

SYLLABUS / TRAN 3359-Introduction to Translation

The University of Texas at El Paso / Spring 2016

Instructor: Victoria A. García

Course Description and Content: Introduction to the basic principles of translation, with special emphasis on theory, text analysis, effective and systematic research, team work and practice. Spanish and English only. Prerequisites: SPAN 2302 or SPAN 2304 or department placement and ENGL 1312 or ESOL 1312. Prerequisites should have been completed within the past five years, and with a recommended minimum grade of "B."

Textbooks: No textbook required; we will use printed material and online sources. Recommended: a good Spanish/English dictionary.

Student Learning Outcomes: Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the steps they need to take to pursue a career in translation.
2. Translate basic texts with a minimum of errors.

Course Objectives: Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe translation as a career.
2. Explain professional development resources in translation/interpretation.
3. Identify the main linguistic contrasts between English and Spanish.
4. Explain basic translation concepts and methods, including their use in different settings.
5. Analyze basic translation problems in a variety of texts.
6. Create solutions to basic translation problems, taking into account their linguistic, cultural, and pragmatic contexts.

Assessment: Students will be evaluated based on four components. Grades will be computed according to the following formula:

Exams and in-class translations	=	50%
Homework	=	30%
Individual project	=	10%
Attendance and participation	=	10%

Grade scale: 90-100% A / 80-89% B / 70-79% C / 60-69% D / 59%-0% F

Participation: Students will work individually and in groups during class. Please check the

website as well. You will be asked to post your comments and respond to other student's comments.

Assignments: Students will have to complete readings, homework exercises, and translation projects either in class or submitted through the website. No late assignments are accepted. Homework will be collected, graded and returned on 20 occasions during the semester, and of these, 18 will count.

In addition, students should make a presentation before the Midterm and submit a journal before the Final Exam.

Attendance: Attendance is very important, because you must be present and an active participant in order to learn from your classmates and instructor, and to share your opinions and knowledge with other members of the group. I will keep a record of attendance from January 18 to May 5, 2016.

Tardy arrivals are a problem for various reasons; please arrive on time. Arriving more than ten minutes late will normally count as 1/3 absence. Let me know if you have a problem with prompt arrival.

Midterm and Final Exams: Two exams will be given. Exams cover material studied in class and homework assignments. The midterm and the final will be comprehensive. The midterm will have the traditional exam format (questions-answers), while the final will be a translation exam (a test translation.)

Strategies for success:

- Know where you are going. Read the syllabus and be familiar with class requirements and instructor expectations.
- Seek help. Research shows that students who ask for help do better. Don't be shy about contacting the instructor, other classmates, or work in groups.
- Hang on. Translation is an art which takes time and consistent, focused effort. Take your time and you'll learn what you need.

Academic dishonesty: Students are expected to follow UTEP's academic honesty policy. Violations of the policy will be reported to the school for disciplinary action.

Emails: Please include your class number (TRAN 3359) in the subject line, so I know that the email is not spam. Follow this by the topic of the email (for example: grammar question). Emails without proper identification in the subject line will be deleted. Within the email, please do include your full name, so I can figure out who you are. I will attempt to answer your emails as soon as possible, but please give me 48 hours to reply (Monday through Friday only; no emails on holidays and weekends.)

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability or think you may have one, please contact

student services for evaluation and talk to your instructor concerning possible accommodations.

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Hours: Thursday 12:00 – 1:00 and by appointment