

SPAN3021 – The Art of Translation: From Spanish to English

Category: Elective Course

Year: Third or fourth year of study

Medium of instruction: Spanish

Semester: Offered in the second semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the translation of texts from Spanish to English and, to a lesser extent, from English to Spanish. Special attention will be paid to the particular problems created by differences in grammar and other common errors such as “false friends” and influences from the mother tongue.

The aim of this course is to provide students with basic translation skills and to develop their understanding of Spanish grammar and syntax. Students will also learn about the stylistic differences of various genres (newspaper articles, novels, business letters, adverts, etc.) and how to translate these different types of texts.

Course materials will be selected according to the topics covered in the core course (SPAN3002. Spanish III.2) in order to further consolidate the students’ knowledge of Spanish grammar and sentence structure. Since the course focuses mainly on acquiring practical translation skills rather than the theoretical background, students will be expected to do extensive practical work in class as well as at home.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate they have acquired a set of dictionary skills for translation purposes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate they have the right tools to translate sentences and texts from Spanish to English and vice versa, understanding nuances in the foreign language
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate they have the right tools to translate idioms, plays on words and colloquial expressions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguish between the formal and informal use of language in translations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distinguish between different genres and how to translate them

1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3021, must have completed SPAN3001 - Spanish III.1. Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3021 without having previously completed SPAN3001 should contact the Programme Director, Mrs. Rocío Blasco (roblasco@hku.hk).

1.3 ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of continuous assessment as follows:

- Two tests with the following sections:
 - a. Translation of sentences (English to Spanish)
 - b. Translation of sentences (Spanish to English)
 - c. Translation of a text (Spanish to English)
- Two translation assignments to be completed at home
- 1 video translation and subtitling (English to Spanish)
- 1 video translation and subtitling (Spanish to English)
- Active participation in class work and discussion

2. COURSE CONTENTS

The course has 2 contact hours per week. Attendance is expected to all classes and non-attendance may affect students' final grade.

There is no textbook for this course, materials will all be provided by the teacher in the classroom or via the Moodle platform. The course has an important component of work outside the classroom which serves as practice/revision of what has been learnt in class. Work may consist of translating texts, sentences, expressions, etc.

The following page shows a breakdown of the topics covered in the course:

COURSE TOPICS	
1	Unidad 1: Introducción al curso y conceptos básicos (I).
2	Unidad 2: Conceptos básicos (II); La narración (I): el presente.
3	Unidad 3: La narración (II): el pasado.
4	Unidad 4: La descripción (I): los adjetivos.
5	Unidad 5: La descripción (II): ser vs. estar.
6	Unidad 6: Traducción audiovisual. Subtitulado de videos.
7	Unidad 7: La impersonalidad, la voz pasiva y el uso de SE.
8	Unidad 8: El uso de indicativo y subjuntivo.
9	Unidad 9: Traducción aplicada, el lenguaje de la publicidad.
10	Unidad 10: Traducción aplicada, el lenguaje de los negocios.
11	Unidad 11: Traducción aplicada, el lenguaje de los deportes y el lenguaje legal.