



Class information:

Instructor: Dr Sarra Tlili
Office: 354 Pugh Hall
Phone number: (352) 392-8678
E-mail address: satlili@ufl.edu
Office Hours: T & R 10:00 – 11:00 AM
Periods: T | Period 5 - 6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM) MAT 12
R | Period 5 (11:45 AM - 12:35 PM) TUR 2318

COURSE OVERVIEW

This is a course in translation from Arabic to English with a focus on method rather than theory. It trains students to become better translators by following a methodical approach based on reasoned analysis of textual features and the translation problems that they pose. The course follows a progressive structure with an overall movement from general genre-independent issues to specific genre-dependent ones. Students are consistently invited to actively think about and defend their translation strategies, taking into consideration the needs of the theoretical party commissioning the translation project, the target audience, and the salient features of the source text.

STUDENTS' LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to

- Identify, describe, and address common translation problems
- Formulate, explain, and defend translation strategies
- Provide idiomatic, clear, and faithful English translation for Arabic texts from a variety of genres

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Overview

Because this is a course on translation method, we will spend most of our preparation and class time translating texts and thinking critically about our translation strategies. Following the order of the textbook, we will proceed from foundational translation tasks, such as revising, editing, and compensation, moving to specific, text-contingent, and genre-dependent problems. Students are required to read the assigned chapters and complete the related practicals before coming to class and to come prepared to discuss the readings and to describe and defend their translation strategies.

Readings and practicals (20%)

There are several translation assignments and one short reading per week. Students must complete the assigned materials and upload the written segment to Canvas by **11:59 PM on the eve of class days**. The written part varies, but in most cases, it consists of three components:



1. Description of the strategic translation problems posed by the text
2. Translation of the Arabic text to English
3. Explanation of the decisions of detail made in producing the translation

The “Schema of Textual Matrices” provided at the beginning of the textbook is an essential tool for the completion of this exercise. Your lowest two grades will be dropped.

Midterm: take-home test (25 %)

The test consists of a written translation of a 200 300-word text to English, to be uploaded to Canvas by **11:59 PM on October 14th**.

Final project: 30%

For this project, you need to translate a section of a previously untranslated Arabic work of fiction or an opinion newspaper article, followed by a description of the translation problems posed by the text and the rationale of the adopted translation strategies. This is a text of your choice ranging between 500 and 700 words in Arabic, but you need to obtain approval for it beforehand. I encourage students who wish to work toward The Translation Certificate to discuss other options with me. **The final draft is due at 11:59 PM on Friday, December 2nd**.

Presentation: 15%

This project consists of a presentation addressing one of the following themes:

- Translation of the *Arabian Nights*: History, controversies, and impact on European literatures
- The translation movement in early Islamic centuries
- Translation and orientalism
- Cultural translation involving Arabic and European languages
- Key figures and institutions in the field of Arabic translation (example: Hunayn ibn Ishaq, al-Ma'mūn, Rifā' al-Rāfi' al-Ṭaḥṭāwī, Bayt al-Ḥikma)

These are broad themes and not presentation topics. Students should formulate their own original and specific thesis/claim around one of these themes and be ready to defend it by describing, analyzing, and discussing their data. The presentation should be 15 to 20 minutes and include visual aids. Here are some sources that you should start exploring early in the semester to develop your project in a timely manner.

Sources:

- Asad, Talal “The Concept of Cultural Translation in British Social Anthropology,” in *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography*, edited by J. Clifford and G. E. Marcus. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986. 141 – 164.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. “The Translators of the Thousand and one Nights,” translated by Esther Allen, in *The Translation Studies Reader*, edited by Lawrence Venuti. New York: Routledge, 2000.



- Al-Dabbagh, Abdulla. *Literary Orientalism, Postcolonialism, and Universalism*. New York: Peter Lang, 2010. (Especially, chap. 3)
- Gutas, Dimitri. *Greek Thought, Arabic Culture: the Graeco-Arabic Translation Movement in Baghdad and early ‘Abbāsid Society (2nd-4th/8th-10th Centuries)*. New York: Routledge: 1998.
- Hassan, Wail. *Immigrant Narratives: Orientalism and Cultural Translation in Arab American and Arab British Literature*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011
- Jaber, Fadi. “The Landscape of Translation Movement in the Arab World: From the 7th Century Until the Beginning of the 21st Century.” *Arab World English Journal* 6.4 (2015), 128 – 140.
- Khalidi, Hala, Basma Ahmad and Sedki Dajani, “Facets from the Translation Movement in Arab Culture.” *Procedia Social and Behavioral Sciences* 205 (2015), 569 – 576.
- Said Faiq, ed. *Cultural Encounters in Translation from Arabic*. Toronto: Multilingual Matters LTD, 2004. (contains 10 relevant chapters)
- Tageldin, Shaden. *Disarming Words: Empire and the Seductions of Translation in Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

Class participation: 10%

Students are expected to come fully prepared for class and to discuss their translations individually (addressing the class) and in groups. Although we will strive to apply predetermined strategies to various translation problems, much of our work is creative and involves weighing and choosing between multiple alternatives. Critical engagement and full participation are thus a key element of our learning activities.

