LN312-15 Translation and Translators in the Contemporary World

24/25

Department
> School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Level
> Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader
> Anna Lanfranchi

Credit value
> 15

Module duration
> 10 weeks

Assessment
> 100% coursework

Study location
> University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This cross-SMLC module introduces students to translation as a specific set of skills. It situates the practice of translation within the context of relevant theories developed in the field of Translation Studies, and raises awareness of the role of translation and translators in contemporary society. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective and integrating a linguistic approach with sociological and cultural theories, the module presents case studies related to the students' language specialisms, which challenge a purely textual approach to translation.
By looking at the role of translators, as well as publishers and editors, students are encouraged to approach translation as a multifaceted cultural process involving several diverse agents and perspectives in both source and target culture.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to allow students to reflect upon their own reading of translations and their own translation practices in relation to cultural and sociological issues.
It aims to enable students to critically reflect on the multifaceted concept of translation from a

cultural, sociological and historical perspective, by analysing case studies related to their language specialism; to encourage students to see the translation as a two-way process of cultural exchange, an understanding which can enrich their study of texts; to allow students to strengthen their critical analysis of the relationship between text and culture by exploring translation not only from a linguistic perspective but also from a cultural perspective; enrich students' perception of translation as both cultural process and cultural product through assessed work, aimed at raising awareness of (a) the need for a translation to fit publishing agendas; (b) the cultural and publishing constraints at stake when translating a text from a source to target culture; raise students' awareness of the role of diverse agents, including translators, publishers and editors, in the process of translation, by means of assessed work, seminar discussions and group work; enhance students' analytical skills and their critical approach through the translation project.

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 1: Translation in theory and practice
The lecture and seminar will introduce the theory and practice of translation, in its multiple forms (ranging from literary translation to community interpreting).
Week 2: Translation and World Literature
This session will analyse the relationship between translation, national canons and world literature, examining the role of translation in the production, distribution and reception of cultural artefacts. The seminar will discuss in more detail translation in relation to world literature.
Week 3: Translation and Publishing
In this session, students will be introduced to the sociological theory of translation in relation to the publishing market. The lecture and seminars will prompt students to shift their focus from the concept of translation as a text to that of translation as a cultural product and process. The analysis of the publishing field at a national level will enhance a deeper understanding of cultural exchanges on a translational level.
Week 4: Translation and the Profession
The lecture will focus on Skopos theory and functionalism to understand how to implement the translation-oriented source-text analysis (TOSTA) model. The session will invite students to reflect upon the textual and extra-textual aspects that help translators make decisions when completing a translation task. The seminar will explore the opportunities and the challenges that AI poses for the profession.
Week 5: Translation and evaluation
This session will focus on evaluating translations considering the relationship between translators and readers. In this session, students will learn about rich points and how these can be analysed to understand the decision-making process of translators and the impact these could have on readers. Students will present and discuss case studies to become familiar with the model for translation analysis.
Week 6: Reading week
Week 7: Audio-visual Translation
The lecture and seminar will focus on how translation is used in the film industry throughout the world. The session will invite students to reflect upon the cultural, aesthetic, and operational aspects at play in the cultural transfer of subtitles and dubbing.
Week 8: Translation and advertising

The session will focus on how translation is used in old and new media, including the internet. It will also explore translation in commercial advertising. The session will invite students to reflect upon the cultural, sociological, and aesthetic aspects of language contact in globalised, translingual media.

Week 9: Translation Project & Presentations I
Workshop for the design and fine-tuning of translation projects with practical examples. Student presentations.

Week 10: Translation Project & Presentations II
Workshop for the design and fine-tuning of translation projects with practical examples. Student presentations.

Learning outcomes

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

- Level 6: Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the linguistic, cultural, and sociological implications of translating cultural products
- Level 5: Demonstrate the ability to critically analyse the linguistic and cultural implications of translating cultural products
- Level 6: Build on their language specialism and cross-cultural awareness to conceive an original, scholarly rigorous translation portfolio
- Level 5: Level 6: Build on their language specialism and cross-cultural awareness to conceive a scholarly rigorous translation portfolio
- Level 6: Demonstrate sophisticated knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts in translation studies
- Level 5: Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key concepts in translation studies
- Level 5: Demonstrate an ability to use appropriate Translation Studies terminology to critically reflect on the specific strategies that translators adopt when translating
- Level 6: Demonstrate an ability to use sophisticated Translation Studies terminology to critically reflect on and evaluate the specific strategies that translators adopt when translating

Indicative reading list

Apter, Emily. 2004. "Global Translation: The 'Invention' of Comparative Literature, Istanbul, 1933." In Debating World Literature, edited by Christopher Prendergast, 76-109. London and New York: Verso.

