

TRANSLATION THEORY 2015/2016

PREREQUISITE: None.

TEACHER: Karen Bennet

COURSE UNIT AIMS. (Purpose of the course using broad, general terms)

- a) To acquire a brief perspective of the history of the theory and practice of translation from Classical Antiquity to the end of the 20th century.
- b) To understand the different meanings attributable, over time, to concepts such as fidelity, transparency, imitation, adaptation, interpretation, recreation and appropriation.
- c) To analyse from a critical viewpoint, excerpts from texts written by some of the most important theorists in Translation Studies.
- d) To establish due relationships between Translation Studies and other areas, such as Comparative Studies or Gender Studies.

COURSE UNIT CONTENT. (Main topics covered in the course)

- I) Brief perspective on the history and practice of translation.
 1. Classical Antiquity: translation as cultural enrichment.
 2. The Middle Ages: translation and the affirmation of nationhood.
 3. "God's word in Man's language": Reform and translation.
 4. "Belles infidèles": translations in the 17th and 18th centuries.
 5. "Master-servant relationship": translation work in the 19th century.
 6. The 20th century: the (im)possibility of translation.
- II) Theories, Concepts and Directions
 1. Reflections on the notions of fidelity, transparency, imitation, adaptation, interpretation, recreation and appropriation.
 2. The statute(s) of the translator.
 3. The importance of the polysystemic approach.
 4. The contribution of the descriptive studies.
 5. Translation Studies: new paths and directions.
 6. Translation and Globalisation.
- III) Relationships between Translation Studies and other Areas
 1. The (re)construction of the canon and the new literary histories.
 2. Translation across cultures.

3. Translation as a political and ideological practice.
4. Translation and Post Colonial Studies
5. Translation and the (de)construction of identities.
6. Translation and Gender Studies

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The classes which make up the first part of the programme will be essentially theoretical in character, drawing upon information and communication technologies and academic databases. Those in the second part of the programme will be essentially practical and based on the analysis and discussion of previously selected texts. To begin with, the work will be carried out as a class and later in small groups or individually depending on the number of students in the class.

WEEKLY HOURS

4

ASSESSMENT

Written assignment (40%); Written exam (60%)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1) Baker, Mona and Gabriela Saldanha (eds) (2011). Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies. 2nd ed. Abingdon/New York: Routledge.
- 2) Bassnett, Susan (2013). Translation Studies. 4th ed. London/New York: Routledge.
- 3) Eysteinsson, Astradur and Daniel Weissbort (2006). Translation Theory and Practice. A Historical Reader. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 4) Kuhiwczak, Piotr and Karin Littau (eds) (2007). A Companion to Translation Studies. Clevedon/Toronto: Multilingual Matters.
- 5) Mjalmkaer, Kirsten and Kevin Windle (2011). The Oxford Handbook of Translation Studies. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 6) Munday, Jeremy (2012). Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications. 3rd ed. London/New York: Routledge.
- 7) Palumbo, Giuseppe (2009). Key Terms in Translation Studies. London/New York: Continuum.
- 8) Venuti, Lawrence (ed) (2000). The Translation Studies Reader. London/New York: Routledge.