UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
Summer 2018

Medical Interpreting and Terminology  
INTG 6380  
(This document is tentative and subject to change at any time during the semester.)

Class Schedule:  
This course is 100% online

Hours:  
Whenever you can

Estimated weekly workload:  
6 hours weekly

Room:  
Blackboard

Instructor:  
Dr. Nazaret Fresno Cañada

E-mail:  
nazaret.fresno@utrgv.edu

Phone:  
(956) 882-7450

Office hours:  
By e-mail. Please allow 24 hours for response in the weekdays and 48 hours on the weekends.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The use of the specialized language of medicine and science is the foundation for appropriate and accurate communication in patient care, scientific research and health management. It is also basic for translators and interpreters who wish to work in medical institutions. The focus of this course is to provide an in-depth study of medical terminology and intensive translation practice. Interpreting protocols in the medical context within the United States will also be presented. In this course students will:


2. Unveil the meaning of complex medical terms by analyzing word components in both English and Spanish.

3. Use medical terms with a high degree of accuracy in both English and Spanish.

4. Translate medical documents for different audiences to demonstrate an advanced command of medical terminology both in English and Spanish.
5. Learn the fundamentals of the interpreting protocols and codes of ethics used in medical contexts in the United States.

In order to take this course students must have completed TRSP 6342 and TRSP 6343.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The above objectives are aligned with the following program’s Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop critical reading skills, both in English and Spanish, by learning to differentiate stylistic, formal, denotative and connotative aspects within a text.

2. Students will translate specialized texts from English into Spanish and Spanish into English in the areas of legal, commercial, scientific, medical and technical translation at a professional or quasi-professional level.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

This course has 5 weekly units, which will cover 5 topics. The following list of topics is TENTATIVE and subject to change:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>06/04/2018 – 06/10/2018</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Introduction to Medical Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>06/11/2018 – 06/17/2018</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Introduction to Medical Terminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>06/18/2018 – 06/24/2018</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Terminology in the Source Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>06/25/2018 – 07/01/2018</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>Terminology in the Target Text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>07/02/2018 – 07/08/2018</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Medical Interpreting Protocols in the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>07/09/2018 – 07/10/2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam: TBA.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A detailed calendar showing important dates and the deadlines for all the activities that students must complete in this course can be found under the CALENDARIO tab in Blackboard.
COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

For each unit students will have to complete the following activities:

1. **Theory Readings**
   
   They constitute a theoretical approach to the different topics covered in this course. Students will need to read and understand them in order to complete their translation assignments. A guide to the theoretical readings can be found under the TEORÍA tab in Blackboard.

2. **Additional Readings**
   
   In addition to the theoretical contents, students will be required to read a selection of texts related to each week’s assignment. Those texts can be found under the LECTURAS tab.

3. **Participation and Debate**
   
   These will take the form of online discussion boards, which can be found under the Blackboard tab called FOROS. They are intended as a clearinghouse for doubts, consultation, research, and debate. Two boards will be available for each unit, one for theory and one for practice:

   - **Discussion board on theory**: it will be aimed at discussing the theoretical contents and the additional reading of each unit. If they have doubts, comments or if they wish to share their thoughts about the theoretical topic or extra reading, students are welcome to participate before Sunday at midnight for units 1 to 4, and before Thursday at midnight for unit 5. Please note that READING THE THEORY DISCUSSION BOARDS IS MANDATORY, BUT PARTICIPATING IN THEM IS OPTIONAL.

   - **Discussion board on practice**: it will be aimed at discussing the translation assignments that students will need to complete at the end of each unit. Students are welcome to share their approaches, specific doubts or any personal reflection on the weekly translation. The instructor will also open several compulsory threads per unit to cover specific translation difficulties. For units 1 to 4, students
are expected to participate before Sunday at midnight. For unit 5, students will need to participate before Thursday at midnight. Please note that PARTICIPATION IN THE PRACTICE DISCUSSION BOARD IS MANDATORY.

With regard to discussion boards, each student must, at least:

- READ ALL the messages in the THEORY AND IN THE PRACTICE DISCUSSION BOARDS before posting comments and before submitting the translation assignment.

- REPLY to the ALL the MANDATORY THREADS that the instructor will open IN THE PRACTICE DISCUSSION BOARDS. Messages offering justified translation solutions, thoughtful discussion based on critical assessment or additional research will be especially valued.

The instructor will moderate, add comments and clarify the doubts posted by the students at least every Tuesday and Thursday.

BEFORE POSTING, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE READ ALL PREVIOUS MESSAGES: DO NOT DUPLICATE THE INFORMATION INNECESSARILY.

Please, write messages IN SPANISH, using complete sentences and proper orthography. If the message is a about doubt or a problem, do not just say "¿Qué significa X?": please, provide what you found out, your options, your possible favorites solution and why you are not happy with what you got so far. When replying to somebody else's doubt, please, also provide supporting information for you options and solutions (Where did you find it? How do you rate its reliability?)

Participation in the discussion boards is worth 15% of the final grade.

