



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE  
Department of Languages and Culture Studies



SYLLABUS FOR TRANSLATION 6001S (Section S90):

# HISTORY AND THEORY OF TRANSLATION

Semester: Fall 2003  
Meeting Times: T 5:00-7:30  
Location: McEniry 124

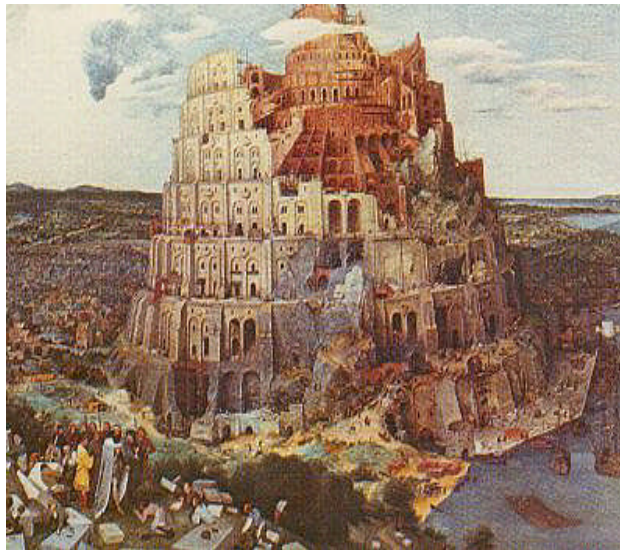
Instructor: Dr. Michael Scott Doyle  
Office: Denny 207, Tel. 547-4274; msdoyle@email.uncc.edu  
Office Hours: TR 1:30-2:30, W 2:00-4:00, and by appointment

*Now the whole earth had one language and few words. And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there...*

*Then they said, ourselves a city, and a tower and let us make a name for scattered abroad upon the face*

*And the Lord came tower, which the sons of men said, "Behold, they are one one language; and this is only will do; and nothing that they impossible for them. Come, let confuse their language, that one another's speech."*

*So the Lord scattered over the face of the earth, and city. Therefore its name was Lord had confused the and from there the Lord the face of all the earth.*



*"Come, let us build with its top in the heavens, ourselves, lest we be of the whole earth." down to see the city and the had built. And the Lord people, and they have all t he beginning of what they propose to do will now be us go down, and there they may not understand*

*them abroad from there they left off building the called Babel, because the language of all the earth; scattered them abroad over*

**Genesis 11:1-9**

"With the fall of Babel, God dispersed the word, gave us tongues and the solitude of difference, and also the impossible but pleasurable duty to repair our separation. After the destruction the deity implicitly challenged us to look up again and rebuild the tower of another Babel. The act of translation is the other Babel, that impossible tower." Barnstone, *The Poetics of Translation*, 3.

"The Kabbalah, in which the problem of Babel and the nature of language is so insistently examined, knows of a day of redemption on which translation will no longer be necessary. All human tongues will have re-entered the translucent immediacy of that primal, lost speech..." G. Steiner, *AfterBabel: Aspects of Language and Translation*, 498.

**Babel** (bā' bel or ba' bel): Confused mixture of sounds or voices; a scene of noise and confusion. RHDEL

**History:** The branch of knowledge dealing with past events; a continuous, systematic narrative of past events...a chronological account; the aggregate of past events; the record of past events and times; acts, ideas, or events that will or can shape the course of the future. RHDEL

**Theory:** A coherent group of general propositions used as principles of explanation for a class of phenomena; a proposed explanation whose status is still conjectural; the branch of a science or art that deals with its principles or methods, as distinguished from its practice; a particular conception or view of something to be done or of the method of doing it; a system of rules or principles; contemplation, speculation, guess, conjecture; hypothesis (conjecture put forth as a possible explanation; *conjecture: opinion or theory without sufficient evidence for proof*). RHDEL

**TRANSLATION: USE OTHER WORDS TO SAY THE SAME THING TO THE SAME EFFECT.** Doyle

**DESCRIPTION.** This course will explore representative texts on the history and theory of translation, from Horace and Cicero to the present.

**OBJECTIVES.** The course is designed to provide the student with:

- A historical overview of the genre of translation theory (record and aggregate of past ideas and events)
- A familiarity with representative thinkers, translators, and texts re. the history, theory, and practice of translation
- A familiarity with critical issues in translation theory and translation studies (principles and methods, description vs. prescription, conjecture, etc.)
- A language (vocabulary) and discourse (manner) for “talking” about translation
- A theoretical framework for the translation enterprise (theory into/vs. practice: ideas and events that can shape the course of the future)
- THROUGHOUT, WE WILL BE DEVELOPING ANALYTICAL, COMPARATIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS REGARDING THEORIES OF THE ART, SCIENCE, CRAFT OF TRANSLATION.

