Between Two Worlds? Translators and Interpreters in History
HISD05H3
Tuesday, 12pm-2pm, AA 209

Instructor Prof. E. Natalie Rothman Phone (416) 287-7159
Office H324 E-mail rothman[at]utsc.utoronto.ca
Office Hours Tuesdays 2pm-4pm Course Website http://portal.utoronto.ca

Description:
This D-level seminar will explore the social history of translators, interpreters, and the texts they produce. Through several case studies from Ireland and Istanbul to Québec, Mexico City, and Goa, we will ask how translators shaped public understandings of “self” and “other,” “civilization” and “barbarity” in the wake of European colonization.

Goals:
➢ To learn about the history of translation and translators;
➢ To explore the various approaches historians have taken to the study of translation and cultural mediation more broadly;
➢ To develop analytical reading and writing skills;
➢ To plan and carry out independent research.

As a senior-year research seminar, this course aims to provide you with the skills you need in order to develop and carry out an independent research project in history, including critical reading of secondary literature, compiling an annotated bibliography, developing an original argument using evidence from primary documents, and writing a research statement, an outline, and, eventually, a research paper.

Readings: All required readings will be available on Blackboard at least a week in advance. You should print out your own copies and have them with you for class.

Response papers: Every week, you should post on Blackboard a short (1 page max) response to the weekly readings by Monday at noon (i.e. 24 hours before class) to allow everyone to read each other’s responses. Your response should not be a summary of the readings but rather a set of questions or comments that will serve as the basis for class discussion.

In-class presentations: Based on a schedule to be determined at the beginning of the semester, you will be in charge of presenting a set of readings (usually 2-3 items). Your presentation should consist of a 10-minute introduction that will situate the authors, summarize the arguments, and clarify key terms and concepts. You may also prepare a handout with some questions for the discussion.

Assignments: All assignments should be submitted through the Blackboard drop box by the stated deadline. Be prepared for computer outages and glitches—I will not accept late submissions due to any technical problems. If you foresee a medical/family emergency that will prevent you from submitting your assignment on time, it is your responsibility to contact me in advance in order to seek an extension.
Office hours & email etiquette: I highly recommend that you come to my office hours several times during the semester (Tuesdays 2pm-4pm @ H324 and by special appointment) to introduce yourself and to discuss your research interests and the progress of your research project. If you need to contact me outside office hours, it’s best to use email (I do not check my office voicemail). I also expect you to email me in advance if you must miss class due to medical/family emergency. Do understand that I cannot always respond promptly to your queries. Responsibility for making up materials covered in missed classes lies with you.

Writing: The University offers a great range of services to help develop your writing skills. I strongly encourage you to visit the Writing Centre (AC 210) and/or the English Language Development website at http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/%7Etlsweb/ELD.

For excellent advice on writing, including tips on reading, summarizing, citing sources, and how not to plagiarize, check out http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html. If ever in doubt about plagiarism, please consult me or the excellent staff at the Writing Centre before submitting your assignments.

For a primer on research, check out the Research Basics page at: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~libweb/ResearchBasics.htm

Many additional resources for historians are compiled at: http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~humdiv/History/his_elec_new.htm

AccessAbility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Requirements:
Full attendance and active participation in class discussions, careful reading of all assigned texts, two in-class presentations, and timely submission of all assignments, including weekly one-page response papers.

Evaluation:
- Participation and attendance: 10%
- Weekly response papers: 10%
- First oral presentation: 5%
- Document analysis/Book review: 10%
- Annotated bibliography: 10%
- Proposal and outline: 15%
- Second oral presentation: 5%
- Final research paper: 35%

Total: 100%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
"The worth of a skilfull and worthy translator is to obserue the sentences, figures, and formes of speech proposed in his author, his true sence and height, and to adorne them with figures and formes of oration fitted to the originall in the same tongue to which they are translated."

(Gray Chapman, 1598)

Assignment 1 (book review/text analysis) due by 8am on Friday, 2 Feb.

Who Are the Translators? 6 Feb.

For further reading:


For further reading:


Assignment 2: a 2-3 page annotated bibliography towards your final paper due by 10am on Monday, Feb. 19.

Reading week—20 Feb.

To be confirmed: Visit to the Thomas Fisher Library

---


---

Translation and Empire I: Conquest 27 Feb.

For further reading:


---

Translation and Empire II: Travellers as Translators; Translators as Missionaries 6 March

For further reading:


For further reading:  
|---|---|---|
For further reading:  
| 11 | Student presentations |  
**Paper outline due by noon on Monday, March 26** | 27 March |
| 12 | Student presentations |  
**Final paper due by 8am Thursday, April 5** | 3 April |
Assignment 1: Due by 8am on Friday, 2 Feb.

Option 1: Text analysis
In 3-5 double-spaced pages, analyse a translator's preface and/or dedication (a list will be provided at a later date). Using the analytical tools and strategies discussed in class, and building on your additional research in the secondary literature, identify the author, discuss the audience and purpose of the preface & dedication, as well as of the book as a whole, and address any pertinent issues relating to translation based on our weekly discussions.

Option 2: Book review
In 3-5 double-spaced pages, review one of the books below, or another scholarly book on the history of translation (by prior consultation with me):

For helpful suggestions on how to write a scholarly book review, see:
http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/bkrev.html

General reference works and primary text collections: