# LN914-30 Translation across Cultures: Concepts and Theories

## 26/27

**Department**
School of Modern Languages and Cultures
**Level**
Taught Postgraduate Level
**Module leader**
Caroline Summers
**Credit value**
30
**Module duration**
10 weeks
**Assessment**
100% coursework
**Study location**
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

## Introductory description

This is a core theory module for the MA in Translation and Cultures (MATC) and is open as an optional module to any MA student with an interest in Translation and Transcultural Studies on course lead agreement.

The module seeks to familiarise students with key theoretical concepts in contemporary Translation and Transcultural Studies, explored through case studies across a range of text types in translation; it also provides an overview of the development of Translation Studies as a discipline. Students will be given the opportunity to explore how translation theory relates to translation practice and to the study of translation across a range of text types, as well as reflecting on their own positionality as researchers and practitioners in Translation Studies.

## Module aims

1. Provide students with foundational knowledge of core concepts in Translation and Transcultural Studies
2. Enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of these concepts through in-class discussion and their own independent study

3. Encourage students to explore links between translation theory and translation practice across a range of text types
4. Equip students to reflect critically on questions of interest to Translation and Transcultural Studies

## 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.

1 Introduction to Translation Studies: what is translation and how do we study it?

- Intralingual, interlingual, intersemiotic
- Process and product
- Metaphors of translation, translation as metaphor
  2 TRANSLATING TEXTS 1: Translation as transfer
- Linguistic approaches
- Equivalence and untranslatability
  3 TRANSLATING TEXTS 2: Rewriting and authorship
- Functionalist approaches
- Lefevere
  4 TRANSLATING CULTURES 1: Culture as translation
- Multilingualism and language contact
- Transcultural mediation
  5 TRANSLATING CULTURES 2: Translation as representation
- Venuti
- Benjamin
  6 READING WEEK
  7 TRANSLATING AGENTS 1: Ethics and ideology
- Ideologies in and of translation
- Ethical research in translation
  8 TRANSLATING AGENTS 2: Translation as action
- Sociological approaches
- Activism
  9 WORLD-NESS: Translation and the global
- Globalisation
- World literature
  10 Mini-conference (peer feedback exercise to support assessment preparation)

## Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of core concepts in contemporary Translation and Transcultural Studies, including the development of the discipline and potential future directions
- Engage critically with theoretical concepts as appropriate for their own work

- Critically reflect on the intersections between translation practice and the theoretical approaches explored
- Demonstrate critical awareness, analytical and written skills at MA level
- Draw on their knowledge of language-specific exchanges to reflect on Translation and Transcultural Studies more broadly
- Demonstrate key transferable skills including effective and efficient communication, self-motivation, self- reliance, co-operation, and time and information management

## Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

## Research element

Students will complete an individual essay for assessment, which will require them to demonstrate research skills. Tasks set for seminar work each week will also sometimes include active independent research from students to support their own contributions in class.

## 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. Students on this module will be exposed to theoretical approaches and case studies from a broad global context.

## Subject specific skills

This module will enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding of core concepts in contemporary Translation and Transcultural Studies; it will familiarise them with the development of the discipline and will equip them to explore potential future directions in Translation and Transcultural Studies research. On completion of the module, students will be able to engage critically with these theoretical concepts as appropriate for their own work, as well as reflecting on the intersections between translation practice and the theoretical approaches explored. Students will be able to see the synergies between different theories and recognise their potential application for analysis across a range of context and text types.

## Transferable skills

All SMLC culture modules demand critical and analytical engagement with artefacts from non-Anglophone 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.

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## Study

## Study time

| Type | Required |
|---|---|
| Seminars | 9 sessions of 2 hours (6%) |
| Tutorials | 1 session of 1 hour (0%) |
| Private study | 281 hours (94%) |
| Total | 300 hours |

## Private study description

Independent study: 281 hours

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A

| Assessment component | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---|---|---|---|
| Essay | 100% | | Yes (extension) |

Students will submit a final essay of 5,000 words on a topic that they will devise themselves in consultation with the module convenor. The essay topic should relate to one or more theoretical concepts explored on the module. Students will have a small-group tutorial to discuss essay titles and will be given the opportunity to develop their essay ideas further with peer and tutor feedback on the in-class ‘mini-conference’ presentation in Term 1 Week 10, before final submission in Term 2.

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Reassessment component is the same** | | | |

### 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 focused 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.

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## 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
- TLNA-Q910 Postgraduate Taught Translation and Cultures
    - Year 1 of Q910 Translation and Cultures
    - Year 1 of Q910 Translation and Cultures
    - Year 1 of Q911 Translation and Cultures: Literary Translation Studies
    - Year 1 of Q912 Translation and Cultures: Translation and Technologies
    - Year 2 of Q910 Translation and Cultures
    - Year 2 of Q911 Translation and Cultures: Literary Translation Studies
    - Year 2 of Q912 Translation and Cultures: Translation and Technologies