Archana Venkatesan  
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Office Hours:  
Tuesday/Thursday: 11-12 & by appointment

Course Description

This course will cover major theories of translation. The emphasis of the course will be on the craft and art of translation, and students will be asked to engage critically with their own translation work. The course will require students to complete an original translation and to draft a short essay reflecting on their approach to translation.

Required Texts

- Online Resources on Smartsite.

Recommended Texts


Requirements

1. Students will be required to bring a short previously published translation (about 2-5 pages) to each class session. This translation may be a complete translation of a single work, an excerpt from a long poem, a selection of verses from an anthology, prose, poetry, technical writing,
legal work etc. You may bring different versions of the same translation to class over the course of the term. These may include your translations as well. You may choose to bring a translation of a work in a language in which you are fluent. I encourage you to choose also works in languages in which you’re not fluent.

2. A brief reflection on the translation (no more than 500 words). This is not necessarily an evaluate critique of the translation (ie. is it good or bad), although it can be. Rather, it is a means to engage with the translation as a product and translation as a process at the point(s)/moment(s) of reception.

3. A short translation of your own. You will work on the same translation over the course of the quarter. So, choose your text (a poem, an excerpt of an essay etc.) with care. You will revise and rework the same translation over the course of the quarter. The theory we read, the works you select, and your short reflective essays on the previously published translation should inform your process of revision. This is a means to engage with translation as a product and translation as a process at the point(s)/moment(s) of creation. Your translation here maybe mediated through another language. You can choose to work collaboratively with another person in producing a translation.

4. A final essay on your translation explicating your process, your method and your approach. You will include 3-5 versions of your translation along with your essay.

**Grading**

Class attendance and participation are required and constitute 50% of the course grade. Translation efforts over the course of the quarter will not be graded.

The remaining 50% of the grade will be based on the final essay.

Final Essays are due on Monday, December 11, 2015 by 12 noon. All papers are due as hard copies.

**Selected Resources (Academic Programs/Centers for Translation Studies)**

http://www.princeton.edu/~piirs/programs/PTIC/Program.html  
http://www.translation.illinois.edu/  
http://barnard.edu/translation  
http://translation.utdallas.edu/  
https://www.binghamton.edu/comparative-literature/graduate/trip/  
http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/cts/Pages/Home.aspx  
http://www.surrey.ac.uk/englishandlanguages/research/centre_for_translation_studies/  
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/centras  
http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/bct/index.aspx  
http://www.bclt.org.uk/

**Selected Resources (Academic Presses with Translation Series)**

Translation/Transnation (Series Editor. Emily Apter):  
Lockert Library of Poetry in Translation (Series Editor, Richard Howard)  
Translations from the Asian Classics (Series Editor, Jennifer Crewe)
Margellos World Republic of Letters (Yale University Press)
http://www.worldrepublicofletters.com/

Cultures in Translation (Yale University Press)
http://www.goethe.de/ins/se/prj/uar/eng/ver/yal/enindex.htm

Loeb Classical Library (Harvard)

Murty Classical Library of India (Harvard)
http://www.murtylibrary.com/
http://www.thehindu.com/books/murty-classical-library-scouting-for-translators/article2465445.ece
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/03/books/murty-classical-library-catalogs-indian-literature.html

Texts and Translation Series (MLA)
http://www.mla.org/pub_guidelines_tt

Religion in Translation (American Academy of Religion)
https://global.oup.com/academic/content/series/a/aar-religions-in-translation-aartt/?cc=us&lang=en&
Reading Schedule

Week 1: Entry Points

Wednesday, October 7

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/07/magazine/is-translation-an-art-or-a-math-problem.html?_r=0
https://www.mla.org/ec_guidelines_translation

“Introduction: A Culture of Translation.” In Translation. pp. xiii-xxiii

Week 2: Foundational Statements

Wednesday, October 14


Week 3: Vexations

Wednesday, October 21

Ezra Pound. “Guido’s Relations.” The Translation Studies Reader. 84-91.


Excerpts of Translation from Coleman Barks’ Essential Rumi

Lewis, Franklin

Week 4: Crossing Pasts, Past Crossings

Wednesday, October 28

Christi A. Merill. “Are We the Folk in This Lok?: Translating in the Plural.” In Translation. pp. 143-155.

**Guest Speaker: Professor Michelle Yeh, EALC, UC Davis**

**Week 5: Translate(d) Worlds**

*Wednesday, November 4*


**Guest Speaker: Prof. Joshua Clover, Departments of English and Comparative Literature**

**Week 6: Effective and Affective Translation**

*Wednesday, November 11*


Excerpts from Chapman’s Homer.

**Guest Speaker: Prof. Seth Schein**

**Week 7**

*Wednesday, November 18*

**Guest Speaker: Prof. Martha Selby, University of Texas, Austin**
**Week 8**

*Wednesday, November 25*

Presentation and discussion of translations

**Week 9**

*Wednesday, December 2*

Presentations and discussion of translations