UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
Spring 2018

Translation Theory  
SPAN/TRSP 6340
(This document is tentative and subject to change at any time during the semester.)

Class schedule: 100% online course
Hours: Whenever you can
Estimated weekly workload: 8 hours weekly
Room: Blackboard
Instructor: Dr. Nazaret Fresno Cañada
E-mail: nazaret.fresno@utrgv.edu
Phone: (956) 882-7450
Office hours: Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and Tuesdays from 11:00 to 1:00 PM. Please allow 24 hours for e-mail response in the weekdays and 48 hours in the weekends.
Office location: Main 1.528, Brownsville campus

Required Textbook (available from most online retailers):

The Translation Studies Reader
By Lawrence Venuti (2004)
SECOND EDITION

PUBLISHER: Routledge
ISBN: 041531920X

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

This course is designed to provide an introduction to translation theory from its origins to the present. Discussion will address, among other topics, translatability, equivalence, fidelity, and their importance both for the praxis of translation and for the investigation of the translator's task. The course will feature readings of moderate to high difficulty on the major theories of translation and their applications. During the course of the semester, students will:
1. Develop a useful terminology to sustain an informed discussion on translation.
2. Acquire a general knowledge of the foundations of translation theory.
3. Compare different approaches within their historical and social contexts.
4. Apply these methodologies to the analysis and practice of translation.
5. Reflect on the place and role of the translator in society.

Throughout the course students will discover the manifold connections between theory and practice, and will become more aware of the impact of translation on the dissemination of culture. In order to take this course, students must have completed TRSP 3342 or TRSP 3343 or TRSP 6342 or 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 produce theoretical writings of academic nature that show a comprehensive understanding of the most relevant theories of the discipline.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course has 6 biweekly units, which will cover 6 topics. The following list of topics is TENTATIVE and subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKS 2-3</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>The purpose of translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKS 4-5</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Translatability and equivalence</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKS 6-7</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Translation and culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>Unit 4 (I)</td>
<td>Translation ethics and agency (I)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>Unit 4 (II)</td>
<td>Translation ethics and agency (II)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 11-12</td>
<td>Unit 5</td>
<td>Translation and metaphor</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK</td>
<td>UNIT</td>
<td>TOPIC</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKS 13-14</td>
<td>Unit 6</td>
<td>Translation as an object of study</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>Recap</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Autonomous study</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEKS 16-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final exams (Translation Theory exam date 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 topic students will have to complete the following tasks:

1. **Theory Readings**
   
   Theory readings introducing the topic to be explored each week can be found under the TEORÍA tab in Blackboard. In addition, students will need to read a selection of papers from the textbook or available in the section called LECTURAS. It is indispensable to read both the theory contents and the proposed papers thoroughly in order to partake in the discussion boards and complete the written assignments.

2. **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. Four discussion boards will be available for each unit:
   - **Discussion board on theory (1st week):** it will be aimed at discussing the theoretical contents covered during the first week of each unit. The instructor will open “HILOS PRINCIPALES” and, some weeks, also “HILOS SECUNDARIOS” to initiate discussion. Students must participate in those during the first week of each unit (before Sunday at midnight) as indicated in page 4 of this syllabus.
   - **Discussion board on theory (2nd week):** it will be aimed at discussing the theoretical contents covered during the second week of each unit. The instructor will open “HILOS PRINCIPALES” and, some weeks, also “HILOS SECUNDARIOS” to initiate discussion. Students must participate during the
second week of each unit (before Sunday at midnight) as indicated in page 4 of this syllabus.

- **Discussion board on essays**: it will be aimed at discussing any doubts or issues related to the essay that students will have to complete at the end of each unit. If students need to participate, they can do so at any time before the second Sunday of each unit at midnight.

- **Discussion board on research samples**: it will be aimed at discussing any doubts or issues related to the research sample that students will have to complete at the end of each unit. If students need to participate, they can do so at any time before the second Sunday of each unit at midnight.

Each student must participate in the discussion boards of each unit as follows:

- By providing at least THREE messages PER WEEK in the THEORY discussion board. Please note that:
  
  **At least TWO of the three posts provided** each week MUST be responses to “HILOS PRINCIPALES” initiated by the instructor. The rest of the messages can be either original comments by the student or responses to other participants’ posts. For instance, if the instructor opens three “hilos principales” for the week, students will need to comment on TWO of those and post, at least, one additional message on any of the topics covered that week. The additional messages can be original comments or questions, responses to “hilos secundarios” initiated by the instructor, or replies to other students’ posts.

Please bear in mind several considerations with regard to the discussion boards:

- Writing the minimum number of messages required per week does not guarantee an A.
- In order to obtain an excellent grade, students are expected to provide real content in their posts. Comments such as “I agree with you” or “I found this author to be obscure” do not contribute to the discussion unless they are accompanied by further explanation on why the student agrees with someone else or what parts of the theory are unclear. Please, elaborate beyond the surface to show that you have read and reflected on the proposed readings.
- Messages with specific doubts and consultation are welcome.
- Messages containing additional research or critical assessment of the readings will be especially valued.

The instructor will moderate, add comments and clarify the doubts posted by the students at least twice a week.
MESSAGES POSTED IN THE DISCUSSION BOARDS WILL BE GRADED AND WILL COUNT AS PARTICIPATION.

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 your options and solutions (Where did you find it? How do you rate its reliability?)

Participation in discussion boards is worth 20% of the final grade.

