UTRGV - Graduate program in Spanish Translation and Interpreting

UNIV 6100 11 - Comp Exam Ext
Spring 2019

| THIS IS A 100% ONLINE COURSE | Instructor: José Dávila-Montes, PhD
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Office Hours: Mon. 8:00 am. to 1:00 pm., or by appointment

**General description**

This is a dual course that covers one of the following tracks:

- A general translation project
- A research project
- A localization or AVT project
- A literary translation project

Students taking this course will discuss with the instructor which one of the above tracks they will undertake during the first three weeks of classes.

- The translation project track is recommended for students in the Graduate Certificates and the MA programs.
- The translation research track is recommended for students in the MA program.
- The translation research track is NOT recommended for students within the various Graduate Certificate programs.

The following are examples of possible "Translation projects":

- Translating a chapter of a book.
- Translating one or two scholarly articles.
- Translating a collection of short tales.
- Translating a short play.
- Translating a collection of poems.
- Subtitling or dubbing a movie or part of a movie.
- Localizing a website.
- Translating a collection of documents of legal nature.
- Translating a corporate report or a business plan.
- Translating a number of pages of any kind of printed or online materials.
The following are examples of possible "Research projects":

- Commentary and comparison of different translations of the same source text.
- Analysis of a translation using a set of different "translation theories".
- Descriptive analysis of specific translation phenomena.
- Speculative analysis on the works of an author.
- Empirical research based on corpus or statistical approaches.

**MA Capstone Project**

At the end of the course, students will receive from the instructor a conventional grade for the course. However, the final project will be reviewed by a MA Capstone Committee consisting of three professors in the Translation and Interpreting Program who will assess it as a final MA project. A favorable opinion by the committee is needed in order to complete the graduation requirements in the program.

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes**

The aim of this course is to put to test in a comprehensive way the practical skills and theoretical knowledge acquired by students during the previous courses in the Graduate Translation Curriculum, by undertaking a non-fragmentary, organic endeavor that encourages the alignment of those skills and knowledge towards the completion of a project of professional nature.

To his end, instruction will be provided for students to become familiar with medium- to long-term projects in the areas of research and professional translation. Students will become familiar with the professional and/or academic demands of such projects.

These course objectives align with the following Student Learning Outcomes of the Graduate Programs in Translation:

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 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.

3. 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.

4. Students will be able to apply the latest field-related technologies to their production of translated texts.

6. Students will produce theoretical writings of academic nature that show a comprehensive understanding of most relevant theories of the discipline.
Assignments and Submissions

Once a Research or Translation Project has been agreed upon with the instructor every student will:

- Provide the instructor with the pertinent materials for supervision, such as source text(s) (including those provided by UTRGV’s institutional Translation and Interpreting Office to be translated or materials to be analyzed as part of the research).

- Work out a count-down style calendar with final and partial deadlines for every step of the project.

Translation Project

The project calendar for a Translation Project will roughly consist of a number of partial submissions for review, based on a calculation of the total number of pages and the total number of weeks available for the course.

The instructor will determine the specific days of the week for every student to submit their translated pages and will provide feedback within the week. With the feedback provided, students will:

- Revise their previous submissions for a final version of the entire project (final submission).

- Consider the different aspects signaled in the feedback and apply them to subsequent partial and final submissions.

Grades will be provided based not just on the final product, but also on the continued quality and improvement of the partial submissions throughout the course.

Research Project

The project calendar for a Translation Project will roughly consist of 4 stages:

- Project prospectus: a written plan about the main tenets of the research to be undertaken, outlining specific aspects such as motivation for research, hypothesis if any, theoretical framework(s) to be used, methodology, and a basic bibliography.

- Submission of chapters. In number and extension, to be discussed with instructor.

- Submission of first draft.

- Submission of final project.
Mid-Term Presentations

Students are required to make a 15 minute online presentation with a progress report of their projects. Presentations will consist of Power Point slide shows and will be recorded via webcam and made accessible to all students in the course through the pertinent software (Tegrity - to be provided).

All students will be required to VIEW all the presentations and to POST A COMMENT on the discussion boards. Comments need to be inquisitive and constructive, not just supportive, i.e. critical of the project and helpful for brainstorming possible paths of improvement. Presenters will be required to RESPOND to every comment posted by the other students.

Final Submission

Translation Projects need to be submitted the last week of classes. They need to include a final, revised version AND a 10-15 page commentary describing and analyzing the main challenges that have risen during the project and the strategies used to overcome them. This commentary needs to be not a personal/impressionistic essay, but a serious piece of academic writing with proper structuring, citations and a bibliography.

Research Projects need to be submitted before the end of the semester. Although a preliminary "draft" submission will be requested before (see course schedule). They need to be formatted according to the MA Thesis requirements by the School of Graduate Studies.

Guidelines about extension

"How long should my project be?" is a typical question in this sort of academic project. Depending of the nature of each undertaking, the instructor will establish a number of pages or chapters/units to be translated.

As far as extension is concerned, translating one page of the New York Times is not the same as translating a page of a pocket-sized children's book. In order to work with a common terminology, "pages" will be measured as TRANSLATION (target text) PAGES, written:

- on a regular "letter" size page with a standard word processor
- in font Times 12
- with double spacing
- with one inch margins (top, bottom left and right).

