

**LITERARY TRANSLATION
TRAN 4383
SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Selfa A. Chew-Melendez PhD.
Mode: On-line
E-mail: sachewsmithart@utep.edu
Session: Summer I, 2021
Virtual Office hours: 2:00 – 3:00 PM M - F
[Zoom link](#)

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of translating literature, emphasizing short fiction, drama and poetry. We will study the elements of creative writing, essential to the translation of literary works. Students will have the opportunity to analyze reliable models (published translations) as well as to generate their own translations of various works. In our discussions, we will reflect on the particular demands imposed by the aesthetics of literary texts. Additionally, we will ponder translatability, fidelity, and relations of power affecting the translation processes.

Students will compare different translations of literary texts to identify creative writing devices, style, format, and cultural equivalency. A practical objective of this course is to build a portfolio of translation exercises and submit a selection of poems to a literary journal or magazine for publication.

This is an intensive course that requires daily reading, assignments and participation. Although we do not hold synchronous meetings, our coursework is distributed in modules/sessions with specific due dates for each assignment.

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

We have free access to our textbooks through our UTEP virtual library. If the links to the books provided here do not work, please, make a search in our UTEP repository. You can also e-mail our librarians to obtain help at ask@utep.libanswers.com

Landers, Clifford. *Literary translation: A practical guide*. Multilingual Matters, 2001.

Boase-Beier, Jean. *Translating the Poetry of the Holocaust: Translation, Style and the Reader*, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2015.

Xu, Jun, and Lin Zhu. *Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation*. Routledge, 2020.

Apter, Ronnie, and Herman Mark. *Translating for Singing. The Theory, Art and Craft of Translating Lyrics*, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, 2015.

I will provide all other texts and audiovisual material through Blackboard.

Because this is an upper-level course, I assume you have already one or more excellent Spanish/English dictionaries.

These are on-line dictionaries that may aid you to produce high-quality translations. Please, research and access other sources for regional or national expressions.

<http://dictionary.reverso.net/spanish-english>

<http://www.diccionarios.com/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hobnob>

<https://dle.rae.es/>

This course will utilize online resources; therefore, you will need a reliable internet for continuous access to Blackboard and other resources. I divided our Blackboard platform in four folders containing readings, activities, discussions, and assignments. You will have access to this site once you login into BB through MyUTEP located in UTEP home page. UTEP Instructional Support Services and Helpdesk are available to provide instruction and information on how to navigate and use BB. I will post regular and urgent announcements through the Blackboard Announcements section. It is a good idea to scan that section frequently.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify and apply strategies for translating and interpreting diverse literary genres, including poetry, essay, fiction and drama.
- Understand how to analyze the translation of a literary work.
- Learn translation theory and its application to literary translation.
- Reflect on sociocultural processes affecting translation processes.
- Create a portfolio of publishable translations.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students should be able to

- Learn the distinctive set of skills and knowledge required to translate different literary genres.
- Compare original literary texts and their translations assessing their qualities and areas to improve.
- Translate literary texts into aesthetic interpretations that closely transfer the content of the original to another language.
- Research the literary devices needed to capture essential elements of the aesthetics and content of the original text.
- Analyze the original text and research the social context in which the work was produced to make informed and complex translation decisions.
- Identify journal, reviews or magazines that will accept submissions of their literary translations for publication.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Students will select one text from our list of readings on theory and literary devices to present to our class at a scheduled time selected by student and professor. To enhance your presentation, and as a guide, you will prepare a professional-level ppt. The text in your slides must be kept to a minimum and will serve only as a guide. You are responsible for presenting the main points of the text(s) assigned and their relationship to other theories of translation studied in this or other courses, of which you will cite the sources. Do not read from the ppt. If possible, integrate relevant graphics. The required length for this presentation is 20 minutes. Allow our class 15 minutes to discuss your presentation and ask questions. Make sure you record the presentation and upload it in our dedicated tab.

ATTENDANCE TO PRESENTATIONS

Having an audience for our live presentations is always important. Your peers will have insightful perspectives and information to share with you and I will also be part of our conversation for which you will have the opportunity to clarify areas of the readings difficult to understand. In addition, your own knowledge and experience will contribute to the enrichment of our educational process. Although the requirement is to attend two live student presentations, participating actively in the Q & A sessions, try to attend all of them to support our class. The presentations by students and guest speakers will take place at different times and days, as scheduled by the presenters and your professor

INDIVIDUAL TRANSLATION EXERCISES

Students will individually translate poetry, short-fiction and drama, applying the theory learned through our reading assignments. Your individual translations will be included in your portfolio to receive a grade. Each text translated and incorporated into your portfolio must include a glossary. Portfolios must contain at least four genres: 1) Poetry: five pages, double space, minimum; 2) Fiction: five pages, double space, minimum; 3) Drama: a one-act play or an excerpt from a full-length play - 1000 words, minimum; 4) Songs: three pages, double space, minimum. You must make your best effort to locate texts that have not been translated. Keep in mind that the literary work of renown writers has been usually published in different languages already.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Editorial work and group discussions will count towards this area of your grade. You will submit your first draft to a designated peer for editing, rotating partners for each translation. You will send a second draft to your instructor. After receiving feedback, you will polish your translation and post a third version of your translation in your portfolio.

