

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2017-2018** MLCS 300/A1: Introduction to Translation  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Anne Malena

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Time: T & R: 2-3:20 pm

Place: T BW 2

Office Hours: W: 1 pm & R: 3:30 pm,  
or by appointment

Course Website: e-class

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**Course Prerequisite:** Consent of 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 (please specify)
- NA

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

Yes       No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course familiarizes 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 and readings. The language of instruction and the target language for all exercises and assignments is English. Students will participate in group discussions, so it is imperative that they come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings.

**CSL:** Students choosing the CSL option will complete 20 hours of volunteer work with a community partner. Placements may vary but all will deal with an aspect of culture and more precisely cultural difference. While students will rarely be required to translate or interpret in their placement they will have an opportunity to put into practice some of the concepts learned in class and use some of the analysis tools acquired. If students are asked to translate and interpret they can only do so under strict supervision. They will be required to keep a journal of their experience and hand it in 3 times during the term and again at the end of the term. The final project will consist of a report based on their journal and aimed at demonstrating what they have learned at their placement about cultural translation. Depending on the nature of each placement a minimal amount of research may be needed to complete this final report. A more informative document will be posted on e-class.

At the end of this course students will have become familiar with terminology used in translations studies and will know how to recognize, analyze and solve translation problems.

The Certificate in Translation Studies is available to students with a major or minor in French, German, Japanese, Spanish and/or Ukrainian, only in the Faculties of Arts, Education or Science (See MLCS Certificate in Translation Studies in the Calendar). In all cases, the certificate is granted at the time a student graduates from his or her degree program. Please note that students who lack an appropriate major or minor, or who are matriculated in a Faculty other than Arts, Education or Science, may NOT receive the Certificate in Translation Studies.

**Texts:**

Mona Baker, *In Other Words. A Coursebook on Translation*. London: Routledge, 2011, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

2 Assignments

(October 5; November 7) (2 x 15%)	30%
Midterm Exam (October 26)	20%
Final Project (November 23)	20% <b>CSL: Journal (5%); report (15%)</b>
Final Exam (December 14, 2 pm)	30%

*Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>*

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

The two assignments will be a way to test knowledge gained from the readings; they will consist of three or four questions for which the student will have to provide one-paragraph answers. The midterm exam will cover approximately half of the textbook and the final project (no longer than 2500 words) will include a creative dimension.

**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](http://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**, participation includes regular attendance and readiness for in-class discussions and occasional review of exercises and group translations.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior arrangements made with the instructor for an extension at the latest one day before the due date. If no such arrangement is made 5% will be deducted from the assignment’s mark for each day past the due date.

***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](mailto: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	%
<p><b>Excellent.</b> 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.</p>	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<p><b>Good.</b> 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.</p>	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<p><b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.</p>	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.</p>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>