

LIT 102: Translation Theory  
Summer 2019

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There is no such thing as “Translation Theory.” What there is instead are long ongoing conversations, controversies and speculation about translation. This course will introduce you to some of the more salient points made in these conversations. It will focus on how such conversations are carried out and what is their current state. Ultimately they are about the nature of language, communication, and living in a world of interaction between a very large number of languages. This course will not train you to become a translator but it will provide you with an understanding of what translation entails.

This summer course is very concentrated. We meet twice a week for three and a half hours. Each session will be divided roughly as follows: 1. A lecture of 50 to 60 mn; 2. A Q&A of 30 mn; 3. A 15 mn break; 4. A second lecture of 50-60mn; 5. A 30 mn discussion. Lectures are central to the course. You will not be able to pass the course if you do not attend classes assiduously. The readings and the lectures complement each other in an indirect way. Each session will feature a text considered to be theoretical and another written by a practicing translator on their craft. The readings are short but they can be challenging and you should allot sufficient time to read each of the assigned texts several times.

Evaluation:

You will be required to write 4 short papers (4 to 5 pages.) These papers will be analytical in nature and will compel you to think rather than demonstrate that you have acquired specific knowledge. Each paper will count for 25% of your final grade.

You will receive precise prompts for these papers. The papers must be turned in via email to me and to your TA by 8:00pm of the due day. Late papers will incur a penalty of 10% per 24 hours of lateness or fragment thereof. If you have extremely compelling reasons amounting to force majeure to request an extension, you must do so in writing at least 24 hours prior to the deadline. Your request must be addressed both to me and to your TA. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a rejection of the request. Do not assume that your request has been granted until you have a written response from me. Papers must be presented in the following format, and only this format: Word.doc or Word.docs, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman. All pages must have your name and be numbered. Do not send papers in Pdf format or through Google Docs, Canvas, etc. Papers that do not comply with these formatting requirements will not be read or corrected. Follow MLA Style 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. You do not have to include a bibliography. Footnotes are preferred to endnotes.

I take plagiarism very seriously. My prompts will make plagiarism difficult. However if you have plagiarized part of your paper, you will be expelled from the class, given a failing grade, and reported to your College Provost for possible additional penalties. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism familiarize yourself with campus policy.

If you require special accommodation inform me of the fact as soon as possible and indicate what sort of accommodation you are seeking. All communications on this topic are confidential.

If you have questions that you were not able to raise in class email them to me 24 hours before the next class. I do not answer email on Saturdays and Sundays.

I will hold a walk-in office hour on Fridays from 13h to 14h. Meeting by appointment is also possible. Such meetings must be requested in writing and indicate their purpose. My office is located in room 514 in Humanities 1. My telephone number is: (831) 459-1771, and my email address is [bogusz@ucsc.edu](mailto:bogusz@ucsc.edu)

### Required Books

1. Rainer Schulte and John Biguenet, eds. *Theories of Translation*. University of Chicago Press, 1992 [abbreviated as TT]
2. John Biguenet and Rainer Schulte, eds. *The Craft of Translation*. University of Chicago Press, 1989 [abbreviated as CT]

The books have been ordered at BayTree Bookstore.

### Schedule of lectures, readings and papers

July 29 M	General presentation of the course. Translation and <i>translatio</i> ; Practice and concept Semiotics of Translation. Read:  <a href="https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2019/07/05/carrying-a-single-life-on-literature-translation/?fbclid=IwAR21r2UeiKUg2V4CLYp4TaUU_-6d_6gX_vnDwJ2gFIUTxjPNzUjS2vQNnQ4">https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2019/07/05/carrying-a-single-life-on-literature-translation/?fbclid=IwAR21r2UeiKUg2V4CLYp4TaUU_-6d_6gX_vnDwJ2gFIUTxjPNzUjS2vQNnQ4</a>
July 31 W	Paradigms of Translation I: Homer Philology. The canon Read: F. Nietzsche in TT Roman Jakobson in TT Margaret Sayers Peden in CT
August 5 M	Paradigms of Translation II: The Bible

	Read: Friedrich Schleiermacher in TT
August 7 W	Paradigms of Translation III: <i>Thousand and One Night</i> Read: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in TT Donald Frame in CT <b>First Paper due</b>
August 12 M	Translation and the “Originary” Language Read: Walter Benjamin in TT Gregory Rabassa in CT
August 14 W	“Comparison Literature” Read: Octavio Paz in TT William Weaver in CT <b>Second Paper due</b>
August 19 M	Language Hierarchies and Hit-Parades Read: Jacques Derrida in TT John Felstiner in CT
August 21 W	Experience and Translation Read: Edward Seidensticker in CT Vladimir Nabokov in TT <b>Third Paper due</b>
August 26 M	Translation and Community Read: Michael Riffaterre in TT
August 28 W	Globalization and Wordling The Ethics of Translation
August 30 F	<b>Fourth Paper due</b>