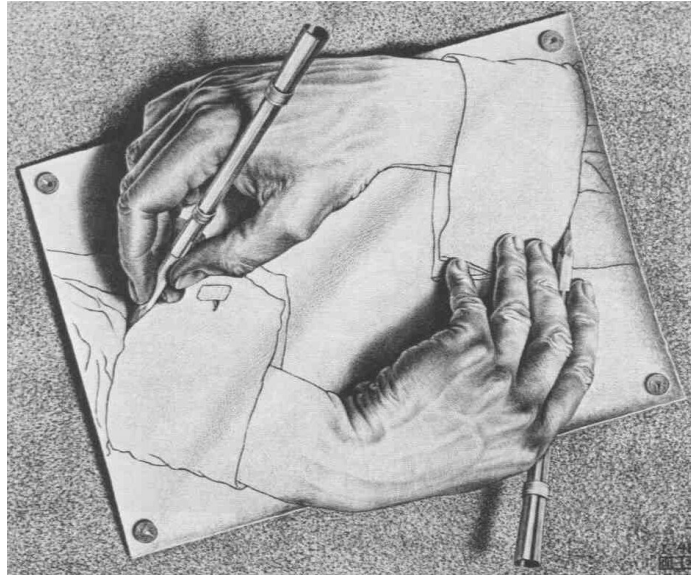


Syllabus
Global Approaches to Translation
SLC 551 / Fall 2019
Mon. 4:30pm to 7:15pm
PSH 1/31



Prof. Christopher Johnson (cdjohnson@asu.edu)
Office Hours: Mon. 11 – 12, Wed. 1-2; or by appointment

Course description:

This seminar on translation studies will investigate literary and other genres of translation from historical, theoretical, cultural perspectives. Different strategies of translation, ranging from word-to-word to free adaptations will be considered in light of exemplary translations and within specific contexts. Theoretical questions concerning appropriation, reception, untranslatability, intermediality, machine-translation, ideology, national identity, and universality will be addressed. Questions of lexicon, grammar, time period, medium, and genre will also be vital to our discussions. Individual translation exercises will also form an important part of the seminar. Reading knowledge of another language or an earlier stage of the English language (Old or Middle English) is required.

Required texts (available at ASU Bookstore):

- Sandra Bermann and Michael Wood, eds. *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780691116099
- Edith Grossman, *Why Translation Matters*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0300171303

- Jeremy Munday, *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. 4th ed., London and New York: Routledge, 2016. ISBN: 9781138912557
- Lawrence Venuti, ed. *The Translation Studies Reader*. 3rd ed., London and New York: Routledge, 2012. ISBN: 9780415613484
- Eliot Weinberger, *Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei*. New York: New Directions, 2016. ISBN: 978-0811226202

[Other texts will be provided via Canvas as pdfs]

Assignments and grading:

Participation in class discussion and occasional response papers (20%); one oral presentation (15%); one short paper (15%); final paper, including abstract (50%), which can be either an analysis of a translation or an analysis of issues pertaining to translation studies).

Weekly course schedule:

8/26: Introduction: the strange case of Ezra Pound as translator, poet, ideologue

9/2 [Labor Day, move class time] Historical perspectives: Translating the Bible

- Jerome, "Letter to Pammachius" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Martin Luther, *Sendbrief vom Dolmetschen* [pdf]
- Eugene Nida, "Principles of Correspondence" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Lawrence Venuti, "Genealogies of Translation Theory: Jerome" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- David Bentley Hart, "Concluding Scientific Postscript" [pdf]
- **Primary texts:** *Biblia Políglota Complutense* (1520), *The King James Bible* (1611)

9/9: Historical perspectives / Mapping the Field

- John Dryden, "On Translation" (from the preface to Dryden's translation of Ovid's *Epistles* (1680)) [pdf]
- Susan Bassnett, "History of Translation Theory" [pdf]
- Jeremy Munday, "Translation theory before the twentieth century" [*Introducing Translation Studies*]
- Lawrence Venuti, "Translation studies: an emerging field" [*Translation Studies Reader*]

