



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה לספרויות זרות ובלשנות, תש"פ 2019-20

Name of the course: Translation in Theory and Practice

Lecturer name: Rachel Wamsley

Course number:

Office hours: Mondays 14.00-16.00

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

This course is a workshop on the practice of literary translation on the one hand and an introduction to translation theory on the other. While reading classic works in translation theory by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Walter Benjamin, Lawrence Venuti, and Lori Chamberlain, among others, we will explore a series of case-studies drawn from the history of English literature, among them Bible translation, the translation of Ovid and Homer by Dryden and Chapman, and modernist translations such as Ezra Pound's "The Seafarer" and Louis Zukofsky's aural translations of Catullus. The second part of each class will be devoted to workshopping students' individual translation projects.

Key words: translation, literature, literary theory

Course requirements:

Attendance required		yes
1. Participation	10%	
2. Workshop Responses		20%
3. Presentation	25%	
4. Final Project	45%	

סילבוס מפורט של הקורס (נושאים, לוח זמנים, ספרות חובה/בחירה וכדומה)

TRANSLATION IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to be both a workshop on the practice of literary translation on the one hand and an introduction to translation theory on the other. While reading classic works in translation theory by Friedrich Schleiermacher, Walter Benjamin, Lawrence Venuti, and Lori Chamberlain, among others, we will explore a series of case-studies drawn from the history of English literature, including Bible translation, Dryden and Chapman's translations of Ovid and Homer, and modern(ist) translation projects such as Ezra Pound's *The Seafarer*, and the aural translations of Louis Zukofsky's *Catullus*. The second part of each class will be devoted to workshopping students' personal translation projects.

READINGS

Each week we will read one or two essays on the theory of translation. Students scheduled to present their translations will submit their drafts via Moodle the preceding Thursday. All readings will be made available on Moodle in PDF format or via online links.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PARTICIPATION

Every student is expected to attend every class session (unless excused by the instructor ahead of time and in writing), read the assigned texts, and contribute to in-class discussions, particularly when workshopping the translations of others.

WORKSHOP RESPONSES

Every student is expected to respond in writing to the translation-drafts submitted for workshopping. These responses should be approximately 200-300 words long and should give detailed, constructive criticism on the translation as drafted. They are to be handed in directly to the presenter at the end of that day's workshop.

PRESENTATIONS

Each student is required to present their translation-project once in the course of the semester to be workshopped by the group. Very little formal preparation is required. The presentation should last 5-10 minutes, situate the text in terms of its literary, cultural, and translation history, and open up questions or concerns for discussion.

FINAL PROJECTS

In lieu of a final paper, this course requires the submission of a substantial literary translation into English (approximately 15-20 pages of prose or 8-12 poems, depending on length). The translation must be accompanied by a "critical introduction" (of approximately 5-7 pages) that makes use of the translation theory studied over the course of the semester to frame the translator's methodology and to discuss in detail several significant examples of that method in the translation itself.

GRADING

participation	—	10%
Workshop Responses	—	20%
presentation	—	25%
Final Project	—	45%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS (provisional)

- Week 1** Introductions and Syllabus
- Week 2** Jerome, "Letter to Pammachius"
- Week 3** Schleiermacher, "On Different Methods of Translating"
Nietzsche, "Translations"
Workshop
- Week 4** Pound, "Guido's Relations," "The Seafarer"
Workshop

- Week 5** Benjamin, "The Task of the Translator"
Workshop
- Week 6** Derrida, "What is a 'Relevant' Translation?"
Workshop
- Week 7** Steiner, "The Hermeneutic Motion"
Workshop
- Week 8** Even-Zohar, "The Position of Translated Literature Within the Literary Polysystem"
Workshop
- Week 9** Borges, "The Translators of *One Thousand and One Nights*"
Workshop
- Week 9** Lefevere, "Mother Courage's Cucumbers: Text, System and Refraction in a Theory of Literature"
Workshop
- Week 10** Chamberlain, "Gender and the Metaphorics of Translation"
Workshop
- Week 11** Eco, "Translating and Being Translated"
Workshop
- Week 12** Venuti, "Genealogies of Translation Theory: Jerome"
Workshop
- Week 13** **Workshop**