

Dharma Realm Buddhist University
Certificate Program in Buddhist Translation
TRNC 11 - Translating the Dharma: Theories, Ethics, and Skills
Fall 2024

Time: Wednesday 2:15 - 4:15 pm Class
 Thursday 2:15 - 5:15 pm Translation Lab
 Wed. & Thurs. 8:00 - 8:30 am Meditation Lab

Units: 4 units

Room: S223

Instructors: Fedde M. de Vries
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Office: S106

Office hours:

Fedde: Wednesday & Thursday 1 - 2 pm (welcome to walk in);
Friday afternoon 2:30 - 4 pm (by appointment)

Course Description:

This course introduces basic translation theories and ethics, rhetoric of translation, research skills and resources, glossary management, and teamwork skills integrating the Four Committee process used by the Buddhist Text Translation Society (BTTS). This course will also introduce you to selected contemporary scholarship in translation studies. You will be invited to consider how the Dharma might be translated for different contexts. Guest lecturers from different fields will share the core values and methods that guide their own translation work. After listening to their perspectives, you will experiment with moving away from meaning-based linguistic equivalence to produce translations that reach out to the modern mind and serve as catalysts for transformation. In the lab component, in addition to the meditation lab, you will work individually to translate, review, or edit sections of text, applying principles and skills of interpretation and translation learned in this and other courses. During part of the lab, the class will collectively review and revise what you have produced independently.

Program Learning Outcomes

- TRNC PLO 1 - Exercise ethical sensibility.
- TRNC 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.
- TRNC PLO 3 - Create clear, accurate, nuanced translations adapted to various audiences.

Course Learning Outcomes

You will demonstrate the ability to

Explain various concepts and types of translation theories and apply them to the translation of Buddhist texts.

Use key resources such as dictionaries, the electronic Tripitaka, and online databases.

Learn to create glossaries of terms and expressions.

Develop skills in one or more of the various aspects of the translation process: primary translation, revision, editing and polishing.

- Engage in shared inquiry with experienced translators, scholars, and professionals when they give presentations to the class.

Grading Breakdown

- Attendance & Participation (40%)
- Written Assignments (e.g. Reading Questions & Comments) (20%)
- Individual Translation Work (Lab) (40%)

Required Work & Grading

You will be graded on attendance, participation, translation assignments, and written assignments.

Attendance & Participation: Class performance, cumulative understanding, and informed participation in ongoing discussion depend on regular attendance. More than 2 absences will result in a failure for the course.

Not present for 50% of one class session twice = 1 absence

Not present for 100% of one class session = 1 absence

You will be expected to keep current with the weekly reading assignments and engage in class discussion.

Translation Assignments: In the lab, you will translate sections of a text—either primary translation, bilingual review, or editing. Work will be reviewed in class as a group.

Contemplative Exercises: As part of experiential learning and emulating the translator-practitioners they are studying, you will participate in one hour of sitting meditation each week. You will also participate in the university-wide Contemplative Exercise Immersion retreat.

*Written Assignments: To encourage you to engage with the readings as aids to growth and change in your translation practice, we ask that you log questions/reflections on the readings during the semester.

Unit Topics & Descriptions

Wk	Readings
Wk 1 Class: 8/21 Lab: 8/22	<p>“Dedicating His Life to Propagating the Buddhadharma: The Translation of the Buddhist Canon.” <i>In Memory of the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua, Volume One</i>. Burlingame, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 1995.</p> <p>Hsuan Hua. “On the Translation of Terms” and “On Various Interpretations of the Text.” <i>Timely Teachings: Gold Mountain Monastery in the Early 1970s</i>. Burlingame, CA: Buddhist Text Translation Society, 2008, pp. 331-338.</p>

Wk 2 Class: 8/28 Lab: 8/29	<p>Ajahn Munindo. “we are all translators.” www.ratanagiri.org.uk 15 Dec 2014. Web. 1 Sep 2022.</p> <p>Heuman, Linda. “Whose Buddhism is Truest?” in <i>Tricycle: The Buddhist Review</i>. Summer 2011.</p>
Wk 3 Class: 9/4 Lab: 9/5	Glossary Management I: Reference Tools — DM Yi
Wk 4 Class: 9/11 Lab: 9/12	<p>Vinay, Jean-Paul and Jean Darbelnet. “A Methodology for Translation,” translated by Juan C. Sager and M.-J. Hamel. <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i>, edited by Lawrence Venuti. Routledge, 2000. 84–93.</p> <p>Yang, Wenfen. “Brief Study on Domestication and Foreignization in Translation.” <i>Journal of Language Teaching and Research</i>, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 77-80, January 2010</p> <p>Basnett, Susan. <i>Reflections on Translation</i>. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2011. Ch. 9 “Translation or Adaptation”</p>
Wk 5 Class: 9/18 Lab: 9/19	<p>Rosemont, Henry. “On Translation and Interpretation.” <i>Vajra Bodhi Sea</i>, June 2014: 25–28. July 2014: 32–35. Aug. 2014: 24–28. Sept. 2014: 32–38.</p> <p>Basnett, Susan. <i>Reflections on Translation</i>. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2011. Ch. 11 “Telling Tales”</p>
Wk 6 Class: 25 Lab: 26	<p>Eco, Umberto. <i>Experiences in Translation</i>, translated by Alastair McEwen and edited by Olga Zorzi Pugliese. University of Toronto Press Incorporated 2001.</p> <p>Basnett, Susan. <i>Reflections on Translation</i>. Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters, 2011. Ch. 24 “Between the Lines.”</p>
Wk 7 (CEI: no class)	CEI
Wk 8 Class: 10/9 Lab: 10/10	Justin Howe: Rhetoric of Translation I
Wk 9 Class: 10/6 Lab: 10/17	Justin Howe: Rhetoric of Translation II
Wk 10 Class: 10/23 Lab: 10/24	<p>“Yichang-The Rigorous Methodology of Buddhist Sūtra Translation in Ancient China” - by Cao Shibang</p> <p>譯場——中國古代翻譯佛經嚴謹方式 by 曹仕邦</p>
Wk 11 Class: 10/30	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006):

Lab: 10/29	pp. 52-69 DMs An Shigao, Liu Xi, Lokakṣema, Zhi Qian, Wang Bi, Kang Senghui, and Zhi Mingdu.
Wk 12 Class: 11/6 Lab: 11/7	Student Conferences. No class.
Wk 13 Class: 11/13 Lab: 11/14	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): pp. 69-89 DMs Dao An and Hui Yuan.
Wk 14 Class: 11/20 Lab: 11/21	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): pp. 90-112 DMs Seng Rui, Kumārajīva, Seng Zhao, Hui Guan, Dao Biao, and Dao Lang.
Wk 15 Class: 11/27	Glossary Management: Michael Lu – Translation and Machines Thanksgiving break
Wk 16 Class: 12/4 Lab: 12/5	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): pp. 114-129 DMs Seng You, Hui Jiao, Paramartha, and Hui Kai
Wk 17 Class: 12/11 Lab: 12/12	Cheung, Martha. <i>An Anthology of Chinese Discourse on Translation: From Earliest Times to the Buddhist Project</i> . Manchester: St. Jerome (2006): pp. 136-147; DM Yan Cong pp. 156-161 & 166-168 DMs Xuan Zang & Yi Jing

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.

Changes to the syllabus

Note that the syllabus is subject to change. We will communicate any changes via email. You are responsible for making sure you are up to date on email communications.