This generally amounts to the traditional 2100-character page (30 lines of 70 characters). Thus, the final translated project will consist on 15-20 pages of text.

As for research projects, this course can be considered a mini-thesis within the MA program. MA theses typically range between 40 and 80 pages (depending on a number of considerations), so a research project within this course should have no less than 20 pages, given the fact that MA theses cover 6 graduate credits (this course is worth 3 credits). However, the final extension of the project needs to be determined by the nature of the research and the attainment of the goals pursued, rather than from a merely quantitative stance.
Submission of materials

Specific submission guidelines will be established depending on the nature of the project. The default submission procedure is described next, HOWEVER, students engaging into a translation project coordinated within UTRGV’S institutional Translation and Interpreting Office (T&iO) will follow the guidelines established by the project manager assigned to the students. This may include using SDL TRADOS Cloudshare. Licenses, passwords and download links will be provided by the project manager who will work closely with the instructor in supervising and mentoring students.

Submissions and feedback by the instructor will otherwise be carried out via the internal messaging system in Blackboard. NO SUBMISSIONS VIA E-MAIL WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Submittal procedure:

- Name files as follow: YourLastName-YourInitial-NumberOfAssignment.doc (Example, for Adriana Smith, assignment 3: "Smith-A-3.doc").
- Send the final file to the instructor NOT USING REGULAR E-MAIL, but Blackboard's messaging utility available on the left menu as "Send-to-Instructor" BEFORE noon on their due date.

Please, make sure you:
- Use Microsoft Word files as attachments.
- Don't paste your translation into the Blackboard message.
- Number pages.
- Write your name and assignment number at the beginning of every translation submission or as a header/footer, and NOT JUST IN THE FILE NAME.

Grading

The final grade will consist of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary readings, discussion boards and quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>To be completed during the second and third week of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions for the first half of the course</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Translation Project: 4 submissions (about 8-12 pages) Translation Research: Prospectus and 1st chapter/section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submissions for the second half of the course</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Translation Project: 4 submissions. (about 8-12 pages) Translation Research: 2nd/3rd chapter and/or conclusions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation and discussion boards</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>One 15 minute slide presentation and one comment in the discussion boards per presentation. Then a response to every comment posted by classmates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final submission</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>According to guidelines.</td>
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## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due on Sun. at midnight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
<td>Personal introductions in discussion board and questions about the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Reading 1 – Translation Projects</td>
<td>- Discussion boards (min. 3 posts)</td>
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<td>- Quiz</td>
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<td>- Proposal of a topic (via e-mail)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Reading 2 – Translation Research</td>
<td>- Discussion boards (min. 3 posts)</td>
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<td>- Quiz</td>
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<td>- Topic confirmation (via e-mail)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeks 4-7</td>
<td>Weekly submissions</td>
<td>For research projects:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Week 4 – Prospectus and TOC</td>
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<td>Week 7 – Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9-12</td>
<td>Weekly Submissions</td>
<td>For translation projects:</td>
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<td>Week 10 – Commentary abstract and TOC</td>
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<td>Week 12 – Commentary (50%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For research projects:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Week 10 – Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Week 12 – Chapter 3 and conclusions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Translation Commentary (draft)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (no classes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Project review and formatting</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Final submission of projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Committee reviews and final grading</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Important dates

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for Spring 2019 include:

Jan. 14 (Mon.) Spring classes begin
Jan. 17 (Thurs.) Last day to add or register for Spring classes
Jan. 18 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
Jan. 21 (Mon.) Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. No classes.
Jan. 28 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
Feb. 4 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
Jan. 30 (Wed.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
Feb. 11 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all Spring classes) and receive a 25% refund
Mar. 11 – Mar. 16 (Mon. – Sat.) Spring Break. No classes.
April 10 (Wed.) Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)
April 19 – April 20 (Fri. – Sat.) Easter Holiday. No classes.
May 2 (Thurs.) Study Day. No classes.
May 3 – 9 (Fri. – Thurs.) Final Exams
May 10 - May 11 (Fri. – Sat.) Commencement Exercises

Policy on 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.

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.

### Course Navigation

This course is made of several sections. These sections are described below. It is recommended that you 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.)

**NOTE:** Even if you print any course material, please remember to check these sections often. The content in each of these sections may change after you have made your printouts.

<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. <strong>To access this section:</strong> Click on the Avisos link in the Main Menu on the left.</td>
</tr>
<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. <strong>To access this section:</strong> Click on the Programa link in the Main Menu on the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendario</td>
<td>This section provides you with information on important dates and lets you know when assignments are due. <strong>To access this section:</strong> Click on the Calendario link in the Main Menu on the left.</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. <strong>To access this section:</strong> Click the Foros link in the Main Menu on the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calificaciones</td>
<td>This section lets you check your progress in your course. You will be able to check any grades posted by your instructor. <strong>To access this section:</strong> Click on the Calificaciones link in the Main Menu on the left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devoluciones</td>
<td>The instructor will turn in reviews and important comments on your assignments through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturas</td>
<td>This section is for your instructor to place extra course materials (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes, etc.).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To access this section: Click on the Lecturas link in the Main Menu on the left.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>February 13 – 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>April 10 – 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Fall Semester</td>
<td>April 10 – May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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)

This syllabus is subject to change.