

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES:  
200 ARTS BUILDING  
[www.mlcs.ualberta.ca](http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca)

**2015/2016 MLCS 300 A1 (Fall Term) - Introduction to Translation**

Instructor: Dr Waclaw M. Osadnik

**Office:** 437B, Old Arts Building

Office hours: T R 11:00 - 12:00

E-mail: [wosadnik@ualberta.ca](mailto:wosadnik@ualberta.ca)

Time and Place: TB 87, T R 2:00 – 3:20

**Course Prerequisite:** consent of the Department

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?  Yes  **No**, not needed, no such projects approved

**Community Service Learning** component  
 Required  Optional  **None**

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available**

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other

NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes  No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the process of translation and theoretical issues associated with it. In all aspects of the course, emphasis will be placed on the integration of theory and practice. The notion of equivalence will be studied at different linguistic levels, from lexical to pragmatic, and practical exercises will reinforce what is learned from lectures, readings and presentations by guest lecturers, whenever possible. The language of instruction and the source language for all exercises and assignments is English. Students' programmes and interests may determine source language for assignments. Students will participate in group discussions and presentations, so it is imperative that they come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and weekly assignments.

**Texts:**

Mona Baker, *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation*. Paperback – Routledge 2011

Photocopies and online material as needed.

### Grade Distribution:

Course requirements consist of the following:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| - class presentations, participation, in-class exercises and homework     | 20%           |
| - three assignments (October 1; November 3; November 26)                  | 60% (3 x 20%) |
| - final test: translation history, theory and practice (December 1, 2015) | 20%           |

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100%

Please note: **The "take home" assignments must be approx. 2000 words long, and must include:**

- the main body of the text (typed, double spaced, margins: one inch on all four sides). Diagrams, if relevant, may also be included.

- bibliography (bibliographic references should follow one of the standard guides, e.g., Blakey & Cook - The Writing of Term Papers).

- footnotes (number the footnotes serially throughout the essay and type them on a separate sheet).

At the beginning of the essay students should identify the aim of the paper, and describe the methods and data to be used. Brief references to other studies on the topic are in order. Formulation of working hypotheses and/or basic assumptions should be presented. In the conclusion the author must verify the hypotheses and/or provide a summary of his/her findings.

*Students unable to hand in assignments on time must contact the instructor for an extension at least two days prior to the due date. Extensions will only be granted in unusual circumstances. Lack of time and assignments due in other courses do not constitute valid excuses. Failure to request an extension will result in a deduction of 5% per day past the due date.*

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#### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

#### **Academic Integrity:**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

#### **Learning and Working Environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges

anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<http://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>

### ***Academic Honesty:***

**All students** should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations”.

**Students in language courses** should be aware, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

### ***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### ***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

### ***In this course***

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. Students are required to attend classes regularly. They should arrive prepared and on time. Many evaluation procedures will take place during regular class time and cannot be made up, except under exceptional circumstances. **Late arrival in class:** Inasmuch as the

beginning of each class is extremely important, it is mandatory that students arrive in class on time. In the case of a 10 minutes tardiness (or less), attendance will be credited. Beyond the first ten minutes, tardiness will be treated as an absence.

Unexcused absences will affect the student’s grade. **In this course regular attendance is imperative, therefore students who miss more than five days of classes will seriously undermine their performance.**

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Late assignments, including writing quizzes, will be allowed only in cases with valid reasons. Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies that prevent the timely completion of an assignment may be granted an extension at the discretion of the instructor. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in one class-day after the stated deadline without penalty, with a 5%-per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.sds.ualberta.ca](http://www.sds.ualberta.ca)).

***Grading:***

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

**“MLCS Grading Scale”**

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	<b>Outstanding:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Very good:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Very good</b>
B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for

			subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Fail:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### **READINGS:**

#### **Books (chapters from books) and papers for in-class presentations, "take home" essays and final test**

Amos, F. R. Early Theories of Translation. Octagon Books, New York 1973

Baker M. (ed.), Encyclopedia of Translation Studies. London: Routledge, 1998.

Barnstone W. The Poetics of Translation. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993.

Bassnett, S. & Lefevere, A. (eds.) Translation, History and Culture. London & New York 1990 (P 306 T775 1990)

Bassnett, S. and Lefevere, A. Constructing Cultures: Essays on Literary Translation. Valley Cottage, NY: Multilingual Typesetting, 1998.

Biguenet, J. and Schulte, R. (eds.), The Craft of Translation. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989.

Catford, J.C. A Linguistic Theory of Translation. Oxford University Press, London 1965.

Chesterman, A. Readings in Translation Theory. Helsinki: Finn Lectura, 1989.

Delisle, J. and Woodsworth, J. (eds.), Translators through History. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1995.

Robinson, D. What is Translation? Kent, Ohio and London: The Kent State University Press, 1997.

Frawley, W. (ed.), Translation: Literary, Linguistic and Philosophical Perspectives. Newark, NJ: University of Delaware Press, 1984.

Gentzler, E. Contemporary Translation Theories. New York: Routledge, 1993.

Even-Zohar, I.: "The Position of Translated Literature within the Literary Polysystem". In: Holmes, J.S.; Lambert J.; Van den Broeck, R. (eds.) Literature and Translation: New Perspectives in Literary Studies. Leuven-Acco 1978, pp. 17-127.

Flotow-Evans von, Luise Translation and Gender: Translating in the "Era of Feminism" Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 1997.

