

Literature and Aesthetics: Translation Theory (LTCO285)

Thursday 1-3:50 PM, LIT 437. Prof. Amelia Glaser (amglaser@ucsd.edu)

Office Lit. 345, OH T. 1-2 pm, Thurs 10-11 am and by appointment

Syllabus subject to revision.

This course will introduce you to the growing field of literary translation theory. We will read and discuss key historical scholars of translation, from St. Jerome to Walter Benjamin. We will also discuss the relevance of more recent trends in literary theory and translation studies, and will address much discussed newer scholarship on translation such as The Dictionary of Untranslatables, Lawrence Venuti and Gaiatri Spivak's efforts to foster transparency in translation, and Naomi Seidman's writings on Biblical translation. Final projects may either be a scholarly essay on translation theory or translation, including a translator's introduction. Graduate students may apply to count this course toward their language requirement, depending on how they approach the final project.

Schedule of Readings and Discussions

- The readings to be completed for each meeting are listed below the relevant week.
- Books are available at the UCSD Bookstore, and print reserve at Geisel Library. Single articles are available online, or at Ted.ucsd.edu.

Books (available at the UCSD bookstore and elsewhere)

Robert Bly, *Eight Stages of Translation* (1986)

Biguenet, Schulte, *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays* (1992)

Naomi Seidman, *Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Difference and the Politics of Translation* (2006)

Bermann and Wood, *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation* (2005)

Emily Apter, *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability* (2013)

Eliot Weinberger and Octavio Paz, *19 Ways of Looking at Wang Wei* (1995)

Recommended: Lawrence Venuti, *The Translation Studies Reader* (2012)

Course Requirements

Workshop. You will present on your final project during the final 4 weeks for the class to discuss. Please post an excerpt from your project (translation with the original or the opening of your essay) to TED by noon of Monday of the week you will present. Please print your classmates' work and come to class prepared to offer constructive comments.

Final paper requirement. A final paper will be due on Monday of Finals Week. You are required to meet with me about the topic by the end of week 6. The paper can either be an essay on an aspect of translation theory or an extended translation project, with a translator's introduction. Complete projects should be 12-15 pages in length.

Presentations and participation. You will introduce two texts to the class during the quarter. These introductions should not be biographical or research driven, but rather brief discussions (5 minutes) of the theorist's main argument/s, followed by several questions and concerns the text raises for us as scholars. Whether or not you are presenting, please come to each class prepared to ask two questions about the readings.

Week 1: Introduction to the class

Week 2: Defining the Act of Translation

Bly, *The 8 Stages of Translation*

Jerome, "Letter to Pammachius" (e-reserves)

John Dryden, "On Translation" in *Theories of Translation* (TOT)

Schopenhauer, "On Language and Words" (TOT)

Schleiermacher, from "On the Different Methods of Translation" (TOT)

Week 3: Constructing a World Literature

Said, "The Public Role of Writers and Intellectuals" in *Nathan, Language* (NLE)

Benjamin, "The Task of the Translator" (TOT)

Weber, "A Touch of Translation: On Walter Benjamin's "Task of the Translator" (NLE)

Venuti, "Local Contingencies: Translation and National Identities" (NLE)

Spivak, "Translating into English" (NLE)

Week 4: Religion in translation (Seidman visit)

Seidman, *Faithful Renderings*. (Focus on Intro and Chapters 1, 3, 4)

Week 5: Wang Wei as a case study

Weinberger and Paz, *19 Ways of Looking at Wang Wei*

Pound, "Guido's Relations" (TOT)

Paz, "Translation: Literature and Letters" (TOT)

Yip, from *Diffusion of Distances* (ereserves)

Week 6: Onegin as a case study, Dara Horn Visit

Horn, Selected reading (e-reserves)

Nabokov, "Problems of Translation: *Onegin* in English" (TOT)

Hofstadter, "Introduction" to *Onegin* (e-reserves)

Pushkin, *Onegin* Ch. 1 in Nabokov, Hofstadter, Falen translations (e-reserve)

Week 7. Language and Undecideability (and workshop)

Appiah, "Thick Translation" (e-reserves)

Jakobson, "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation" (TOT)

Derrida, from *Des Tours de Babel* (TOT)

One entry of your choice from *The Dictionary of Untranslatables* (E-reserves)

Week 8: Untranslatability (and Workshop)

Apter, *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability* (Focus on 1 and 3)

Week 9. Traces of the Original (and Workshop)

John Felstiner, from *Paul Celan* (e-reserves)

Paul Celan, "Todesfuge" in Hamberger and Rothenberg's translations (e-reserves)

Rothenberg, from *Writing Through* (e-reserves)

Catullus in the Lee, and Green, and the Zukofskys' translations (e-reserves)

Szondi, "The Poetry of Constancy (TOT)

Week 10: Translation and Machine learning (and Workshop)

Hofstadter, from *Le Ton beau de Marot* (e-reserves)