**NOTE.** The University has enacted “The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity,” presented in the “University Regulation of Student Conduct” section of the 2001-2003 *UNC Charlotte Catalog* (p. 275). *Cheating, fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism are expressly forbidden, the latter of which may be summarized in the statement that a student is not to intentionally or knowingly present the work of another as his or her own. All students are required to read and abide by the “Code of Student Academic Integrity,” which also covers complicity in academic dishonesty. Any violation of this Code will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. You may also access the Code online at: <http://www.uncc.edu/policystate/ps-105.html>. Please pay attention to these issues, which have very serious consequences if an infraction is committed.*

**LEARNING DISABILITIES.** Students with documented disabilities who require accommodations in this class must consult with and formally access services as soon as possible through the UNC Charlotte Office of Disability Services. Students must follow the instructions of that office, located in Fretwell Building #218, for obtaining accommodations.

### **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

Active and informed participation.....	10%
Oral presentations (introductions and critiques).....	15%
Written assignments (summaries, reaction papers, etc.).....	15%
Quizzes.....	15%
Research paper.....	25%
Final Examination.....	20%

### **GRADING SCALE**

A = 90-100 POINTS
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = BELOW 60

- The grade for active and informed participation includes discussion (quality and quantity), improvement, attitude, and attendance (do not miss more than two scheduled classes during the semester).
- The research paper (12-15 pages, MLA format) is open to your choice of topic within the theory of translation. Possibilities (examples) might include:
  - Translation theory polemics
  - Study of a theorist (e.g., Benjamin) or translator qua “theorist” (Rabassa)
  - Comparison of two or more theorists
  - Translators as theorists
  - Study of translator’s introductions over the ages
  - Translation theory / translation practice
  - The literal vs. free debate
  - Equivalence, Fidelity, and Invisibility in Translation
  - A particular aspect of translation and its variations
  - Translation and transculturation
  - Why theorize about translation? Etc.

### **TEXTS:**

1. All handouts (HO) listed below or distributed during the semester.

2. *Translation/History/Culture* ed. by André Lefevere. London and New York: Routledge, 1992. ISBN 0-415-07698-6
3. *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida* ed. By Rainer Schulte and John Biguenet. Chicago and London: U. Chicago Press, 1992. ISBN 0-226-04870-5
4. *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation* by Lawrence Venuti. London and New York: Routledge, 1995. ISBN 0-415-11538-8

**\*NOTE:** Those readings marked with a single asterisk in the syllabus are works/authors from the Graduate Readings List for TTS.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** See Graduate Reading List for Track II, Translating and Translation Studies (TTS), at end of this syllabus.

#### Week 1

August 26 Introduction to the course: Syllabus, handouts, texts; world languages and translation; the ATA; Iser's "The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach" (HO from Jane Tompkins' *Reader-Response Criticism: From formalism to Post-Structuralism*, Chapter 5, p. 50-69).

#### Week 2

September 2 HO from the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:

- "Greek Tradition" (428-438)
- "Latin Tradition" (497-505)
- "British Tradition" (333-347)
- "French Tradition" (409-417)
- "American Tradition" (305-316)
- "Latin American Tradition" (505-512)
- "Spanish tradition" (552-563)

Anthony Pym's "History" (HO, pp. 1-19 of *Method in Translation History*)

#### Week 3

- 9
- Eugene Nida's "The Tradition of Translation in the Western World" (HO, pp. 11-29 of *Toward a Science of Translating*)
  - \*Susan Bassnett-McGuire's "History of Translation Theory" (HO, pp. 39-75 of *Translation Studies*)
  - \*Juan Gabriel López Guix/Jacqueline Minett Wilkinson's "Aportes de la teoría" (HO, pp. 163-189 of *Manual de traducción: Inglés/Castellano*).
  - Rainer Schulte's "Translation and Literary Criticism" (HO, pp. 11-14)
  - Minas Savvas's "Translating Verse" (HO, pp. 239-245)

#### Week 4

16 **Session led by DR. ANTON PUJOL, Guest scholar and instructor**

- Thomas Hoeksema's "The Translator's Voice: An Interview with Gregory Rabassa" (HO, pp. 5-18)
- Ronald Christ's "The Translator's Voice: An Interview with Helen R. Lane" (HO, pp. 6-18)
- Doyle's "Anthony Kerrigan: The Attainment of Excellence in Translation" (HO, pp. 135-141)
- Margaret Sayers Peden's "Translating the Boom: The Apple Theory of Translation" (HO, pp. 159-173)
- \*André Lefevere's *Translation/History Culture: A Sourcebook*, pp. 1-25: Introduction-Goethe.

#### Week 5

23 **CLASS WILL MEET FROM 5-6:20**  
André Lefevere's *Translation/History Culture: A Sourcebook*, pp. 25-102: Dolet-Petrus Danielus Huetius.