Grade distribution at a glance:

Assignment	Percentage
Readings and practicals	20%
Midterm	25%
Final	30%
Presentation	15%
Class participation	10%

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Range:	
A	100 %	to 94.0%



Letter Grade	Range:	
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 %	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 %	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0 %	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0 %	to 0.0%

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call. You may miss 3 50-minute sessions without any penalty. After that, your course grade will drop by half a point for each unexcused absence (A becomes A-, and so forth). Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, and military obligation and should be documented. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes. Arriving late or leaving early (before class is dismissed) is considered a half absence and results in minus 0.5% from the final grade. After 15 unexcused absences (equivalent of five weeks), a student is not allowed to attend class anymore and s/he will receive a failing grade. Students who do not miss class at all will earn 5 extra-credit points toward the final translation project.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- **UF student honor code, original work, and plagiarism:**
- UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted



for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this course.

- Original thought, writing, and discussion is critical for core questions about our place in the natural world and for meaningful discussions about culture and nature. Please be thoughtful and meticulous in your citations. This video offers useful information for how to avoid plagiarism and cite appropriately.

<https://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9> If you have any questions, please ask your instructor.

- **Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a 0 for that assignment. A second incident of plagiarism will result in a failing grade (E) for the course.**

- Accommodations for students:

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- Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

- **Online course evaluation by students:**

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- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- **Important Student Wellness Resources:**

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- *U Matter, We Care:*

- If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

- *Counseling and Wellness Center:*



- <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department:392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
 - **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**
 - **Student Health Care Center**, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
 - **Important Academic Resources:**
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- **E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.
 - **Career Connections Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>
 - **Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
 - **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
 - **Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
 - **Student Complaints On-Campus:**

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Required Course Materials:

James Dickins, Sandor Hervey and Ian Higgins, *Thinking Arabic Translation: A Course in Translation Method – Arabic to English*, second edition (London: Routledge, 2017)

TENTATIVE COURSE PLAN

Part I: Translation Operation

<i>Week 1 – Aug. 25</i>
<i>Introductions/Syllabus</i>

Personal introductions

Discuss the syllabus, course objectives, and course features

<i>Week 2 – Aug. 30, Sept. 1</i>
<i>Translation as a process</i>



Tuesday:

- Read chap. 1
- Practical 1.1

Thursday:

- Practical 1.3

Week 3 – Sept. 6, 8

TRANSLATION AS A PRODUCT

Tuesday: No class/Conference participation

Thursday:

- Read chap. 2
- Practical 2.1

Week 4 – Sept. 13, 15

Revising and Editing

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 3
- Practical 3.1

Thursday:

- Practical 3.2

Week 5 – Sept. 20, 22

Cultural Transposition

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 4
- Practical 4.1

Thursday:

- Practical 4.2

Week 6 – Sept. 27, 29

Compensation

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 5
- Practical 5.1



Thursday:

- Practical 5.3

Part II: Textual Features

Week 7 – Oct. 4, 6

Genre

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 6
- Practical 6.1
- Practical 6.2

Thursday:

- Practical 6.4

Week 8 – Oct. 11, 13

Denotative Meaning and Translation Issues

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 7
- Practical 7.1

Thursday:

- Practical 7.3

Week 9 – Oct. 18, 20

Connotative Meaning and Translation Issues

Tuesday:

- Read chap. 8
- Practical 8.3

Thursday:

- No class/Conference participation

Week 10 – Oct. 25, 27

Phonic/graphic and prosodic issues

Tuesday:

- Read “Introduction to the Formal Properties of Text” (p. 108 – 110) and chap. 9
- Practical 9.1



Thursday:

- Practical 9.2

Week 11 – Nov. 1, 3
Grammatical Issues

Tuesday:

- Read chap 10
- Practical 10.2

Thursday

- Presentations

Week 12 – Nov. 8, 10
Parallelism

Tuesday:

- Read chap 11
- Practical 11.1

Thursday:

- Presentations

Week 13 – Nov. 15, 17
Sentential Issues

Tuesday:

- Ready chap 12
- Practical 12.1

Thursday: No class/Conference participation

Week 14 – Nov. 22, 24

Tuesday:

- No class/Conference participation

Thursday:

- No class/Thanksgiving



Week 15 – Nov. 29, Dec. 1

Discourse and Intertextual Issues

Tuesday:

- Read chap 13
- Practical 13.3

Thursday:

- Presentations

Week 16 – Dec. 6

Technical Translation—Consumer-oriented Texts

Tuesday:

- Read chap 20
- Practical 20.1