3. Assignments

Students will need to complete 6 assignments in Spanish: 3 of them will take the form of research samples and 3 will be academic essays. The first week of the course students will be divided into two groups (A and B). Every 15 days, students will be required to submit a research sample or an essay, depending on the group to which they have been assigned. Instructions for each research sample and essay can be found under the PRÁCTICA tab in Blackboard.

- **Essays** (NOT SUMMARIES!): essays will require students to compare theoretical constructs from different readings, relate those to the professional translation and interpreting activity and/or perform additional research. Grading of the essays will be based on content (level of sophistication of the analysis and appropriateness of sources) and form of the paper (organization, clarity, correct use of terminology, appropriate writing style and correct spelling and grammar.)

- **Research samples**: “research samples” (muestras de investigación) are assignments designed to explore how the theoretical contents covered in each unit relate to the current translation or interpreting practice. To that end, students will select any material associated to the professional translation/interpreting practice and will write a brief essay analyzing its connections to the theoretical framework explored in this course. The materials chosen for the research samples can be anything that has to do with the translation or interpreting practice: a translator’s note, a translation review, an interview with a translator, the program of a translation conference, the contents of a translation studies journal, the
representation of a translator in a film/novel or a podcast, among many others. More details on the research samples will be provided by the instructor the first week of classes.

The deadline to submit essays and research samples will be the midnight of day 17 after the beginning of each unit (Wednesday).

Submittal procedure for essays and research samples:
- Please write your last name on the file name.
- Submit the assignment through the PRÁCTICAS TAB in Blackboard, using Save AssignOption BEFORE midnight (CST time) on their due date.

Please, make sure 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: Please note that any translation required in this course must be original and 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.

Assignments are worth 50% of the final grade (essays are worth 25% and research samples are worth 25%).
Revisions
Submitted essays and research samples will be reviewed by the instructor and returned via the Blackboard messaging tool 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 ASSIGNMENTS, 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:

- **A final essay:** students will be required to write an academic essay discussing several theoretical aspects covered during the course. Instructions will be published in due time under the tab ENSAYO FINAL. Final essays turned in after the deadline will NOT be considered for grading.

  The final essay is worth 30% 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>20%</td>
<td>For each unit, students must post at least 3 messages as described above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3 academic papers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research samples</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>3 research samples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>One final essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that no extra credit will be available in this course.
**MAKE UP WORK**

1. Late essays, research samples and discussion boards will receive a maximum grade of 80/100 (B). The instructor will inform the students about the deadline to receive late assignments and nothing will be graded past that date.
2. Absolutely no makeups on the final essay.

**COURSE NAVIGATION**

This course contains several sections described below. Please become familiar with each of these sections 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 provides updates with information relevant to you. Announcements may come from your institution or instructor and it is CRITICAL to read them in order to succeed in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programa</td>
<td>This section provides the general requirements, expectations and outcomes for the course. Please review it thoroughly and become familiar with it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendario</td>
<td>This section shows the detailed calendar for the course: topics to be covered each week and deadlines for all the activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grupos</td>
<td>In this section you will find the group to which you have been assigned in order to complete the course essays and research samples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teoría</td>
<td>This section contains the theory of the course organized in six units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturas</td>
<td>This section contains additional papers that students must read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foros</td>
<td>This is the section where most of your online interactions will occur with both your instructor and fellow students. Visit this section often to participate in your course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Práctica</td>
<td>This section provides all the information on the essays and research samples of the course. Completed essay and research samples are also submitted through PRÁCTICA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devoluciones</td>
<td>The instructor will turn in reviews and important comments on your essays through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensayo final</td>
<td>The final essay will be posted in this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td>This tool allows you to e-mail the instructor or any other participant in your course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calificaciones</td>
<td>This section lets you check your progress in this course. You will be able to check any grades posted by your instructor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
- A multimedia player, such as Windows Media Player, VLC or Quickplay.
- 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.
- Skype might occasionally be needed.

Students should:

- Possess good knowledge of word processing software, including the spellcheck and track-changes functions.
- Know how to zip and unzip files.
- Contact their instructor via e-mail at the very beginning of the course if they need help to install or work with any of the abovementioned software.

NETIQUETTE

Netiquette describes the code of conduct for an online environment. It ensures respect for others and prevents misunderstandings or unintentional offenses to others. The netiquette described here is included to ensure your success in this course.

- When you are typing or submitting a response, do not use all capital letters (caps). Caps is equal to SHOUTING YOUR MESSAGE. Although it is customary to use acronyms (ex. ROFL - rolling on floor laughing, BTW - by the way, or FYI -for your information) for chatting online, try to avoid using these. There may be those in this course who are not as experienced as you and may miss out on understanding.
- Although you are encouraged to participate and ask questions, it is asked that you do not spam other users (SPAM refers to unwanted or excessive email). Before sending mass emails, consider using the discussion board to post general inquiries or requesting assistance from your instructor.

UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS
The UTRGV disability accommodation, mandatory course evaluation statement and sexual harassment statement are required on all syllabi. Additional policy statements are optional, such as those covering attendance, academic integrity, and course drop policies.

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:

Spring 2018 Module 1 February 14 – February 20
Spring 2018 Module 2 April 11 – April 17
Spring 2018 (full semester) April 11 – May 2

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.

STUDENT SERVICES:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN
1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- **Learning center:** BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- **Writing center:** BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- **Advising center:** BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- **Career center:** BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)