

**Dharma Realm Buddhist University**  
**International Institute for the Translation of Buddhist Texts**  
**Certificate Program in Buddhist Translation**  
**TRNC 21: Reading Seminar**  
**Fall 2024**

Time: Monday 1-4 PM PST

Units: 3 units

Location: S223

Instructor: Bhikshuni Heng Yi

Emails: [heng.qiyi@drbu.edu](mailto:heng.qiyi@drbu.edu)

Office: Office Hours: By appointment

### **I. Course Description:**

This course is designed to develop students' knowledge of and appreciation for the literary and poetic structure of written works, through close reading, careful analysis, and shared inquiry discussion of selected passages from Western classics, Chinese classics, and Buddhist classics. Students will study primary sources, both in their source language as well as in multiple existing translations, to clarify how the written work conveys meaning and, further, how the conveyed meaning has implications for the personal, social, and natural worlds. Students will have the opportunity to explore the practice of close reading through close translation of selected passages of texts, with a particular focus on how translation choices impact what is conveyed to the reader and the effect it has.

### **II. Course Goals and Outcomes:**

#### **a. Program Learning Outcomes:**

- PLO 2. Articulate insights gained from major Buddhist methods and practices, close reading, and translation of texts and their implications for the personal, social, and natural worlds.
- PLO3. Create clear, accurate, nuanced translations adapted to various audiences.

#### **b. Course Outcomes:**

Students will learn to:

- Analyze the grammatical, syntactic, literary, and poetic structure of written works. both source and target languages in translated texts.

- Interpret and render translations of assigned passages from materials
- Engage in thoughtful dialogue with others to gain an understanding of assigned texts and their implications for the personal, social, and natural worlds.

### III. Format and Procedures

- **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance is required at all classes. Because our pedagogy is based on shared inquiry, students' attendance and class participation is essential to our success as a community of learners. Absence from or tardiness to any class session will be reflected in your final course grade.
- **Discussion:** Classroom time will consist of reading and analyzing selected texts and lectures on the grammatical structure of sentences, combined with individual and collaborative translation work. Students will prepare and share work with the class.
- **Pre-Class Online Postings:** Prior to our class meetings, you will be asked to post thought-provoking questions and comments that will enable the class to fruitfully discuss the important points of that week's reading.
- **Translation Lab:** Students will practice rendering the Chinese or Buddhist texts into English translations in individual or group settings.
- **Final Translation Project:** Students will translate a longer portion of text.

### IV. Course Requirements:

#### Course Materials

- Supplemental handouts (to be given out in class)
- Other digital and online sources: [Digital Dictionary of Buddhism \(DDB\)](#), and others

#### Grading Procedures:

A student's final grade will consist of the following:

- Attendance & participation: 50% (Students who miss more than **two** classes will fail the course. Being more than ten minutes late for class will be considered as being tardy. Missing more than half a class, twice, counts as one absence.)
- Online Postings: 15%
- Final Translation Project: 35%

### V. Tentative Weekly Schedule (Subject to change):

#### Fall Semester

Week	Lessons
------	---------

<p>Wk 1 (8/19)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Buddhist Classics</p> <p><b>Heart Sutra</b> <a href="#">Reader</a></p>
<p>Wk 2 (8/26)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Chinese Classics</p> <p><b>The Analects</b> <a href="#">Reader</a> Selected passages from Books 1, 2 &amp; 4</p> <p>References: Simon Leys, trans., <i>The Analects of Confucius</i> (W.W. Norton, 1997)</p> <p>Edward Slingerland, <i>Confucius Analects: With Selection from Traditional Commentaries</i>. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Pub. Co, 2003. Print.</p> <p>Legge James trans., <i>The Analects</i>, Dover Publications, 1971.</p> <p><a href="#">Translation Lab: Excerpts from Book 4</a></p>
<p>Wk 3 (9/2)</p>	<p>Labor Day, no class</p>
<p>Wk 4 (9/9)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Western Classics</p> <p><b>Emily Dickinson</b> <a href="#">Reader</a></p>
<p>Wk 5 (9/16)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Buddhist Classics</p> <p><b>The Vimalakirti Sutra</b> <a href="#">Reader</a></p>
<p>Wk 6 (9/23)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Western Classics</p> <p><b>What Is Love? Translating four hearts into English</b> <a href="#">Reader</a></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: DMs Jin Chuan and Jin Wei</b></p>
<p>Wk 7 (9/30) --&gt; 9/26 CEI Week (10/1 - 10/4)</p>	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Chinese Classics</p> <p><b>Nurturing Our Sprouts of Virtue: Translating Mencius for a Growth Mindset</b> (<i>The Mengzi</i>: “The Four Sprouts” 四端)</p>

	<p><a href="#">Reader</a></p> <p><a href="#">Translation by A. Charles Muller</a></p>
Wk 8 (10/7)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Western Classics</p> <p><b>Shakespeare's Use of Language</b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Dr. Sue Rounds</b></p>
Wk 9 (10/14) --> (10/18)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Chinese Classics</p> <p><b>Translations of the <i>Daodejing</i>: Does Anything Go? Reader</b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Sarah Babcock</b></p>
Wk 10 (10/21)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Buddhist Classics</p> <p><b>Xinxin Ming 信心銘 <a href="#">Reader</a></b></p>
Wk 11 (10/28)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Chinese Classics</p> <p><b>Zhuangzi 莊子 Reader</b></p>
Wk 12 Student Conference (11/4 - 11/6)	No class
Wk 13 (11/11)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Western Classics</p> <p><b>Rumi Reader</b></p>
Wk 14 (11/18)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Buddhist Classics</p> <p><b>The Lotus Sutra Reader</b></p>
Wk 15 (11/25) Thanksgiving Break 11/28 - 11/29	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Chinese Classics</p> <p><b>Chinese Couplet <a href="#">Reader</a></b></p>
Wk 16 (12/2)	<p>Translation Appreciation &amp; Comparison: Western Classics</p>

	<b>The Little Prince</b>
Wk 17 (12/9)	<b>Student Presentations</b>  <a href="#"><u>Final Project Instruction</u></a>

### **Electronics policy**

While technology (computers, cell phones, tablets) use is generally not allowed in DRBU classes, students in this course will be allowed to use devices in the lab section and in class for research and communication **only** for the purposes of translation-related activities. Please respect guest lecturers and those speaking in class discussions by paying full attention and not misusing technology.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

You are responsible for submitting your own original work. Plagiarism includes copying passages from someone else's work, using someone else's insights without acknowledgement, or paraphrasing another's original phrases without acknowledgement. Using someone else's words or ideas without proper citations will affect your grade or result in failing the course. Be sure that you provide complete citations for *any* material that helps shape your translations, even if you are paraphrasing another person's text in your own words. Papers that do not meet academic standards for citation may not be credited for the course and, if plagiarism is a concern, may be reported to the Program Director.

### **Disability Services**

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you already receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Please bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. Your professors will hold any information you share with them in the strictest confidence unless you give them permission to do otherwise. If you have not contacted the Office of Disability Services and need accommodations, your professors will be happy to refer you.