

574:320 **Korean Translation: Introduction to Practical Translation & Translation Theories (Sp 2020)**

Thursdays 11:30am-2:30pm HH-A4

Instructor: Flora Kim flora.kim@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 10:20am-11:20am AB5124 (West Wing) & by appointment

1. Course Description

This course exposes students to various genres of translating material between English and Korean. Through in-class activities as well as self-selected assignments and reflection essays, students will acquire appropriate approaches to particular types of translation, while honing their language skills. Instructor will facilitate discussions on translation theories, methodology, and history insofar as they enhance students' translation techniques, perspectives, and understanding of the process. In-class translation activities are done in both directions (into Korean and into English), but students may choose the direction of their assignments. All readings are in English.

2. Course Goals

- Learn how to approach translating various genres depending on their targeted audiences, purposes, and circumstances
- Develop skills in grammar, idioms, and conventions of both source and target languages, while learning cultural and linguistic differences between them
- Become familiar with developing translation tools and concepts as well as established translation theories
- Examine and comprehend ethical aspects of translation work
- Learn to cooperate and work together with other translators through group work, coediting, critiquing, and discussion.

3. Course Structure

Typically, each class will begin with a group presentation of the week's reading, discussion, and lecture, followed by discussion on the assignment due on that day (11:30-12:50). After a ten-minute break, we will engage in, often in pairs, in-class translation exercises of a new genre/material. When a guest lecture is scheduled, some modifications will be made.

Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to have read and thought carefully about the required reading material before each class, often in connection with the assignment due on that day, so that you can fully engage in class discussions.

4. Course Requirements & Grade Distribution (based on a maximum of 100 points)

- (1) Group Presentation on Reading Material: 5 points
- (2) Short Assignments: 40 points (8 x 5 points)
- (3) Mid-Term Exams: 20 points (2 x 10 points)
- (4) Attendance & Preparedness: 10 points (includes quizzes on reading)
- (5) Final Project: 25 points

(1) Group Presentation on Reading Material (5 points)

You will work with a partner to present and lead a discussion on the assigned reading. Your presentation, with discussion, may take 20-30 minutes. When you prepare it, keep in mind the following, which are the criteria for grading:

- What the reading is about. It can be a quick summary and/or list of facts that were new to you
- How it is/isn't connected to the assignment due on that day
- **Two excerpts** from the reading that you want to open to discussion in class, **WHICH SHOULD BE POSTED ON SAKAI BY 9:00PM THE NIGHT BEFORE (and the class should check and think about them before class). Failure to do so will result in deduction in grade.**

Please engage the class in the discussion as well as you can. You and your partner may use: PowerPoint, handouts, outside material that you found to be relevant, your own personal experiences (including any translating activity from the past), etc. but make sure to stay with the topic. You are NOT obligated to use PowerPoint, handout, etc., but if you do, please upload it on Sakai by the end of the day of presentation. I will NOT grade the fanciness of those; they are only for the benefit of your classmates. All students should sign up for group presentation by the end of Week 2: January 30, 2020.

(2) Short Assignments: 40 points (8 x 5 points)

There are eight short translation assignments (representing distinctive genres we are covering) throughout the semester. The week before each one is due, we will do in-class translation exercises on that particular genre. After the class, YOU WILL SELECT a text of that genre you want to translate. You will also choose into which direction you want to translate, provided that **two out of the eight must be into the other direction.**

For example, if the genre is "Instructions, Manuals, or Directions," and you want to translate into English, you will search for a Korean-language instruction, manual, or direction. Scan/copy/print the source text you found and translate it. Afterwards, write a short essay (250-300 words), reflecting on the process. Was it more (or less) difficult than your expectation? Why? Was there an "untranslatable" part? Why? How did you try to resolve it? Was there something peculiar about this genre? Did any of the methods and theories covered in class help? If you showed the translation to someone (which you're encouraged to do), did the person understand it the way you intended? Was there a problem with the text itself? Would it be easier (or harder) for you to do the same kind of job if you were translating into the other language? These are only a few of the issues you can discuss.

