



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 2004
Meeting Times: W 5:00-7:20
Location: Barnard 244

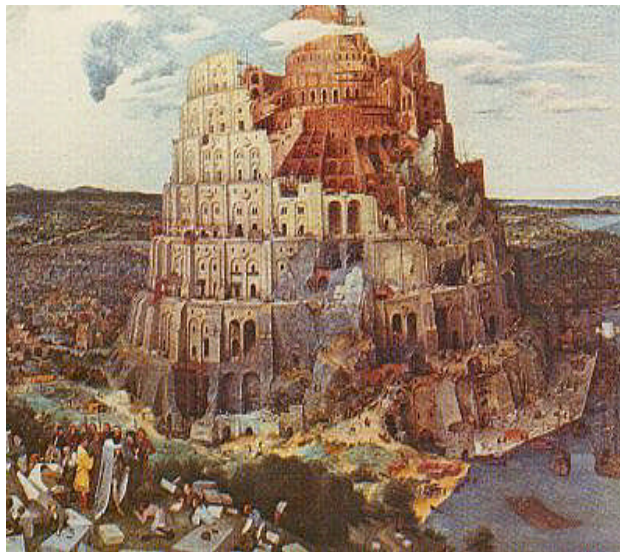
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Office Hours: TR 1-2, W 4:00-4:45 and by appointment

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.



Genesis 11:1-9

"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 the 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

"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 topics and texts in the history and theory of translation, from Cicero and Horace 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 vs. speculation, 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 THEORY AND PRACTICE 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 *UNC Charlotte Catalog*. 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 #230, for securing appropriate accommodations.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Active and informed participation.....	10%
Oral presentations (summaries and critiques).....	15%
Quizzes (indicated by * in syllabus: 9/22, 10/13, 11/17).....	15%
Research paper.....	30%
Final Examination.....	30%

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 oral presentations will be 12-15 minute summaries and critiques of the readings. These should include the formulation of 2-4 key questions regarding the readings reported on and one or more illustrative examples in English/Spanish translation, if appropriate. Each presenter will provide a 1-2 page summary handout to the class on the day of his/her presentation. Note: RHDEL defines a “critique” as “a criticism or critical comment on some problem, subject, etc.” This, of course, implies raising questions about a given topic, as “criticism” is defined as “the act of passing judgment as to the merits of anything; the act of passing severe judgment; censure, faultfinding.”
- The research paper (12-15 pages, MLA format) is open to your choice of topic within the history and theory of translation. Please review the works in the TTS Graduate Reading List for possibilities. Examples of topics:
 - Translation theory polemics
 - Study of a theorist (e.g., Benjamin)
 - Comparison of two or more theories
 - Translators as theorists
 - Study of translator’s introductions over the ages (see Lefevere)
 - Key issues in translation theory / translation practice
 - The literal vs. free debate
 - Equivalence, Fidelity, and Invisibility in Translation (see Venuti)
 - A particular aspect of translation and its variations
 - Translation and transculturation
 - Why theorize about translation?
 - Chapters in Venuti’s *The Translation Studies Reader* not covered during the semester (due to time), Etc.

TEXTS:

1. *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies* ed. by Mona Baker and Kirsten Malmjær. London and New York: Routledge, 2001. ISBN 0-415-25517-1
2. *The Translation Studies Reader* ed. by Lawrence Venuti. London and New York: Routledge, 2000. ISBN 0-415-18747-8.

Recommended Reading:

1. Robinson, Douglas. *Western Translation Theory from Herodotus to Nietzsche*. Manchester, UK: St. Jerome Publishing, 2002. ISBN 1-900650-37-1.
 2. Steiner, George. *After Babel: Aspects of Language and Translation*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998. ISBN 0-19-288093-4. Abbreviation: GS.
- All handouts (HO) listed below will be distributed during the semester.

***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 25 Introduction to the course: Syllabus and texts (to include handouts during the semester); world languages and translation; the ATA; "Translation and the Space Between: Operative Parameters of an Enterprise" (Doyle handout).