PORTFOLIO

Students will present a translation portfolio to display their individual work. These are the elements of your portfolio: a) Your short biography; b) a short text providing context and discussing the challenges of translating the works included in your portfolio (400 words); c) the translated texts; d) three submission calls you intend to respond to.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The College of Liberal Arts encourages our participation in our community and the application of the knowledge and skills acquired throughout our education. Our service to our community in this course will consist of the translation of at least two texts written in response to social issues. These two texts will be part of your individual assignments and portfolio.

GRADING

Packback discussions	30%
Individual translations	23%
Blackboard assignments and quizzes	10%
Oral presentation	10%
Portfolio	20%
Attendance to presentations	5%
Course evaluation	2%

GRADING SCALE

A= 90-100
B= 80-89
C= 70-79
F= 69 or less

LATE WORK POLICY

This is not a self-paced course. Assignments must be uploaded through Blackboard on or before the assigned time. Late submissions will have a deduction of 10% per day.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

A variety of services are available to students who need special accommodation to succeed and enjoy this class. Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented special need. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for this course.

OFFICE HOURS

Stay in contact with your professor via Blackboard mail. If needed, attend our virtual Zoom office hours. I have set up a waiting room so I can meet with students on a “first come, first served” basis. You can also schedule a meeting with me. Read your forums and summaries feedback and respond to them for continued personal conversations on your progress and areas to improve. All software related to UTEP sites for online courses will be provided by UTEP, contact the helpdesk/IT office if you have any problem using any Blackboard feature.

The direct link to our Zoom office hours is

<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/81245467153?pwd=WDBFMXpoNDIGai8zSnIvVjZVY3ZsZz09>

PLAGIARISM

Any instance of plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Any assignment that shows signs of plagiarism will be submitted to the Dean of Students even if a grade was already posted and regardless of the day of submission, and type of feedback at the time of grading. Your professor will trust you; however, when detecting a plagiarized assignment, the identification of academic dishonesty will prompt the review of past homework. Submission of already-graded material may take place, consequently, if lack of academic integrity is suspected or confirmed. Consult UTEP regulations in this site.

<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Your instructor will provide structure, content, guidance, and assessment. Most learning, however, will occur through students' active participation in their own acquisition of information and analytical skills.

- Students will submit assignments complete assessments as scheduled.
- Students will complete all procedures required to drop the course when failing this course if they desire to obtain a "W."
- Students will be responsible for obtaining a syllabus, access to a computer, internet, Blackboard, and Zoom acquiring the reading material and following the course schedule.
- Students will access the material needed to complete their assignments.
- Students will reach their professor when in doubt before datelines.
- Students will be active in their own learning process.
- Students must follow UTEP guidelines for academic integrity at all times. If plagiarism is found after a grade has been granted, the grade will be suspended until the office of the Dean of Students presents the result of their investigation and their determination.
- Students are expected to show respect for the instructor and one another regardless of opinion, cultural values and other group differences. When students show disrespect, use demeaning adjectives, make malicious comments, and "ad hominem" arguments (made personally against an opponent, or a community, instead of against the opponent's argument), points will be deducted from the assignment. If behavior is repeated, students may be dropped from the course.
- Communications with your peers and your professor must follow the protocol you will read at <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Assignment points will be deducted when your messages do not follow the conventions listed in the site referenced. Assignments sent through UTEP e-mail will not be read or graded without a proper message, with salutation, the reason for sending the assignment through e-mail.
- All homework will be submitted in Word format, or in-box text. Do not submit your homework in any other format. It will not be graded.
- Students will type their assignments using a Word processor. All work will be saved in your files before copying it to upload it into the Blackboard platform.

- All students should be supportive of a cooperative learning environment in the classrooms.
- Students will inform her professor of any mistake in their grades record, within a period of 36 hours.

