HBR4930: It’s Hebrew to me: The Bible to CNN in Translation

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Course Description

Since the first translations of the Hebrew Bible and up to automated translations of Facebook statuses, translation has always been a vehicle of both communication and miscommunication among nations and cultures. Today, the proliferation and the increased mobility between media, as well as the possibilities and the need to transmit information quickly and cheaply in the electronic age, create new challenges and new forms of translation. The translator, on his/her part, is repeatedly called upon to stitch together a fragile cultural and linguistic make-up of a "global village" that is constantly falling apart at the seams. This course will provide a history of translation, cover various ethical and political facet of translation, and address the tasks of translation and translators at the age of globalism.

Grades

(1) Class participation, including short weekly assignments (20%); (2) Written assignments (15%); (3) Student Presentation (5%); (4) Midterm paper (30%); (5) Final paper (30%)

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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A - 4.0
A- - 3.67
B+ - 3.33
B - 3.0
B- - 2.67
C+ - 2.33
C - 2.0
Required Texts


- The textbooks are available in softcover and moderate prices.
- Secondary materials will be posted on the course website (see a bibliography below).

Course Assignments

**Participation and Attendance** – Class discussion will more often consist of active discussion and various activities than class lecture. Students are therefore expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate.

Attendance is mandatory and will be monitored according to the rules of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida ([https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)). Each three unexcused absences will count for half a grade off the final grade in the course (e.g. from A to A-). Nine unexcused absences will result in a failing course grade.

For an excused absence: Please do not contact the instructor. Contact the office of the Dean of Students at umatter@ufl.edu. The office of the Dean of Students will alert your instructor (and your other instructors for the relevant dates).

**Weekly assignments** – Students will be asked to prepare weekly assignments, often creative and in groups. These assignments will address reading and/or class discussions.

**Written Assignments** – There will be three short individual written assignments. In these assignments students will usually be asked to respond to a short text or an article we will later discuss in class.

**Presentation** – There will be one short (5-10 minutes) presentation in which students will apply some of the material to texts of their own choice.
**Midterm and Final Paper** – Each student will choose, in consultation with the instructor, a paper topic that addresses some of the topics and texts that are discussed in class. The topics of the midterm and the final papers must be different. Each of the two assignments (the midterm and final paper) represents 30% of the final grade in the course.

*Academic Honesty.*

Students are expected to follow University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines. These can be found at [http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm](http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm)

Students may also wish to consult The University of Florida Student Guide Standard of Ethical Conduct found at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/)

Students are also expected to follow the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures Academic Honesty Guidelines:

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.

Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines include but are not limited to:

**Cheating.** The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes copying graded homework assignments from another student; working with another individual(s) on graded assignments or homework; looking or attempting to look at notes, a text, or another student’s paper during an exam.

**Plagiarism.** The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is oral or written (including electronic), published or unpublished. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on written materials or in oral presentations; submitting work produced by an online translation service or the translation feature of an online dictionary as your own.

**Misrepresentation.** Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

**Bribery, Conspiracy, Fabrication.** For details see website below.

The UF Honor Code states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.

For more details go to: [http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm](http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/Rules/4017.htm)

*Students with Disabilities.*
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Reading Schedule:**

Week 1: Introduction
Week 2: A History of Translation
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 1.3 to 1.5.
Week 3: Methods of Translation
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 2.1, 3.2, 5.3, 7.1.
Week 4: The task of the Translator
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 9.2, 10.3. 11.2; Barthes; Benjamin; Foucault; Xiau.
Week 5: Translation and Politics
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 9.1; Abu-Lughod; Cronin (2003b); Spivak.
Week 6: Ethics of Translation
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 9.0; Bermann; Takeda.
Week 7: Gender and Translation
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 8.2; Alvstand and López; Heller; Simon.
Week 8: The invisibility of Translation
   Kindly Read: IntroTrnsl 9.4; Abend-David (2012); Cronin (2003a); Venuti.
Week 9: Presentations
Week 10: Media and Translation
   Kindly Read: MediaTrnsl viii-xix.
Week 11: Multilingual Films
   Kindly Read: MediaTrnsl 2; Heiss; Pettit.
Week 12: Media Access Services
   Kindly Read: MediaTrnsl 6; Mazur.
Week 13: Global News and Politics
   Kindly Read: MediaTrnsl 11; Abend-David (2010); Bassnett; Ginneken.
Week 14: New Media and Translation
   Kindly Read: MediaTrnsl 13; Bucaria.
• Week 15: Representing Translation
   Kindly Read: Abend-David (2018)
• Week 16: Conclusion

**Bibliography**


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