations* by Marcus Aurelius, Penguin Classics, 2006. pp. 35-45, 71-82.
* Self-Reliance, Essay by Ralph Waldo Emerson. pp. 1-7
 |
| Week 11 (10/24)**Self-Purification** | Presentation 2 (DM Kumarajiva) Readings:* Huineng. “To Repent and Renew.” *The Sixth Patriarch’s Dharma Jewel Platform Sutra*, pp. 53-63. Ukiah, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 2014.
 |
| Week 12 **Healing the Self to Get Free of the Self—****Spiritual Bypassing** 10/30,Sun 3-5 pm (CA) 10/31, 6-8AM, Mon (Asia） | **Guest Speaker: DM Jin Chuan & DM Jin Wei**Readings:* [On Spiritual Bypassing and Relationship](https://www.scienceandnonduality.com/article/on-spiritual-bypassing-and-relationship), excerpt from interview with John Welwood
* Enlightenment Therapy, New York Times
* Embodying, article on spiritual bypassing by John Welwood
* [Metta Sutta](https://www.accesstoinsight.org/tipitaka/kn/snp/snp.1.08.amar.html)
* "Sublime Abiding Places for the Heart," *Broad View, Boundless Heart* by Ajahn Pasanno
* “The Divine Abidings, ” Path of Purification (Visuddhimagga) excerpts
 |
| Week 13 (11/7)**Consciousness-Only** | Presentation 3 (DM Xuanzang) Readings:* Tagawa Shun’Ei, *Living Yogacara, An Introduction to Consciousness-only Buddhism,* Wisdom Publication, 2009.

Ch. 6: The Deep Self Absorbed in Selfishness, pp. 61-75.Ch. 9: Who Am I? pp. 101-116. |
| Week 14 (11/14)**Modern Issues of Self****Student Conference** | **Guest Speaker: Doug Powers**Readings* Keenan, John. *The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning*. Berkeley, CA: Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research, 2000.Chapter 6: *The Analysis of Centering.*
 |
| Week 15 (11/21)**Self-Nurturing** | Readings:* *Zhuang Zi（莊子）,* translated by Burton Watson, Columbia University Press, 2003.

Section 3: *The Secret of Caring for Life 養生主*, p. 45-46 Section 5 : *The Sign of Virtue Complete 德充符*, p. 63-71 |
| Week 16 (11/28)**The Healing of the Soul** | **Guest Speaker: Meghan Sweet**Readings:* Hadot, Pierre. “Spiritual Exercises” in *Philosophy as a Way of Life,* edited with an introduction by Arnold I. Davidson, translated by Michael Chase. Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 1995
 |
| Week 17(12/5)**Translation as a Way of Self-Cultivation** | Presentation 4 (DM Paramartha) Readings:* “Interview with Bhikkhu Bodhi: Translator for the Buddha.” In *Inquiring Mind* 22, no. 2 (Spring 2006). <https://www.inquiringmind.com/article/2202_w_bodhi-interview-with-bhikkhu-bodhi-translator-for-the-buddha/>
 |

**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.