

## INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY TRANSLATION

Lecturer: Tomislav Kuzmanović

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Office hours: Room 159 Wed 17:30 – 19:00; Thu 10:00 – 11:00; and by appointment

Course Code: ENP 304

Department: English Language and Literature

Academic Year: 2008/2009

Year/Semester: II/3, III/5

Compulsory/Optional: Optional

Weeks per Semester/ Hours Weekly: 15 / 2 (1 hour of lectures + 1 hour of seminar)

Student Workload (ECTS): 3

### Learning outcomes and competences:

During this course the students will familiarize themselves with the basic practice of literary translation, the most common problems that appear in literary translation, as well as techniques and strategies of producing literary translations that faithfully serve the original and at the same time stand as works of art in their own right within the linguistic and cultural context of the translation culture. Moreover, the students will have an opportunity to read and discuss several different translations of one and the same literary work, familiarize themselves with the existing model translations of the works of English i.e. Croatian literature, critical comparisons and analyses of existing translations, and in this way learn about different approaches to literary translation as well as techniques and strategies literary translators employ in their work. In the seminar part of the course the students will have an opportunity to choose literary texts (poetry, prose, drama) originally written in English and translate them into Croatian. The translations will be presented, analyzed and discussed in a workshop setting and in this way the students will receive exhaustive and multifaceted insight into their translation process and work. In this sense the students will, besides honing translation skills, continue to further develop their writing skills and competency, learn to adequately use dictionaries and other handbooks, as well as make use of various sources that will come in handy in their future translation work, as well as in the process of studying English language, but also using their native language.

### Aims/Course description

This course is imagined as an introduction to literary translation and it starts from the idea that literary translation is a creative process similar to that of creative writing. This is perhaps key, and also the most important, difference between this and other types of translation. While most translation strategies, techniques and general concepts, such as transfer between languages, cultures and contexts, fidelity, precision, inventiveness, etc. also apply, literary translation calls for some specific skills that fall into the domain of stylistic and poetic creativity and thus presents itself as a very specific kind of translation work. The objective of this course is to explore and develop these particular sets of skills through intensive practice in literary translating in a workshop setting.

The course consists of one hour of lectures and one hour of seminar per week.

**Teaching Methods:** lecture, seminar, workshop discussions

**Examination methods:** midterm paper, portfolio, homework and project assignments, class attendance and participation, final written exam

**Quality assurance method:** student evaluations

**Readings:**

1. A. Lefevere, *Translating Literature: Practice and Theory in a Comparative Literature Context*, New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1992 (160 p.)
2. C. E. Landers, *Literary Translation: A Practical Guide*, Clevedon: Multilingual Matters, 2001 (100 p.)
3. E. Weinberger, O. Paz, *Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei*, Asphodel Press, 1987 (60 p.)
4. Photocopied and web based materials:
  - a. C. Crain, "Infidelity," *Lingua Franca*, October 1999 (10 p.)
  - b. L. Venuti, *The Translation Studies Reader*, New York: Routledge, 2000 (30 p.)
  - c. Excerpts from the most prominent translations of literary works from English into Croatian and vice versa.
  - d. Different translations of classical works as well as works of world literature into English i.e. Croatian language that can be used for comparisons and analyses as well as serve as model translations for the languages in question.
  - e. Relevant texts available at the web pages of Društvo hrvatskih književnih prevodilaca, [www.dhkp.hr](http://www.dhkp.hr)
  - f. Assorted shorts

**Additional Sources:**

1. W. Wilss, *The Science of Translation: Problems and Methods*, Tübingen, 1982
2. V. Ivir, *Teorija i tehnika prevođenja*, Novi Sad, 1984
3. J. Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. London and New York: Routledge. 2001
4. G. Steiner, *After Babel: Aspects of Language and Translation*. Oxford University Press, 1998
5. L. Venuti, *The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007

The students should also make use of a good Croatian-English and English-Croatian dictionary, monolingual dictionaries, thesauri and writing manuals, as well as reference books on style for both languages in question.

