

# CHIN 3540: Translating from & into Chinese

10:30 - 11:45 am TR Main 117

Instructor: Li Guo [li.guo@usu.edu](mailto:li.guo@usu.edu), Office: TTR 8:30-9:30am, 002B Main



## Context and Course Description:

Translation activities in China date back to the Zhou dynasty (1100.BC). Documents of the time indicated that translation was carried out by government clerks, who were concerned primarily with the transmission of ideologies. In a written document from late Zhou dynasty, Jia Gongyan, an imperial scholar, defined translation as: "translation is to replace one written language with another without changing the meaning for mutual understanding." In the Han dynasty (206 BC - 220 BC), translation became a medium for the dissemination of foreign learning such as Buddhist scriptures written in Sanskrit for Chinese Buddhists. Discussions of literal translation vs free translation were developed among translators of religious texts.

The most important figure of the first peak of translation in China was the famous Tang dynasty monk Xuan Zang (600-664. AD), a main character in *A Journey to the West* (西游记). From a 17-year long journey to India, he collected 124 collections of Sanskrit aphorisms and 520 other manuscripts back to Chang'An, and translated 1335 volumes of Buddhist manuscripts, as well as some of Lao Zi's works into Sanskrit.

Late imperial and modern translators further developed China's own translation theories. Yan Fu 严复 (1853-1921) set down the triple translation criteria of "Faithfulness, Fluency and Elegance," which he called "Xin Da Ya" (信/达/雅). Qian Zhongshu 钱钟书 (1910-1998) wrote that the highest standard of translation is transformation (化): bodies are sloughed off, but the spirit, appearance and manner are the same as before. This class will consider translation from and into Chinese in diverse contexts, while assessing different principles of translation through practice. From techniques in translating idioms and habitual expressions, we will proceed to translate sentences and passages from various contexts, including news and reportage, business documents, literature, film subtitles, and oral translation skills.

## Course Goals:

- ✚ To study the processes and competences in translating documents from and into Chinese. To acquaint students with the professional and ethical principles for professional 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 authentic texts.
- ✚ To build self-revision and peer-review skills and cultivate the ability to be quality producers and self-directed learners.

## Course goals as corresponding to IDEA goals:

- ✚ 21. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
- ✚ 25. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
- ✚ 28. Developing skill in expressing myself orally or in writing

**Textbook:** *Thinking Chinese Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Chinese to English.* By Valerie Pellatt, Eric T. Liu. Routledge, 2010. [PDF for readings available on canvas].

## Course requirements:

- Attendance 5%
- Participation 5%
- Weekly translation (1.5% each, 45%)
- Translation oral presentation 10 %
- Translation workshop project 15 %
- Student teaching demo 10%
- Quizzes (1% each) 5% total
- Final Exam 5%

**Grading:** End of semester grades will be based upon the following percentages of total points:

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

Students with ADA-documented impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may be eligible for services. Accommodations are coordinated through DRC in 101 University Inn, 7-2444 voice, 7-0740 TTY, or 1-800-259-2966. Please contact DRC as early.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance of the class is important and highly related to a student's performance in class. You are allowed 2 absences. Each additional absence takes 1% off from your total points. 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.

## Classroom etiquette:

- Materials developed for this class, including lesson plans, handouts, visual aids, tasks for translation are only designed and used by class members and shall not be openly circulated to anyone outside the class for protection of instructor's copyrights for these materials.
- Please do not engage in any activities that may cause disruption or difficulty for instructional process, or create disrespectful impact or influence over classmates or the instructor, such as:
  - Cell phone usage for surfing, texting, chatting during class.
  - Surfing online irrelevant materials or engage in emails, online shopping, doing homework for other classes when in this class.
  - Late arrival to class (except in unchangeable situations) and early leave from class.
  - Sleeping, chatting on irrelevant contents or topics.
  - Interrupting or creating obstruction for conversation and communication.
  - Use discriminatory language to refer to others' religion, national origin, gender, sex, race, marital status, parental status, income, disability, physical traits, family background or use derogative sayings to caricature others.

日期	内容
<b>1/12, 1/14</b>	<p>导言: 翻译的基本原则 Introduction “Basic concepts of translation”</p> <p>试谈中英文比较 “Some comparisons between English and Chinese”</p>
<b>1/19, 1/21</b>	<p>翻译中的转换 “Conversion”</p> <p>1/21 Q1</p>
<b>1/26, 1/28</b>	视角变化 “Changing the perspective”
<b>2/2, 2/4</b>	<p>成语和习惯用语的翻译 “Metaphors and idioms”</p> <p>2/5 Chinese New Year Show</p>
<b>2/9, 2/11</b>	商务翻译中的互信和责任 “Translating the business world: trust and obligation”
<b>2/18</b>	<p>新闻报章的翻译 “Translating news and reportage”</p> <p>Q3</p>
<b>2/23, 2/25</b>	国家形象与翻译 "Translating the nation"
<b>3/1, 3/3</b>	<p>民间故事的翻译 “Case study: translating folk tales”</p> <p>3/3 Q4</p>
<b>3/7-3/11</b>	Spring Break
<b>3/15, 3/17</b>	中英文诗歌翻译 “Case study: translating poetry.”
<b>3/22, 3/24</b>	<p>电影字幕翻译 “Case study: film dubbing”</p> <p>3/24 Q5</p>
<b>3/29, 3/31</b>	翻译与幽默 "Translating humor"
<b>4/5, 4/7</b>	翻译工作坊 Translation workshop.
<b>4/12, 4/14</b>	口头报告 Oral presentations
<b>4/19, 4/21</b>	口译的技巧 "Oral Translation"
<b>4/26, 4/28</b>	翻译流行歌曲 “Translating Popular Songs”
<b>5/5 TR</b>	Final exam 9:30-11:20am