For most assignments, the text should contain a minimum of 150 words in English. (If you are wondering what that amounts to, the previous paragraph contains 151 words.) If the genre contains an unconventional type of text (such as subtitles or advertisement), further instructions will be given. In case you have difficulty finding a source text, contact me as soon as possible and I will help you procuring one; however, it may be best that you find something that you want to translate. While doing so, you may also want to think about your final project.

The essay will be given as much weight as the translation itself. It should be written in English. Be clear, concise, and honest. Do not make a meaningless list of theories or terms, but think about the process of choices you have made while translating. I will NOT deduct any points for grammatical mistakes or writing qualities per se; however, if those deficiencies cause your essay to be weak or difficult to understand its meaning, then that will bring down your grade.

EVERYTHING you submit in this class that you write must follow the format as below:

- Times New Roman
- Twelve-point font
- One-inch top, bottom, side margins (standard default setting)
- DOUBLE-SPACED

Following this, your translation itself will be about one-half page and your essay about one page. Submit all three (the scanned/copied source text, your translation, and your essay) on Sakai by 11:00 am on the day it is due. Each 24 hours you are late in submitting will result in one full point off of the five-point assignment. **THE DUE DATE AND TIME WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

Bring a print out of the assignment (again all three parts) and hand it in at the end of the class. (If you do not bring a hard copy, I will NOT deduct any points; however, it will inconvenience me because I grade on hard copies.)

I will return the assignment on the following week with comments, after which you have a chance to make changes. **PRINT OUT THE NEW VERSION AND ATTACH IT ON TOP OF WHAT WAS RETURNED TO YOU AND HAND IT IN ON THE FOLLOWING WEEK.** After the second time, you will receive a grade. If you opt not to make changes, the assignment grade will be based on the first version.

(3) Mid-Term Exams (2 X 10 points)

Mid-terms will test students on readings and their applications to translation, as well as translation terminology. The format of each exam will be short answers, multiple choices, or both. They will NOT be “translating-on-the-spot” tests.

(4) Attendance & Preparedness: 10 points (includes quizzes on reading)

We only meet once a week, with a total of fourteen class meetings for the duration of the semester, and each absence will be taken seriously. You may be absent twice without penalty, starting from Week 2. (First week attendance will not count.) Third time you are absent, however, for **ANY** reason, **two course grade points** will be taken off. Fourth time, again for **ANY** reason, **three course grade points** will be taken off. **If you are absent more than four times, you will receive a failing grade.** Be judicious with absences. After two absences, your subsequent absences will result in the above consequences even if it is because of illnesses, family emergencies, or any other reasons.

Avoid arriving late or leaving early; two such occurrences will count as half absence and one course grade point will be deducted.

The instructor may give pop quizzes throughout the semester to test the student’s preparedness for that day’s class. Without reading the material, the class cannot engage in meaningful discussion. If you happen to be absent or late that day and miss the quiz, no makeup quiz will be given and you may lose the point. These points are incentives to be ready for class and to participate.

(5) Final Project: 25 points

You will select a project of your own choice, in whatever genre, in the direction you desire (E→K or K→E). Just as in short assignments, both the quality of translation AND reflection will be graded, along with the individual presentation on the last day of class. Further details will be given during the semester.

The proposed source material should be submitted to the instructor for review no later than April 9th. It is due on May 7th at 11:00am. Late submission will not be accepted. No final examination is given in this class.

