

CW915-15 The Practice of Literary Translation

23/24

Department

SCAPVC - Warwick Writing Programme

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Maureen Freely

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module draws on the ideas and practices of the eminent scholar and translator Michael Henry Heim, who led a writing workshop on literary translation at UCLA for more than thirty years.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The emphasis will be on literary translation as literary writing. Students are invited to translate into English texts from whatever language – ancient or modern – they choose. It is the translated text that is examined in workshops. Students mark whatever words, sentences, or phrases they find puzzling, and together they seek reasons, alternatives, and (ultimately) general principles. Over time, students come to understand the particular challenges and pitfalls of the languages from which they are translating, as well as coming to appreciate that each language has its own 'genius'. They also come to appreciate the complex processes by which translators can deploy literary techniques, not just to do justice to the works they are translating, but also to challenge and ultimately enrich their own use of the English language. Students will be asked to attempt translations across a range of modes and forms. Readings from translated literature and

Translation Studies will allow students to reflect on their practice. Literary translators will be invited to speak about their practice and about the books they have brought into English.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week One: Introduction/Becoming Visible as a Translator

Week Two: Prose Workshop

Week Three: Prose Workshop

Week Four: Reading and Reviewing

Week Five: Poetry Workshop

Week Six: Poetry Workshop

Week Seven: Markets and Systems

Week Eight: Free Choice Workshop

Week Nine: Free Choice Workshop

Week Ten: How to Get Started in Literary Translation

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- The development of practical literary translation skills, including editorial skills; the ability to establish a conceptual and practical framework for the production of literary translations; an appreciation of the position occupied by translation in the literary system and marketplace.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 3 hours (20%)
Private study	120 hours (80%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading & research

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
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Assessment component			
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Portfolio of creative and critical work	100%		No
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Students will submit a portfolio of 50% creative work (i.e. literary translation) and 50% essay.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on final portfolios. Oral feedback on translations workshopped in class.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TCWA-Q3PB Postgraduate Taught Literary Translation Studies
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3PB Postgraduate Taught Literary Translation Studies

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TENS-Q2PE MA World Literature
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3PD Postgraduate Taught Critical and Cultural Theory
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3P1 Postgraduate Taught English Literature
- Year 1 of TENA-Q3PE Postgraduate Taught English and Drama
- Available to all MA students on non-English Literature degree programmes – subject to availability and relevant qualifications.