Apter, Emily. 2006. The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Asad, Talal. 1986. "The Concept of Cultural Translation in British Social Anthropology." In Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography, edited by James Clifford and George E. Marcus. 141-164. Berkeley, Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Asad, Talal. 1995. "A Comment on Translation, Critique, and Subversion." In Between Languages and Cultures: Translation and Cross-Cultural Texts, edited by Anuradha Dingwaney and Carol Maier, 325-332. Pittsburgh and London: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Baker, Mona. 2006. Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account, London and New York: Routledge.

Bassnett, Susan. 1998. "The Translation Turn in Cultural Studies." In Constructing Cultures: Essays on Literary Translation, edited by Susan Bassnett and André Lefevere, 123-140. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

Bauman, Zygmunt. 1987. Legislators and Interpreters: On Modernity, Post-Modernity and Intellectuals. London: Polity Press.

Benjamin, Walter. 1968/1999. "The Task of the Translator." in Illuminations, translated by Harry Zorn. London: Pimlico.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 2008. "A Conservative Revolution in Publishing." Translation Studies 1 (2): 123-153.

Casanova, Pascale. 2004. The World republic of Letters, translated by M.B. DeBevoise, Cambridge, MA and London: Harvard University Press.

Cronin, Michael. 2003. Translation and Globalization. London and New York: Routledge.

Delabastita, Dirk, and Rainier Grutman, eds. 2005. Fictionalising Translation and Multilingualism, thematic issue of Linguistica Antverpiensia, New Series 4.

Dingwaney, Anuradha. 1995. "Introduction: Translating 'Third World' Cultures." In Between Languages and Cultures: Translation and Cross-Cultural Texts, edited by Anuradha Dingwaney and Carol Maier, 3-15. Pittsburgh and London: University of Pittsburgh Press.

Doerr, Nicole. 2012. "Translating Democracy: How Activists in the European Social Forum Practice Multilingual Deliberation." European Political Science Review 4 (3): 361-384.

Even-Zohar, Itamar. 1990. "Polysystem Studies." Poetics Today 11 (1) (Spring).

Kellman, Steven G. 2000. The Translingual Imagination, Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press.

Kellman, Steven G., ed. 2003. Switching Languages: Translingual Writers Reflect on Their Craft. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press.

Moretti, Franco. 1998. An Atlas of the European Novel 1800-1900. London and New York: Verso.

Moretti, Franco. 2004. "Conjectures on World Literature." In Debating World Literature, edited by Christopher Prendergast, 148-162. London and New York: Verso.

Pratt, Mary Louise. 2002. "The Traffic in Meaning: Translation, Contagion, Infiltration." Profession (MLA Journal): 25-36.

Sapiro, Gisèle. 2008. "Translation and the Field of Publishing." Translation Studies 1 (2): 154-166.

Spivak, Gayatri C. 1993. "The Politics of Translation." In Outside in the Teaching Machine, 179-200. New York and London: Routledge.

Toury, Gideon. 1980. In Search of a Theory of Translation, Tel Aviv: The Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics.

Toury, Gideon. 1995. Descriptive Translation Studies and Beyond. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Tymoczko, Maria. 1999a. Translation in a Postcolonial Context: Early Irish Literature in English Translation. Manchester: St. Jerome.

Venuti, Lawrence, ed. 1992. Rethinking Translation: Discourse, Subjectivity, Ideology. London and New York: Routledge.

Venuti, Lawrence. 1995. The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation. London and New York: Routledge.

Wolf, Michaela, and Alexandra Fukari, eds. 2007. Constructing a Sociology of Translation. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

View reading list on Talis Aspire

International

All modules delivered in SMLC are necessarily international. Students engage with themes and ideas from a culture other than that of the UK and employ their linguistic skills in the analysis of primary materials from a non-Anglophone context. Students will also be encouraged to draw on the experiences of visiting exchange students in the classroom and will frequently engage with theoretical and critical frameworks from across the world.

Subject specific skills

This module will develop students' analytical skills through engaging with primary materials in the target language and their translations, as well as theoretical literature. It will build students' capacity to engage with aspects of translation and cultural exchange through analysis of this primary material and through seminar discussion aimed at deeper critical thinking. In particular, students' awareness of translation and translators will be enhanced through lectures and seminars which engage in scholarship in the field.

Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from target-language cultures. In the course of independent study, class work and assessment students will develop the following skills: written and oral communication, creative and critical thinking, problem solving and analysis, time management and organisation, independent research in both English and their target language(s), intercultural understanding and the ability to mediate between languages and cultures, ICT literacy in both English and the target language(s), personal responsibility and the exercise of initiative.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	7 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Seminars	11 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Translation Portfolio	80%	

Portfolio comprising critical review of published translation, translation, close analysis of translation challenges and strategies.

	Weighting	Study time
Translation Portfolio Presentation	20%	

An in-person presentation of the plan for the translation portfolio, including: 1) overview of the source text, 2) features of the chosen published translation, 3) publication output and target audience of the retranslation, 4) key translation challenges and strategies.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in the course of the module in a number of ways. Feedback should be understood to be both formal and informal and is not restricted to feedback on formal written work. Oral feedback will be provided by the module tutor in the course of seminar discussion. This may include feedback on points raised in small group work or in the course of individual presentations or larger group discussion.

Written feedback will be provided on formal assessment using the standard SMLC Assessed Work feedback form appropriate to the assessment. Feedback is intended to enable continuous improvement throughout the module and written feedback is generally the final stage of this feedback process. Feedback will always demonstrate areas of success and areas for future development, which can be applied to future assessment. Feedback will be both discipline-specific and focussed on key transferrable skills, enabling students to apply this feedback to their future professional lives. Feedback will be fair and reasonable and will be linked to the SMLC marking scheme appropriate to the module.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A3 Undergraduate French with Italian
- Year 4 of UHPA-R400 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4V1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and History

- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RH Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Italian

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 2 of ULNA-QR38 Undergraduate English and Italian
- Year 4 of UITA-RQ38 Undergraduate Italian and Classics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UFRA-QR3C Undergraduate English and French (3 year)
- Year 4 of UHPA-QR34 Undergraduate English and Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1L4 Undergraduate French and Economics (4-year)
- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A8 Undergraduate French with Japanese
- ULNA-R2L4 Undergraduate German and Economics (4-year)
    - Year 2 of R2L4 German and Economics (4-year)
    - Year 4 of R2L4 German and Economics (4-year)
- Year 2 of UHPA-R400 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RF Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and French
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RG Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and German
- UHPA-R4W4 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
    - Year 2 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
    - Year 4 of R4W4 Hispanic Studies and Theatre Studies
- Year 4 of UHPA-R4T1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Chinese
- Year 4 of UHPA-RP43 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Film Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RL Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Italian
- Year 4 of UHPA-R4R7 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Russian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R3L4 Undergraduate Italian and Economics (4-year)

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 2 of ULNA-QR37 Undergraduate English and German
- Year 4 of ULNA-RR14 Undergraduate French and German
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RF Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and French
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RH Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Italian
- Year 4 of UHPA-R4T6 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies with Arabic

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 3 of ULNA-R2L5 Undergraduate German and Economics (3 year)

This module is Core option list D for:

- Year 2 of UFRA-R101 Undergraduate French Studies
- Year 4 of ULNA-RR14 Undergraduate French and German
- Year 4 of ULNA-RR15 Undergraduate French and Italian
- Year 4 of ULNA-R4RG Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and German

This module is Core option list E for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-R4L1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Economics (4-year)

This module is Core option list G for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-R1A4 Undergraduate French with Spanish

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 4 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies
- Year 3 of UGEA-RW25 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies (3-year)

This module is Option list B for:

- UFRA-R10P Undergraduate French Studies
  - Year 2 of R10P French Studies (Part-Time)
  - Year 2 of R10P French Studies (Part-Time)
- Year 2 of ULNA-R1WB Undergraduate French and Theatre Studies
- UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
  - Year 2 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
  - Year 4 of M163 Politics, International Studies and French
- UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
  - Year 2 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
  - Year 3 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
  - Year 4 of M164 Politics, International Studies and German
- UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
  - Year 3 of M16D Politics, International Studies and German (without year abroad)
  - Year 3 of M16D Politics, International Studies and German (without year abroad)
- UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 2 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
  - Year 4 of M166 Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)
- UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
  - Year 2 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian
  - Year 3 of M165 Politics, International Studies and Italian

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 4 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 2 of ULNA-R4L1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Economics (4-year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of ULNA-R1L4 Undergraduate French and Economics (4-year)
- Year 2 of UGEA-RW24 Undergraduate German and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 4 of ULNA-RR15 Undergraduate French and Italian

This module is Option list G for:

- Year 2 of UFRA-QR3A Undergraduate English and French
- Year 4 of UFRA-R1WA Undergraduate French with Film Studies