Translation Technologies  
TRSP/SPAN 4347  
(This document is tentative and subject to change at any time during the semester.)

Class Schedule: Mondays from 4:40 to 7:10 PM at BMAIN 1.524
Instructor: Dr. Nazaret Fresno Cañada
E-mail: nazaret.fresno@utrgv.edu
Phone: (956) 882-7450
Office hours: Mondays from 2:00 to 4:30 PM and Tuesdays from 12 to 2:30 PM at BMAIN 1.528. Please allow 24 hours for e-mail response in the weekdays and 48 hours in the weekends.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

The following book is needed for this course:

Bradbury, Ray. Fahrenheit 451. The temperature at which books burn. (Any edition and format are accepted.)

The following dictionary is recommended for this course:


**Students are strongly advised to use a data storage device to save their in-class work** since computers in the lab are emptied automatically every night at midnight.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to provide students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience with different technologies that allow professional translators to increase their productivity. All throughout the course students will be trained to use cutting-edge software involved in the efficient management of translation projects, computer-assisted translation, machine translation, webpage localization and terminology management. Through the combination of theory and a strong emphasis on practice, students will further develop their translation skills into English and Spanish, will learn how to work with a variety of complex
digital formats including HTML files, and will be able to undertake translation projects requiring very specialized technical knowledge.

In order to take this course, students must have completed SPAN 2389 or TRSP/SPAN 3341.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

1. Students will learn how to translate general texts from English into Spanish and vice versa at a professional level by successfully dealing with major syntactical and lexical problems while accurately conveying meaning both at a denotative and at a connotative level.

2. Students will learn how to meet the technological demands of the professional translation and interpreting market, by acquiring terminological research techniques, superior word-processing capabilities, advanced use of Internet resources and acquaintance with translation memories and terminological management.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

This course has 4 units, which will cover 4 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 Translation Technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 2-5</td>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Computer-Assisted Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 6-7</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Terminology Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-term</td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 10-12</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>Website Localization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 13-14</td>
<td>Unit 4</td>
<td>General Tools for Translators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>Recap</td>
<td>Units 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td>Recap</td>
<td>Units 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEKS 16-17</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final exams (Translation Technologies 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

Each unit will be organized as follows:

1. **Theoretical Explanations**
   At the beginning of each unit, the instructor will offer a theoretical explanation covering the main topics that students will need to learn. Please note that this course is designed in such a way that the theoretical contents presented in a given unit will be needed to properly follow the next units. Therefore, in order to succeed in this course, students will need to understand and gradually assimilate the theory presented in a given session before moving to the next one.

2. **Software Demonstration**
   After being introduced to the theoretical contents of each unit, students will learn how to apply that knowledge to their translation practice using highly specialized translation software. For that purpose, the instructor will offer a step-by-step demonstration of the basic operation of the program required in each case, which will walk students through the main functions and features of the application.

3. **Software Hands-on Experience**
   After having seen been introduced to the translation technology to be used in each unit, students will be required to complete one or more translation activities that will allow them to gain hands-on experience with the specialized software used in each case. These exercises will be completed individually in class and under the instructor’s supervision so that any doubts can be clarified and any technical issues can be solved.

4. **Translation Assignment**
   At the end of each unit, a session will be devoted to the completion of an assignment that will require using translation software. Please note that students will only be able to
work on their assignments in the computer lab (room BMAIN 1.524) since most of the programs that will be used in this course require professional licenses that are only accessible through UTRGV computers. Students will be able to work on their assignments on designated Mondays from 4:40 to 7:10 and every Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 PM. The instructions for each assignment will be provided to the students the last Monday of each unit and the completed work will be due the next Monday before noon. All assignments must be submitted through the PRÁCTICA tab in Blackboard.

Important note: students should not downplay the linguistic quality of their translations “just” because they are working with digital materials. Spelling and grammar must be strictly implemented. GRADING WILL BE SERiously AFFECTED BY SLOOPY GRAMMAR AND POOR WRITING.

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.
Submittal procedure:
- Download the assignment
- Name files as follow: YourLastName-YourInitial-NumberOfAssignment.doc (Example, for Adriana Smith, assignment 3: "Smith-A-3.doc").
- Submit the assignment Using Save AssignOption BEFORE midnight 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!

Revisions

Submitted assignments will be reviewed by the instructor and returned 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.

Translation assignments are worth 50% of the final grade.

5. Reading Quizzes

Good translators are able to identify and use different linguistic registers in different contexts. Furthermore, impeccable writing skills are expected from them in the professional world, and an excellent way to improve them is through reading. Therefore, students in this course will be required to read the book Fahrenheit 451, by Rad Bradbury. Students will read the book at their own pace and will take 3 reading quizzes to assess their reading progress.

Reading quizzes are worth 15% of the final grade.
6. **Mid-term Exam**

   By week 10, students will take a mid-term exam via Blackboard. The purpose of this test is to make sure that they are assimilating the theoretical concepts properly, and to serve as indicator of the students’ progress.

   The mid-term quiz is worth **10%** of the final grade.

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

1. **Extra Credit Activities (Optional)**

   Students will have the chance to gain extra credits by completing one or more activities. The instructor will provide information regarding these activities in due time. Extra credit activities will increase the final weighted total of the course up to a maximum of **2%**.

2. **Final assignment**

   At the end of the semester, students will turn in a final translation assignment dealing with one or more aspects covered during the course. Instructions will be published in due time under the “EXAMEN FINAL” tab. **Final assignments submitted after the deadline will NOT be considered for grading.**

   The final assignment is worth **20%** of the final grade.

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**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:
### MAKE UP WORK:

1. Late translation assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80/100 (B).
2. The instructor will inform the students about the deadline to receive late assignments. Nothing will be graded past that date.
3. Absolutely no makeups on the quizzes, mid-term or final exam.

### COURSE NAVIGATION

Despite the fact that this is a face-to-face course, Blackboard will be used to present the assignments to the students and to submit them once completed. The following sections will be used in this course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and in-class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2 justified absences allowed. Religious holiday related absences are accepted upon previous notice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation assignments</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>4 translation assignments (each worth 12.5% of the final grade.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3 reading quizzes (each worth 5% of the final grade.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra credit</td>
<td>(2%)</td>
<td>One or more extra activities that will add up to a 2% to the final weighted total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>A final translation project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong> (+2%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avisos</th>
<th>This section of the course provides updates with information relevant to you. Announcements may come from your institution and instructor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programa</td>
<td>This section provides the general requirements, expectations and outcomes for the course. Please review this section 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asistencia</strong></td>
<td>This section tracks your attendance to the course so that you can be aware of your absences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Práctica</strong></td>
<td>This section provides details on your translation assignments for each unit. Also, you submit your completed assignments through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Materiales</strong></td>
<td>In this section you will find the files needed to complete the assignments or any additional material that the instructor prepares for you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pruebas de lectura</strong></td>
<td>Reading quizzes will be available in this section for students to take.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Devoluciones</strong></td>
<td>Your instructor will send your revised assignments through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Examen Final</strong></td>
<td>The final exam will be posted in this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E-mail</strong></td>
<td>This section allows you to email the instructor and any other participant in your course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Calificaciones</strong></td>
<td>This section lets you check your progress in your course. You will be able to check any grades posted by your instructor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS**

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.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations  
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility 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 on or about:

Module 1          February 13 – 19  
Module 2          April 10 – 16  
Full Spring Semester  April 10 – May 1

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

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. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have
questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

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)