5. Course Policy

- **Plagiarism:** All written work should be composed in the student's own words and the ideas of others should be properly cited. It is the responsibility of all students to know and adhere to the university's policy on plagiarism. Violations include: cheating, fabrication, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. These are serious violations that could **lead to an F in the course and/or expulsion from the university**. If there are any questions concerning this policy or about documentation of sources for work in the course, ask rather than inadvertently violating the policy.
- **Assignments:** All reading and written assignments are required and should be done before class. Late assignments will be deducted **a full course grade point for each late day**; however, **FINAL PROJECT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.** If there are true emergencies, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor timely to make appropriate arrangements.
- **Attendance:** See "4 (4) Attendance & Preparedness" above.
- **Gadgets:** All communication devices must be turned off for the duration of the class unless permitted explicitly by the instructor, **and laptops are not allowed**. Your participation grade may go down by one full course grade point every time you are caught using your electronic devices.
- **Conduct:** Complete your assigned viewing and reading before class. Group works should be done collaboratively. Be alert and contribute to discussion. Do not disrupt the class by coming and going at will.
- **Emails:** Instructors receive a lot of emails each day. They may not be able to respond to your email right away. Send your email well in advance. Do not wait until the last minute.
- **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who are seeking consideration for services or accommodations should immediately contact the Office of Disability Services at (732) 932-2848, 151 College Ave. Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu>
- **This syllabus may be modified throughout the semester, and it is the responsibility of each student to keep up to date of any and all announcements made in class.**

6. Required Textbook:

Is That a Fish in Your Ear?: Translation and the Meaning of Everything, David Bellos (2011)

7. Recommended Resources: Bi-lingual dictionaries (K→E, E→K)

8. Class Schedule

Subject to change with advance notice

#	Topics	Readings / Assignment Due
Wk1 1/23	Introduction Announcements: Prof. Young-mee Yu Cho	Syllabus overview
Wk2 1/30	What is translation? Diagnostic exercises In-class: Recipes *Sign up for Group Presentation	READ: Fish Ch. 4 & 29 READ: “Translation Techniques” (Sakai Resources) Prepare personal bio PPT
Wk3 2/6	Why do we translate? History of translation In-class: Instructions, manuals, and directions	READ: Fish Ch. 2 & 15 Assignment #1: Recipes
Wk4 2/13	What are conventions, idioms, context? In-class: Business letters/Resumes	READ: Fish Ch. 6 & 7 Assignment #2: Instructions, manuals, or directions
Wk5 2/20	How do we make things fit? In-class: Videos and cartoons	READ: Fish Ch. 12 & 22 Assignment #3: Business letters/Resumes
Wk6 2/27	What is “purpose” or “function”? Guest Speaker: Nannan Liu, Ph.D. candidate in translation studies <February 29: The Second Rutgers Translathon>	READ: “Skopos” (Sakai Resources) Assignment #4: Videos or cartoons
Wk7 3/5	MID-TERM In-class: Certificates, licenses, forms Invoicing & clients	
Wk8 3/12	Are some things untranslatable? In-class: News headlines, jokes, ads	READ: Fish Ch. 14 READ: “Word Magic” (Sakai Resources) Assignment #5: Certificates, licenses, or forms

3/19	SPRING RECESS - NO CLASS	
Wk9 3/26	What is Community Translation? In-class: Health documents	READ: Fish 17 & 18 Assignment #6: News headlines, jokes, or ads
Wk10 4/2	Is machine translation feasible? What are ethics of Translators? Pre-edit & Post-edit Guest Speaker: Prof. Laura Ramirez Polo, Ph.D.	READ: "CAT" (Sakai Resources) READ: "Ethics" (Sakai Resources) Assignment #7: Health documents
Wk11 4/9	MID-TERM In-class: Legal documents	*Final Project Source Text due
Wk12 4/16	What is localization? *Sign up for final project presentation time	READ: "Localization" (Sakai Resources) Assignment #8: Legal documents
Wk13 4/23	How is interpreting different from translating? Guest Speaker: TBA	READ: Fish 23 & 24 READ: "Language Barrier" (Sakai Resources)
Wk14 4/30	Final Project Presentations	
5/7		Final Project due on Sakai 11:00 am Late papers will NOT be accepted