## Week 6

30

**CLASS WILL MEET FROM 5-6:20**

André Lefevere's *Translation/History Culture: A Sourcebook*, pp. 102-170: Dryden-Ulrich von Willamowitz-Moellendorff.

## Week 7

7

FREE DAY TO COMPLETE FIRST COMPARATIVE PAPER, DUE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. This paper is to be 7-8 typed (on computer) pages in length (no more, no less), following the MLA format. Font = 12 point Times Roman. Produce a thoughtful comparison/contrast of 2-4 of the readings we have done to date, e.g.:

- The Greeks and Romans on Translation
- The American, Latin American, and Spanish Traditions in Translation
- Rabassa, Lane and Kerrigan on Translation
- Three Articles by Gregory Rabassa (see e.g., TTS Reading List)
- Horace, Luther, Dryden, and Goethe on Translation
- Dryden and Dolet on Translation
- Etc.

## Week 8

14

NO CLASS: FALL BREAK.

## Week 9

21

**Session led by DR. ANTON PUJOL, guest scholar and instructor**

Schulte and Biguenet's *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*:

1. Introduction, pp. 1-10
2. Hugo Friedrich, "On the Art of Translation," 11-16
3. \* John Dryden, "On Translation," 17-31
4. Friedrich Schleiermacher, "From On the Different Methods of Translating," 36-54
5. Wilhelm von Humboldt, "From Introduction to His Translation of *Agamemnon*," 55-59
6. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, "Translations," 60-63
7. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "Preface to *The Early Italian Poets*," 64-67
8. Friedrich Nietzsche, "On the Problem of Translation," 68-70

## Week 10

28

Schulte and Biguenet's *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*:

9. \*Walter Benjamin, "The Task of the Translator," 71-82
  - HO, "Walter Benjamin As Translation Theorist: A Reconsideration," by Marilyn Gaddis-Rose, *Dispositio*, Vol VII, No. 19-20: 163-175.
  - HO, "Walter Benjamin and His Translator-Angel Carrying a Hermetic Third Language into the Metaworld," "Benjamin's Parable," and "The Translator's Task," in Willis Barnstone's *The Poetics of Translation: History, Theory, Practice*, pp. 240-262.
10. Ezra Pound, "Guido's Relations," 83-92
11. \*José Ortega y Gasset, "The Misery and Splendor of Translation," 93-112

## Week 11

November 4

Schulte and Biguenet's *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*:

12. Paul Valéry, "Variations on the *Eclogues*," 113-126
13. \*Vladimir Nabokov, "Problems of Translation: *Onegin* in English," 127-143
14. \*Roman Jakobson, "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation," 144-151
  - HO, "Signs of Our Time: A Semiotic Slant," in Willis Barnstone's *The Poetics of Translation: History, Theory, Practice*, pp. 226-240.

15. \*Octavio Paz, "Translation: Literature and Letters," 152-162
16. Peter Szondi, "The Poetry of Constancy: Paul Celan's Translation of Shakespeare's Sonnet 105," 163-185
17. Yves Bennofoy, "Translating Poetry," 186-192
18. Henry Schogt, "Semantic Theory and Translation Theory," 193-203

#### Week 12

- 11 Schulte and Biguenet's *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*:
19. Michael Rifaterre, "Transposing Presuppositions on the Semiotics of Literary Translation," 204-217
  20. Jacques Derrida, "From Des Tours de Babel," 218-227
- \*Edwin Gentzler's Chapter 6, "Deconstruction," 144-180 of *Contemporary Translation Theories*.
- Barbara Johnson's "Taking Fidelity Philosophically," 142-148 of *Difference in Translation*, ed. Joseph F. Graham.
- Schulte and Biguenet's *Theories of Translation: An Anthology of Essays from Dryden to Derrida*:
21. Hans Erich Nossack, "Translating and Being Translated," 228-238

#### Week 13

- 18 \*Lawrence Venuti's *The Translator's Invisibility*:
- Chapter 1: "Invisibility," pp. 1-42
  - Chapter 2: "Canon," 43-98

#### Week 14

- 25 Lawrence Venuti's *The Translator's Invisibility*:
- Chapter 3: "Nation," pp. 99-147
  - Chapter 4: "Dissidence," 148-186

#### Week 15

- December 2 Lawrence Venuti's *The Translator's Invisibility*:
- Chapter 5: "Margin," pp. 187-272

#### Week 16

- December 9 Lawrence Venuti's *The Translator's Invisibility*:
- Chapter 6: "Simpatico," 273-313
- \*HO, Jorge Luis Borges's "Pierre Menard, Author of *Don Quixote*"

Final paper due: 12-15 typed (on computer) pages in length (no more, no less), following the MLA format. Font = 12 point Times Roman.

Semester wrap-up. FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 7-10 P.M.