## **GRADING AND EVALUATION:**

Grading for the course is on a % scale, with the following ratio:

1) Portfolio 20 %

By the end of semester the students will have produced translations of 5 pages (page equals 1,800 characters with spaces) of prose, 5 poems or at least 5 pages of drama. The portfolio consists of translations into Croatian, polished according to the suggestions and comments received during seminar sessions and an overview (up to three pages in length) in which the students will explain their poetic and stylistic approach to their translation projects (translation into English and Croatian) as well as main strategies used in the process of translation. As a part of their overview the students should include some biographical and bibliographical information about the authors and the works they chose for their translation project (up to half a page). Finally, the portfolio should include polished, final versions of any translation assignments given in the course of the semester.

2) Midterm Paper 20%

The students will write one paper of up to 5 pages in length. These papers will compare and analyze two or more translations of the same work of literature or analyze a translation of a work of literature into Croatian or English. The emphasis in the papers should be put on particular strategies and techniques employed in translations, the reasons why one solution was chosen over another, the most obvious and most prominent differences between translations on lexical, syntactic i.e. stylistic level, etc. In addition, the paper should demonstrate the student's good command of the assigned reading materials and literature.

3) Homework / Assignments 20 %

The students are required to write a short (up to half a page) commentary or analysis for each of the translations workshopped in the seminar part of the course. There will be 10 to 12 of such analyses and in them the students should provide advice or opinion on how to improve the translation that will be workshopped in the class. Also, the students can choose a part of the translation they find particularly interesting and provide their "improved version" of the part of the text they find problematic.

4) Attendance and Class Participation 10 %

The students are expected to actively and regularly participate in lecture and seminar activities. One unexcused absence is allowed, while each additional unexcused absence will be penalized with deducting two points in the final calculation of this portion of the students' grade. It is especially important that students approach the analyses i.e. critiquing their colleagues' translations in the way that is open, tolerant, constructive and democratic.

5) Final Exam 30 %

During the examination period(s) the students will write a multiple-choice/fill-in-the-blanks quiz testing their knowledge in basic terminology and concepts of literary translation.

**ENP 304 INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY TRANSLATION****Lecture: Wed 19:00 – 20:00****Seminar: Group A Thu 11:00 – 12:00; Group B Thu 12:00 – 13:00****Room 143****SYLLABUS**

No	Lecture	Seminar
1.	Introduction What is literary translation? Syllabus	Adrienne Ho: <i>Catullus LXXXV: Off the Hook</i>
2.	Getting Started in Literary Translation: The Making of a Literary Translator	Workshop Session 1 Catullus: <i>Odi et Amo</i>
3.	On How A Poem Is Translated Eliot Weinberger and Octavio Paz, <i>Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei</i>	Workshop Session 2
4.	Translation Studies Andre Lefevere, <i>Chapter 1: Translation Studies</i> ; Clifford Landers, <i>Stages of Translation, Techniques of Translation</i>	Workshop Session 3
5.	Specific Translation Problems Andre Lefevere, <i>Chapter 2: Language</i>	Workshop Session 4
6.	Specific Translation Problems Andre Lefevere, <i>Chapter 2: Language</i>	Workshop Session 5
7.	Translator as an Author Clifford Landers, <i>What Literary Translators Really Translate, Author &amp; Translator, Style in Translation, Translating Poetry</i>	Workshop Session 6
8.	Specific Translation Problems Clifford Landers, <i>Areas of Literary Translation, Most Important Problems in Literary Translation, Translating Profanity</i>	Workshop Session 7 <b>MIDTERM PAPER DUE</b>
9.	In-class Translation Assignment Translation of a selected short story	Workshop Session 8
10.	In-class Translation Assignment Translation of a selected poem	Workshop Session 9
11.	History of Literary Translation Excerpts from Lawrence Venuti, <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i>	Workshop Session 10
12.	<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	
13.	History of Literary Translation Excerpts from Lawrence Venuti, <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i>	Workshop Session 11
14.	Publishing Translations of Literature in Croatia and Abroad	Workshop Session 12
15.	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>
	<b>FINAL WRITTEN EXAM - ZIMSKI ISPITNI ROK</b>	