9/16: Theoretical perspectives / Instrumental and Hermeneutic Translation

- Jeremy Munday, "Main issues of translation studies" [*Introducing Translation Studies*]
- Gideon Toury, "The Nature and Role of Norms in Translation" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Roman Jakobson, "On Linguistic Aspects of Translation" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- André Lefevere, "Mother Courage's Cucumbers: Text, System and Refraction in a Theory of Literature" [*Translation Studies Reader*]

9/23: Theoretical Perspectives / The German Tradition

- Friedrich Schleiermacher, "On the Different Methods of Translating" [*Translation Studies Reader*]

- Walter Benjamin, "The Translator's Task" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- George Steiner, "The Hermeneutic Motion" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Samuel Weber, "A Touch of Translation: On Walter Benjamin's 'Task of the Translator,'" [*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*]
- **Primary text:** Charles Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal* (1868)

9/30: Historical-cultural perspectives / Beyond Europe

- Jonathan Abel, "The Opacity of Modernizations of *Genji monogatari*" [*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*]
- Gayatri Spivak, "The Politics of Translation" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Thick Translation" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Jeremy Munday, "Cultural and Ideological Turns" [*Introducing Translation Studies*]
- **Primary text:** Mahasweta Devi, "Draupadi," in *Breast Stories*, tr. Gayatri Spivak

10/7: Theoretical perspectives / Local and Global

- Lawrence Venuti, "Local Contingencies: Translation and National Identities" [*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*]
- Jacques Lezra, "*Nationum Origo*" [*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*]
- Umberto Eco, from *Experiences in Translation* [pdf]
- Tim Parks, "Your English is Showing" [pdf]

10/14: Theoretical perspectives / Untranslatability

- Emily Apter, "Nothing is Translatable" [pdf]
- Vladimir Nabokov, "Problems of Translation: *Onegin* in English" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Octavio Paz, "Translation: Literature and Letters" [pdf]
- Selections from *Dictionary of the Untranslatables*, ed. Barbara Cassin [pdf]
- **Primary text:** Octavio Paz, Jacques Roubaud, Charles Tomlinson, Eduardo Sanguinetti, *Renga* (1972)

10/21: Theoretical perspectives / Reverse Migrations

- Barbara Cassin, "The Energy of the Untranslatables: Translation as a Paradigm for the Human Sciences" [pdf]
- Antoine Berman, "Translation and the Trials of the Foreign" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Jacques Derrida, from *Des Tours du Babel* [pdf]

10/28: Transcultural perspectives / Translation and Gender

- Rebekah Clements, "Translation, Tactics, and the Women's Question" [pdf]; from *A Cultural History of Translation in Early Modern Japan* [pdf]
- Lori Chamberlain, "Gender and the Metaphorics of Translation" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- **Primary Text:** *Fragments of Sappho*, tr. Anne Carson

11/4: Transcultural perspectives / Haiku

- Hiroaki Sato, Selections from *One Hundred Frogs* [pdf]
- Eliot Weinberger, Selections from *Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei*

11/11 Transcultural perspectives / Borges [Veteran's Day, move class time]:

- Selected writings by J. L. Borges on translation
- **Primary texts:** versions of *Arabian Nights*

11/18: Historical perspectives / Tapestries

- Edith Grossman, *Why Translation Matters*
- **Primary texts:** versions *Don Quijote*

11/25: Case Studies

- Excerpt from Mark Polizzotti, *Sympathy for the Traitor: A Translation Manifesto* [pdf]
- On Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* and Deborah Smith's English translation
- On Janet Malcolm and the Pevear/Volkhonsky Russian Library translations
- Excerpt from Kate Briggs, *This Little Art* [pdf]

12/2: Intermedialities and Networks

- Michael Wood, "The Languages of Cinema" [*Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*]
- Abé Mark Nornes, "For an Abusive Subtitling" [pdf]
- Michael Cronin, "The Translation Arge: Translation, Technology, and the New Instrumentalism" [*Translation Studies Reader*]
- Jeremy Mundy, "New directions from the new media" [*Introducing Translation Studies*]