Holmes, J.S.: "Describing Literary Translations: Models and Methods". In: Literature and Translation: New Perspectives in Literary Studies. Holmes, J.S.; Lambert, J.; Broeck R. van den (eds.) Leuven: ACCO 1978.

Grahs, L. and Korlen, G. (eds.), Theory and Practice of Translation. New York: Lang, 1978.

Graham, Joseph F., (ed.) Difference in Translation. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985.  
Holmes, James S. Translated! Amsterdam: Rodopi, 1988.

House, J. Blum-Kulka, Shoshana (eds.) Interlingual and Intercultural Communication. G. Narr Publishers, Tübingen 1986. (P 306.2 159 1986)

Jakobson R.: "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation." in: R.A. Brower (ed) On Translation. Cambridge: Harvard University Press 1966

Ivir, V.: "Formal Correspondence vs. Translation Equivalence Revisited". *Poetics Today*, vol. 2:4 1981.

Kelly, Louis G. The True Interpreter: A History of Translation Theory and Practice in the West. Oxford: Blackwell, 1979.

Larson, Mildred L. Meaning-Based Translation: A Guide to Cross-Language Equivalence. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984.

Kussmaul, P. Training the Translator. Amsterdam: Benjamins 1995

Lambert, J.; Gorp, H. van: "On Describing Translations" In: The Manipulation of Literature. Studies in Literary Translation. London-Sydney 1985.

Lawendowski, B. P. "On Semiotic Aspect of Translation". In: T. Sebeok (ed.) Sight, Sound and Sense. Bloomington: Indiana University Press 1978.

Levy, J.: "Translation as a Decision Process". In: To Honor Roman Jakobson. Essays on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday. vol. 2. The Hague: Mouton, 1967.

Malone, Joseph L. The Science of Linguistics in the Art of Translation. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1988.

Newmark, P. A Textbook of Translation. New York: Prentice Hall 1988

Nida, E., Taber C. The Theory and Practice of Translation. Leiden: Brill 1969

Popović A. Dictionary for the Analysis of Literary Translation. Department of Comparative Literature, University of Alberta 1977.

Raffel, B. The Art of Translating Prose, University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_, The Art of Translating Poetry, University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1988.

\_\_\_\_\_, The Forked Tongue: A Study of the Translation Process. Hawthorne, NY: Mouton de Gruyter, 1971.

Séguinot, C. The Translation Process. York University: H.G. Publications. 1989

Simon, S. Gender in Translation. London and New York: Routledge, 1996

Snell-Hornby, M. Translation Studies. An Integrated Approach. 1988.

Steiner, G. After Babel. Oxford University Press 1975

Schulte, R. and Biguenet, J. (eds.), Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Toury, G.: „Enhancing Cultural Changes by Means of Fictitious Translation”. In: Eva Hung (ed.) *Translation and Cultural Change* John Benjamins. Amsterdam/Philadelphia 2005

Toury, G.: *In Search of a Theory of Translation*. Tel Aviv University Press. Tel Aviv 1980.

Toury, G.: "Translation: A Cultural Semiotic Perspective". In: Sebeok, Thomas A. et al. (eds.) *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Semiotics*. Approaches to Semiotics, 73.3. Mouton de Gruyter, 1986, 2, pp. 1111-1124.

Weissbort, D. (ed.), *Translating Poetry: The Double Labyrinth*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1989.

Wilss, W. *The Science of Translation. Problems and Methods*. G. Narr Publishers. Tübingen 1977. (P 306 W 75 E5 1982)

Venuti, L. *Rethinking Translation: Discourse, Subjectivity, Ideology*. New York: Routledge, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

## Journals

*ATA Chronicle* (Arlington, VA, 1972–)

*Babel* (Budapest, 1955–)

*Delos* (Gainesville, FL, 1992–; College Park, MD, 1988–1991; Austin, TX, 1968–1971)

*Exchanges* (Iowa City, IA, 1990–) [<http://www.uiowa.edu/~translab/exchanges.html>]

*In Other Words* (Translators Association, London 1993–)

*International Quarterly* (Tallahassee, FL, 1993–)

*Language International* (Leeds, England, 1989–)

*Meta* (Montreal, 1956–)

*Metamorphoses* (Amherst, MA, 1992–)

*Poetry World* (London, 1965– ; until 1986 called *Modern Poetry in Translation*)

*Target: International Journal of Translation Studies*, edited by Gideon Toury and José Lambert (Tel Aviv University; University of Leuven; Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 1989–)

*Translation* (New York, 1972–1994)

*Translation Review* (Dallas, 1978–) [<http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/tr/>]

*The Translator* (London: St. Jerome Publishing, 1995–)

*Two Lines* (Stanford, CA, 1994–)

## Web sites

The Translator's Home Companion, <http://www.rahul.net/lai/companion.html>

## Professional Organizations

American Literary Translators Association (ALTA), University of Texas at Dallas, Box 830688, Richardson, TX 75083-0688 [<http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/alta.html>]

American Translators Association (ATA), 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 903, Arlington, VA 22202-3413, e-mail: [ata@atanet.org](mailto:ata@atanet.org) [<http://www.atanet.org>]

International Federation of Translators (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, FIT), Heiveldstraat 245, B-9110 Ghent, Belgium [<http://www.fit-ift.org/>]

Literary Translators Association, 3825 Lacombe, Montreal, Quebec PQ H3T 1M3, Canada

The Translators Association, 84 Drayton Gardens, London SW10 9SD, England