

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2019-2020 SPAN 406: B1 Exercises in Translation: English into Spanish
(Winter Term)**

Instructor: Ann De León
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E-mail: adeleon1@ualberta.ca

Time: T,Th 12:30-1:50PM
Place: T B 108
Office Hours: W 10-11AM
or by appointment
Course Website: eclass

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: *3 in SPAN at the 300-level (excluding 300 or 306) or consent from the Department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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

No, not needed

Community Service Learning component

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Other: Details provided by instructor in class

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 (TT) into Spanish from appropriate English 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.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned through a combination of formal lectures and notes, individual and collaborative workshop of texts, assigned readings and translation assignments, guest presentations and the use of audiovisual materials.

Texts:

All readings, class notes, and assignments will be provided through 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 electronic device (laptop/ipad/smartphone) to access online monolingual and bilingual dictionaries.

Additional Course Fees

No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Classes: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Classes: April 8, 2020

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

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

Term work: 20% Completion of assigned readings and small translation assignments that are workshopped in class and 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% Thursday, February 13, 2020

Final literary translation project: 25% Students will select a literary text (pre-approved by the instructor in March and approx. 600-750 words in length) to translate from English into Spanish and will accompany that with 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 before or by Thursday April 16, 2020 by email**)

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.

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line “translation engines” to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student’s own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Furthermore, machine translation often produces very dubious and unreliable “translations”. Students in language 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 Behaviour.

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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”
(from the beginning of the Calendar).

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

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 at 2% per day late deduction. After three days, no late assignments will be accepted.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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