

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

LING 485 Principles of Translation (3 sem. hrs.)

Faculty: Dr. Michael Walrod **Time:** TBA
Doug Trick **Place:** CanIL, Rm TBA

Office hours: by appointment

Office: CanIL Rm 316; phone 604-513-2121, ext 3937

Prerequisite: LING 460, LING 470, LING 480 (with a grade of B- or above)

Course Description:

This course is designed to give the student the theoretical basis and practical skills for the transfer of meaning from one language to another. Topics will include semantic analysis of source language and receptor language, and problems encountered in cross-language transfer, with particular attention to the translation of Scripture. Attention will be given to the importance of exegesis for achieving a quality translation.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Have an appreciation for values such as accuracy, naturalness, clarity, and acceptableness, and an awareness of how these values interact in producing quality translation.
2. Be able to analyze a source language: discover the semantic content of a source text; investigate problems of secondary and figurative meanings, and skewing between surface and deep structure; analyze propositions, semantic roles, and relations between propositions; recognize the significance of units larger than the word, especially the function of discourse.
3. Understand basic principles of lexicology, and be able to determine the meanings of words, including multiple senses and collocational restrictions.
4. Be able to effect cross-language transfer by discovering semantic equivalents among languages, and by transferring skewed and figurative speech from a source language meaningfully to a receptor language.
5. Be able to utilize techniques for testing a translation.
6. Understand some of the interpersonal dynamics which come into play in the translation process (e.g., working with a translation assistant, conducting a “partner check”, interacting with a translation consultant or a review committee).
7. Have an appreciation for the depth and breadth of the contributions made by native speakers of a receptor language in the translation process; and be able to work effectively with such individuals and groups.
8. Be aware of computer tools which can be helpful in exegesis and in editing translated material.

Required Text:

Larson, Mildred L. 1998. *Meaning-based Translation: A Guide to Cross-language Equivalence*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc.

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation. (See ClassParticipation.doc)

2. Daily written assignments. Where possible, we will begin to work on each daily assignment before the end of the class period. These assignments will normally be due at the beginning of the following class period. They are meant to reinforce the topic under discussion each day, and to provide me with feedback as to how effectively the material is being learned. (See AssignmentDeadlines.doc)
3. Translation Simulation Project. After the basic principles are given, the student will be given a short text from a minority language with interlinear translation, along with a sketch of the culture and language of the people. The text and all the instructions [SimTranInstruct.doc] for the Simulation Project will be posted on MyCourses. The intent of this project is to give students some hands-on experience in the translation process.
4. Final Exam. This will cover the material from the entire course. There will be at least one review class scheduled prior to the exam.

Determination of Final Grade:

Class attendance, participation.....	10%
Daily assignments	30%
Final exam.....	30%
Translation simulation project.....	30%

Grading Scale

A+	95-100	B+	82-84	C+	72-74	D+	60-64
A	90-94	B	78-81	C	68-71	D	55-59
A-	85-89	B-	75-77	C-	65-67	F	Below 55

Bibliography of Supplementary Materials:

- Barnwell, Katherine. 1980. *Introduction to Semantics and Translation*. Horsleys Green, UK: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- Beekman, John and John Callow. 1974. *Translating the Word of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.
- Callow, Kathleen. 1974. *Discourse Considerations in Translating the Word of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.
- Larson, Mildred L, Ellis Deibler & Marjory Croft. 1997. *Meaning-based Translation: Biblical Exercises. Workbook*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc.
- Newell, Leonard E. 1995. *Handbook on Lexicography*. Manila: Linguistic Society of the Philippines.
- Scollon, Ron and Suzanne Wong Scollon. 1995. *Intercultural Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell. Publication 21 in the Series Language in Society, Peter Trudgill, editor
- Shaw, R. Daniel. 1988. *Transculturation*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

Journals: *The Bible Translator*
Notes on Translation
Occasional Papers in Translation and Textlinguistics

Late Assignment Policy

(See AssignmentDeadlines.doc. NOTE: You are responsible to read this policy statement; if you have any questions about it, please let me know.)

Campus Closure Policy

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar 2008-09, pp. 37-38). Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from:

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

<http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Learning Disability

Occasionally a student may enter a class who experiences a learning disability. Students who experience such a disability have a responsibility to inform the faculty member *at the beginning of the course* so that any adjustments can be made to facilitate the student's learning process. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs a faculty member of a disability at the end of the class.

Examination Policy

A student who is absent from a final examination without an acceptable excuse will be assigned a zero for that examination. Absence due to illness must be supported by a medical certificate indicating the nature of the illness. If an examination is missed for any reason, including illness, the student must notify the faculty member prior to the examination. Any exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the faculty member.