

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2017-2018 SPAN 406: B1 Exercises in Translation: English into Spanish
(Winter Term)**

Instructor: Ann De León
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Time: MWF 11-11:50am
Place: HC 2-26
Office Hours: W 2-3pm
or by appointment
Course Website: eclass

Course Prerequisite: *3 in SPAN at the 300-level (excluding 300 or 306) or consent from the Department.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Other: Details provided by instructor in class

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course will run as a practical workshop dealing with the translation of a variety of texts from English into Spanish. We will also read various texts on translation theory and reflect on their translation philosophies and how they are applicable or not to translation practices today. Emphasis will be placed on the *production* and *assessment* of target texts into English (TT) from appropriate Spanish source texts (ST). Students will be expected to attend and thoughtfully participate in class meetings and will be expected to complete all readings and weekly mini-translation assignments by their due date (as posted on eClass) in order for us to have an enjoyable, productive, and interactive translation workshop. As a final project, students will select an excerpt (600-750 words max.) from a literary text they would like to translate from English into Spanish, or they can comment on and analyze the successes and failures of an already existing literary translation from English into Spanish. The course will be conducted in Spanish, although some readings will be in English. (This course counts towards the MLCS Certificate in Translation Studies).

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- *Define some basic terminology used in translation studies.
- *Reflect on translation not only as the creation of an end *product*, but also as an intensive *process*.
- *Recognize different types of translations and text-specific techniques employed.
- *Identify the genre, the intended audience, and the linguistic characteristics of a text type and how to make informed decisions as to your translation approach.
- *Critically comment on translation ideas and theories presented in various readings.
- *Describe translation issues relevant to consumer-oriented texts, diverse cultural contexts, challenges posed by various dialects, and the use of compensation.
- *Assess the merits and shortcomings of different translations of the same text.
- *Use dictionaries and other online translation resources with skill to determine context-appropriate translations.
- *Produce adequate translations of short texts and justify their translation choices.
- *Produce an original translation from English into Spanish of a literary text; or thoughtfully comment on the successes and failures of an already existing literary translation from English into Spanish.

Texts:

All readings and assignments will be available on eclass.

Students are encouraged to purchase a good bilingual English-Spanish Dictionary (E.g. Larousse, Oxford, Collins) and always bring it to class as some assignments might require its use. Students can of course bring a personal laptop/ipad/smart-phone to access online monolingual and bilingual dictionaries.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

In class participation: 15% (class attendance and thoughtful/active participation in discussions):

Term work: 20% (completion of assigned readings and small translation assignments that are work-shopped in class as posted on eclass)

Forum posts on eclass: 20%(Throughout the semester, students will read some articles on translation theory. Students will write one small paragraph (200-250 words) reacting to the reading for that day. They will do this a total of 4 times (at 5% each)

Midterm exam (in class): 20% (Friday, February 16th)

Final literary translation project: 25% Students will select a literary text (pre-approved by the instructor in March and approximately 600-750 words in length) to translate from English into Spanish and will provide a 1-2 page critical reflection on the challenges faced during the translation process and the creative strategies and resources employed or they can comment on

and analyze the successes and failures of an already existing translation (**Due by Friday April 20th by email**)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

A detailed explanation of each graded assignment will be provided on eclass.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) 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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that 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 that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy 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 direct 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 [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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 languages courses** should be aware that, 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, digital or otherwise, 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. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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 [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) 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 regularly with an attendance sheet and will be factored in as part of the participation component of the course (15%). Note though, that simply attending the course will not guarantee a high participation grade. It is essential that the student attend class having completed the daily assignment and that they actively and critically participate. Students who fail to attend 50% of the classes can expect to do poorly or even fail the course.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult the instructor with sufficient advance notice regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments will incur a 2% per day late deduction. After three days, no late assignments will be accepted.

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 [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation](#)

[Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59