4. Translation Assignments

Students will need to complete a translation assignment at the end of each unit, which will deal with a specific medical specialty. Instructions for each assignment will be provided by the instructor in the PRÁCTICAS section in Blackboard. The assignments are to be done individually. However, students may consult with their classmates, and discussion is encouraged in the discussion boards. The deadline to submit translation assignments 1 to 4 will be the midnight of day 7 of each unit (Sunday). The deadline to submit assignment 5 will be day 4 of the unit (Thursday) at midnight.
Submittal procedure:
- Name files as follow: YourLastName-YourInitial-NumberOfAssignment.doc (Example, for Adriana Smith, assignment 3: "Smith-A-3.doc").
- Submit the assignments through the PRÁCTICAS section in Blackboard. Use the Safe AssignOption BEFORE midnight on their due date.

Please, make sure that you:
- Use Microsoft Word files or Rich Text Format files.
- Use the Spell Check utility of your word processor.
- Use double spacing.
- Number pages.
- Write your name at the beginning of the assignment.

KEEP DEADLINES!

Non-use of machine translation: One of the purposes of this course is to help each student develop his or her own translation skills. This means that the translations of necessity must be to be carried out by each student individually. Consequently, students are strictly prohibited from running their source texts through machine translation engines such as Google Translate, Bing Translator, Babelfish, and others. Students who turn in a translation that has been partially or fully translated by a machine are in fact plagiarizing, cheating, and turning in someone or something else's work (see section on scholastic integrity below). If the professor believes that machine translation was employed in the process of translating a text, the student will automatically receive a zero for that assignment. Disciplinary measures may be initiated in the case of repeated violations.

Exceptions to this rule prohibiting the use of machine translation will be clearly signaled by the professor, should there be any.

All assignments are worth 45% of the final grade.

Revisions

Submitted assignments will be reviewed by the instructor and retuned via the Blackboard messaging tool called DEVOLUCIONES (as Word Documents with comments and insertions
showing the “Track Changes” utility). Students must attentively read these revisions and ask the instructor about any remaining doubt or comment.

REVIEWS ARE DONE IN ORDER TO AVOID SIMILAR PITFALLS IN FURTHER TRANSLATIONS, SO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND REVISIONS AND IMPLEMENT THEM IN SUBSEQUENT SUBMITTALS.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, at the end of the course students will have to complete the following:

1. **Final assignment**

   Students will need to work in a final translation assignment dealing with one or more topics covered during the course. Instructions will be published in due time under the tab EXAMEN FINAL. Please note that final assignments turned in after the deadline will NOT be considered for grading.

   The final assignment is worth 40% of the final grade.

   **GRADING POLICY**

All the activities in this course will be graded using a score from 0 to 100. The weight of each activity is shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debate and participation in discussion boards</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>For each unit, students must, at least:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Read all the messages in the discussion boards before posting new messages or submitting their assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Reply to all the mandatory threads proposed by the instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation assignments</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Five translation assignments (one per unit), each one worth 9% of the final grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final assignment</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>A final translation project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAKE UP WORK:

1. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of B.
2. No extra credit available in this course.
3. Absolutely no makeups on the final assignment.

COURSE NAVIGATION

This course is made of several sections described below. It is recommended that you become familiar with each of them as some may be regulated by time and date. This means content in some sections will only appear for the periods set up by your instructor (if you should need access to content no longer visible, please contact your instructor).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avisos</td>
<td>This section of the course provides updates with information relevant to you. Announcements may come from your institution and instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programa</td>
<td>This section provides the general requirements, expectations and outcomes for the course. Please review the syllabus thoroughly and become familiar with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendario</td>
<td>This section shows a calendar indicating the deadlines for all the activities in the course, as well as other important dates. A detailed planning with the theoretical readings and medical specialties covered each week can also be found here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profesorado</td>
<td>This section shows information about your instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teoría</td>
<td>This section includes information regarding the theoretical contents form the textbook that need to be read in each unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturas</td>
<td>This section contains a selection of additional texts that students have to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foros</td>
<td>This is the section where most of your online interactions will occur with your instructor and fellow students. Visit this section often to participate in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prácticas</td>
<td>This section provides details on your translation assignments. Also, completed assignments must be submitted through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materiales</td>
<td>In this section you will find the texts needed to complete the assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devoluciones</td>
<td>Your instructor will send your revised assignments through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td>This section allows you to email the instructor and other participants in your course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calificaciones
This section lets you check your progress in your course. You will be able to check any grades posted by your instructor.

Examen Final
The final exam will be posted in this section.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND COMPUTER LITERACY

Students will need the following technical requirements to complete this course:

- Reliable internet connection.
- Word processing software, such as MS Word, OpenOffice, LibreOffice or similar applications.
- PDF reader.
- Zipping and unzipping software, such as WinZip, WinRar or 7.zip, might be needed in case the student’s computer does not incorporate those features.
- A multimedia player, such as Windows Media Player, VLC or Quickplay, might also be occasionally required.
- Skype might occasionally be needed.

Students should:

- Possess good knowledge of word processing software, including the spellcheck function.
- Know how to zip and unzip files.

If you require help to install any of the abovementioned software, please contact your instructor at the very beginning of the course.

SYLLABUS ADDENDA

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student
Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Online evaluations will be available:

July 1 – July 10, 2018 for Summer I.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and
staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.