

# CW915-15 The Practice of Literary Translation

**25/26**

**Department**

SCAPVC - Warwick Writing Programme

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Rosalind Harvey

**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**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
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**

**Assessment component**

Portfolio of creative and critical work   100%   No

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 TLNA-Q910 Postgraduate Taught Translation and Cultures

This module is Option list A for:

- TLNA-Q910 Postgraduate Taught Translation and Cultures
  - Year 1 of Q910 Translation and Cultures
  - Year 1 of Q912 Translation and Cultures: Translation and Technologies