

CHIN 3540: Translating From and Into Chinese

TTR: 1:30-2:45pm, Library 405.

Instructor Li Guo, li.guo@usu.edu

Office Hrs: TTR 3:00-4:30pm, or by appointment, Old Main 002B

Course Description:

Regarding translation, modern Chinese writer Lu Xun (1881-1936) famously said that “I’d rather be faithful than smooth”. A later translator Fu Lei (1951-), however, proposes that translation is like painting: what is essential is not formal resemblance but rather spiritual resemblance. How, then, does one balance the values of faithfulness, understandability and elegance in oral and written translating practices? With these questions framing this class, we will study the practices of translating from and into Chinese by working with a variety of genres and styles, including excerpts from modern and contemporary prose, poetry, short story, travel writings, as well as selections from popular literature including TV show dialogues and film scripts. In addition to written translation, students will also be introduced to skills and methodology of sight translation, the oral interpretation of a written text from one language to another. The learning outcomes of this course include the following aspects.

- ✚ To study the processes and competences in translating documents from and into Chinese.
- ✚ To acquaint students with the professional and ethical principles required for professional written and oral translation.
- ✚ To develop proficiency in the use and application of different translation tools including dictionary, software, internet, and others.
- ✚ To develop sensitivity and awareness of the situational implications of words, phrases, sentences and expressions through hands-on comparison and analysis of both monolingual and bilingual authentic texts.
- ✚ To build self-revision and peer-review skills and cultivate the ability to be quality producers and self-directed learners.

Textbook:

- ✚ *Thinking Chinese Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Chinese to English*. By Valerie Pellatt, Eric T. Liu. Routledge, 2010.
- ✚ Supplementary texts will be provided by course instructor.

Course requirements:

- ✚ 10% Attendance
- ✚ 20%: Reading responses (10): comments on Canvas that respond to questions based on the assigned readings.
- ✚ 40% Weekly translation tasks, which engage students with comparison and analysis of both monolingual and bilingual authentic texts.
- ✚ 15% Translation workshop presentation (15 minutes)
- ✚ 10% Final Exam
- ✚ 5% Student's portfolio that contains the written assignments, notes, peer-review comments, and reflections.

Grading:

End of semester grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages of the total number of points:

A = 93 - 100%	C = 73 - 76%
A- = 90 - 92%	C- = 70 - 72%
B+ = 87 - 89%	D+ = 65 - 69%
B = 83 - 86%	D = 60 - 64%
B- = 80 - 82%	D- = 55 - 59%
C+ = 77 - 79%	F = 54% or less

Students with ADA-documented impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. Accommodations are coordinated through DRC in Rm 101 of the University Inn, 7-2444 voice, 7-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact DRC as early as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Attendance:

Regular attendance of the class is important and highly related to a student's performance in class. You are allowed 3 absences. Each additional absence takes 2% off from your total points for the class. In case of illness, emergency, or university activities, please notify me by email in advance, and submit an official university excused absence sheet when you return to class.

Week/Day		Contents	Assignments
I.	Jan 7-9	Introduction “Basic concepts of translation”	Translation exercises. Canvas comment.
II	Jan 12-16	“Some comparisons between English and Chinese”	Translation exercises. Canvas comment.
III	Jan 21-23	“Conversation” Jan 24, Fri. Chinese Program New Year Show.	Translation exercises. Canvas comment.
IV	Jan 28-30	“Changing the perspective”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
V	Feb 2-6	“Metaphors and idioms”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
VI	Feb 11-13	“Translating the business world: trust and obligation”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
VII	Feb 18-20	“Translating for legal purposes”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
VIII	Feb 24-27	“Translating news and reportage”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
IX	Mar 4-6	“Translating cultural bound-text”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
X	Mar 18-20	“Translating the nation: China addressing the world.”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
XI	Mar 25-27	“Case study: translating folk tales”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.

XII	Apr 1-Apr 3	“Case study: translating modern Chinese poetry.”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
XIII	Apr 7-10	“Case study: translation and film dubbing”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
XIV	Apr 15-17	“Vocative and expressive texts”	Translation exercises Canvas comment.
XV	Apr 21-24	Translation workshop.	Review of portfolio.
XVI	Final	May 1, TR. 1:30-3:30pm.	