Week 2

September 1 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies: History and Traditions*

- Greek Tradition
- Latin Tradition
- Spanish Tradition
- Latin American Tradition

Week 3

8 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies:*

- British Tradition
- American Tradition
- History of Translation
- Bible Translation
- Translation Studies
- Multilingualism and Translation
- Strategies of Translation

Week 4

15 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies:*

- Translatability
- Universals of Translation
- Decision Making in Translation
- Unit of Translation
- Direction of Translation
- Equivalence
- Literal Approaches
- Metaphrase
- Paraphrase

Week 5

- September 22* QUIZ. Then *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:
- Free translation
 - Imitation
 - Adaptation
 - Explicitation
 - Models of Translation

Week 6

- 29 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:
- Normative Model
 - Metaphor of Translation
 - Hermeneutic Motion
 - Discourse Analysis and Translation
 - Contrastive Analysis and Translation
 - Intertemporal Translation
 - Communicative/Functional Approaches
 - Compensation

Week 7

- October 6 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:
- Action (Theory of 'Translatorial Action')
 - Game Theory and Translation
 - Auto-translation
 - Corpora in Translation Studies
 - Linguistic Approaches
 - Text Linguistics and Translation
 - Semiotic Approaches
 - Pragmatics and Translation
 - Polysystem Theory

Week 8

- 13* *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:
- Psycholinguistic/Cognitive Approaches
 - Shifts of Translation
 - Skopos Theory
 - Ideology and Translation
 - Gender Metaphors in Translation
 - Poetics of Translation
 - Pure Language
 - Speculative Approaches
 - Machine Translation (Applications)

Week 9

- October 20 *Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*:
- Machine Translation (Methodology)
 - Machine-Aided Translation
 - Literary Translation (Practices)
 - Poetry Translation
 - Drama Translation
 - Subtitling
 - Dubbing
 - Quality of Translation
 - Reviewing and Criticism

Week 10

- 27 QUIZ. Then begin *The Translation Studies Reader* (pp. indicated) and handouts (HO to be distributed):
- *"On the Different Methods of Translating" by Friedrich Schleiermacher (handout)
 - 1900s-1930s (11-14)
 - *"The Misery and Splendor of Translation" by José Ortega y Gasset (49-63)
 - *"Translation: Literature and Letters" by Octavio Paz (handout)

Week 11

- November 3 *The Translation Studies Reader* and handouts (to be distributed):
- *"The Task of the Translator" by Walter Benjamin (15-25)
 - "The Translators of *The Thousand and One Nights*" by Jorge Luis Borges (34-48)
 - *"Pierre Menard, Author of *Don Quijote*" by Jorge Luis Borges (handout)
 - 1940s-1950s (65-70)
 - *"Problems of Translation: 'Onegin' in English" by Vladimir Nabokov (71-83)
 - "A Methodology for Translation" by Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet (84-93)

Week 12

- 10 *The Translation Studies Reader* (pp. indicated) and handouts (to be distributed):
- *"Meaning and Translation" by Willard V.O. Quine (94-112)
 - *"On Linguistic Aspects of Translation" by Roman Jakobson (113-118)
 - 1960s-1970s (119-125)
 - "Translation Shifts" by J.C. Catford (141-147)
 - *"Principles of Correspondence" by Eugene Nida (126-140)
 - "Type, Kind and Individuality of Text: Decision Making in Translation" by Katharina Reiss (160-171)

Week 13

- 17* QUIZ. Then *The Translation Studies Reader* (pp. indicated) and handouts (to be distributed):
- *"The Hermeneutic Motion" by George Steiner (186-191)
 - 1980s (213-220)
 - "Skopos and Commission in Translational Action" by Hans J. Vermeer (221-232)
 - *"Mother Courage's Cucumbers: Text, System and Refraction in a Theory of Literature (233-249)
 - "Prolegomenon to a Theory of Translation" by William Frawley (250-263)
 - "The Measure of Translation Effects" by Philip E. Lewis (264-283)

Week 14

- 24 NO CLASS MEETING: THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Week 15

- December 1 *The Translation Studies Reader* (pp. indicated) and handouts (to be distributed):
- "Gender and the Metaphors of Translation" by Lori Chamberlain (314-329)
 - 1980s (331-342)
 - *"The Politics of Translation" by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (397-416)
 - Rabassa (HO of interview)
 - Lane (HO of interview)
 - Kerrigan (HO of article)

Week 16

- 8 Final paper due: 12-15 typed (on computer) pages in length (no more, no less), following the MLA format. Font = 12 point Times Roman. Oral summaries (10 minutes per student paper)

Semester wrap-up. FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7-10 P.M.