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussions about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements:

Your participation in our Packback forum will count toward 30% of your overall course grade. Starting on Thursday, June 10, we will have daily deadlines to post your questions and answers. In order to receive full credit, submit the following per each deadline period

- One open-ended daily question with a minimum curiosity score of 75, each worth 4 points of each assignment grade. Your question must be explained in detail and will be supported by the information or theories provided in the assigned readings, demonstrating a deep engagement with the material provided in our modules. The sources must be cited twice: within the explanation of the question and in the tab assigned by Packback. When citing as you write, cite the last name and the number of the author using a parenthesis. Your citations in the tab assigned by Packback should have all the details of the publications.
- Two daily responses with a minimum curiosity score of 75, each worth 6 points of each assignment grade. Make sure to apply the same quality standards for your question and responses, citing your sources as you write and applying the theories learned to reply. You are free to respond to any question you select.
- Half credit will be provided for questions and responses that do not meet the minimum curiosity score.

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://questions.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage. The community key will be mailed to you by Packback by June 8.
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback will require a paid subscription of \$29.00. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

Course evaluation

Your evaluations of this course are taken seriously and part of various assessments that determine educational programs and the hiring of instructors at our institution. Please, complete this area of our course with great care. You will receive a link in your student e-mail box to access your course evaluation. Submit it promptly as the window is very short. In addition, you will submit a self-evaluation form that will assist your reflection on your own progress and intellectual growth.

Technology requirements

Most homework will be submitted via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. In addition, a subscription to Packback is needed to complete a section of our assignments. Verify that your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone to submit your homework and complete your quizzes. You will need to access, download or update the following software: Microsoft Office. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access those parts of the course that require this type of technology.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

The University of Texas at El Paso provides free 24/7 Helpdesk support to academic students and faculty members teaching on-line. The [Help Desk](#) can provide answers to questions about using technology and services as well as technical support. Please visit the [technical support](#) page for more information.

How are we going to communicate with our professor?

There are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

Use our Blackboard messages system to communicate with me. Please avoid using my regular UTEP e-mail (sachewsmithart@utep.edu) because it offers a very limited space and it tends to reject messages or they are sent to the junk mail box. In case our UTEP system is down, you may use selfachew@gmail.com only while our UTEP e-mail is unavailable. Once we resume normal operations, I will not read my gmail.

[Zoom Office Hours](#)

M-F: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

or by appointment.

- **Blackboard course messages:** We will use our Blackboard message system to communicate if questions or comments arise outside of our class sessions or you can not reach me during my office hours. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt.
- **E-mail.** If I do not respond during the next 48 hours, e-mail me through our UTEP system at sachewsmithart@utep.edu When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number. Adhere to professional protocols of communication, including salutation and use of academic titles
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.
- **Phone calls.** My UTEP phone number is 915 747 7051. When calling, please, clearly state your complete name, student id number, course number, and reason of your message. If all contact information is provided, I will answer your call **through our e-mail system** within the next 24-48 hours.

Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind when communicating through Internet. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Attendance and participation

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by your contributions to maintain a collegial environment in our course and by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements.
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers in our classroom and on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the “grading information” area of each forum).
- Other activities as indicated in each module’s folder.
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Excused absences and/or course drop policy

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. I may not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

Make-up work

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

Alternative means of submitting work in case of technical issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort but you will upload it once your access to Packback and Blackboard are restored.

Incomplete grade policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations police

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support

Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

COVID-19 accommodations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus when this course activities require your physical presence, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Scholastic integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Copying a text and then substituting some of its terms is a form of plagiarism. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated even if the assignment in question was graded before your professor or Teaching Assistant realized that it was plagiarized. It is your responsibility to abide by our institutional academic integrity guidelines at all times. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Class recordings

Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Test proctoring software

Some quizzes will require the use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Plagiarism detecting software

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Copyright statement for course materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Covid-19 precautions

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

Follow UTEP's COVID-19 guidelines and policies at all times.

Course resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group Modules as well as career and disability assessments.

This syllabus may be subject to modifications.

Reading schedule

Title and pages or chapters	Date
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Week 1	
<i>Literary Translation. A Practical Guide: Why Literary Translation?</i> (1 - 26)	June 7
<i>Literary Translation: Preparing to translate</i> (27- 46)	June 8
<i>Literary Translation. A Practical Guide: Decisions at the outset</i> (49-80)	June 9
<i>Literary Translation. A Practical Guide: The care and feeding of authors</i> (81-115)	June 10
<i>Literary Translation. A Practical Guide: The dilemma of dialect</i> (116-168)	June 11
Week 2	
<i>Translating the Poetry of the Holocaust: Chapter 4</i>	June 14
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part I</i>	June 15
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part II</i>	June 16
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part III</i>	June 17
Week 3	
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part IV</i>	June 20
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part V</i>	June 21
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part VI</i>	June 22
<i>Dialogues on the Theory and Practice of Literary Translation. Part VII</i>	June 23
<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 1</i>	June 24
Week 4	
<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 2</i>	June 27
<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 3</i>	June 28

<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 4</i>	June 29
<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 5</i>	June 30
<i>Translating for Singing: Chapter 6</i>	July 1
Final portfolio due	July 4