TRAN 4384 – Introduction to Interpreting  
CRN 13713 SYLLABUS FALL 2023  

Instructor: Valeria B. Delmar, MATI, CHITM, CT  
Class Meets: T & R 9:00 – 11:50 at CRBL C203

THIS IS AN 8-WEEK COURSE: Aug 28 - Oct 20

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm at Graham Hall 210 and via Zoom Virtual Office by appt  
Email Address: vbarraza2@utep.edu

Please be advised that the following syllabus is a preliminary description of the course. The schedule of activities and the activities themselves may be modified according to circumstances as they develop during the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the underlying theory and practice of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation. It describes the history and role of interpreters across industries and it offers an overview of the fundamental requirements and core skills for interpreters including techniques, vocabulary development and accepted standards and ethics for this profession.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
• Demonstrate an understanding of the history of the interpreting profession and the professional vocabulary used in the field.
• Describe the role of the interpreter in the various interpreting settings, such as such as community, medical, legal, conference and liaison to include in-person vs remote interpreting
• Demonstrate an understanding and skillful use of the modes of interpretation, i.e. consecutive, simultaneous, and sight translation and the appropriate settings for each.
• Develop the required skills to render an accurate and fluid interpretation including glossary and vocabulary building, note-taking, and the identification of appropriate semantic matches and applicable register and tone.
• Demonstrate an understanding of the canons in interpreting codes of ethics
• Empower students to adequately self- and peer-review for most efficient interpreting skill improvement

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
• 40% Class Attendance and Participation. This is an essential component, as there is a direct relationship between what is learned in class and students’ best performance. Consequently, each student is allowed only (1) one unexcused absence. Be advised that if there are two or more absences, students may be dropped with a “W,” or “F.” Students attending class 15 minutes after class begins or leaving 15 minutes early, will get half credit for attendance. Exceptions: Hospitalization, Jury Duty, Death of a direct relative (brother, sister, father, mother, grandparent, child). Students must submit proof of these events to get an exception.
• 40% Assignments. You will also have a collection of five (5) smaller assignments throughout the weeks that will build toward the overall course goals. These cannot be made up.
• 20% Final Exam. There will be a written and an oral component to the final exam. The written component will test the knowledge gained throughout the semester, so take good notes, especially as it relates to professional vocabulary and theory. The oral portion will test your interpreting performance.

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

TEXTS AND MATERIALS REQUIRED
• Texts will be assigned and made available by the instructor. Generally, practice scenarios will be provided digitally via Blackboard.
• Steno note pads (with spiral binding on top)
• Digital Recorder (may use widget or app in smart phone or tablet)
• Headphones
• Laptop/Computer
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- **Reference materials:** You may bring your preferred dictionaries and reference materials to class. The following online sources are recommended:
  - GENERAL ENGLISH – [https://www.merriam-webster.com](https://www.merriam-webster.com)
  - GENERAL SPANISH – [http://www.rae.es](http://www.rae.es);
    [http://www.rae.es/recursos/diccionarios/dpd](http://www.rae.es/recursos/diccionarios/dpd)

**COURSE/INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:**

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**
Attendance is mandatory and active participation is required. Please see grading breakdown for repercussions.

**LATE AND INCOMPLETE WORK**
*No late assignments will be accepted and grade of zero will be warranted in such cases.* This is strictly enforced to both be fair to students who do turn in their assignments on time and to further teach the importance of meeting professional deadlines in an interpreting environment.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY & COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE**
- Students are expected to adhere to and comply with standards of academic honesty. *Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.* All cases are reported to the Dean of Students for administrative and/or academic sanctions, which may include expulsion. All work submitted must be original (created by each student for the class) and any information from external sources must be properly cited. Work from other courses may not be submitted for grade. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to): *collusion*—lending your work to another person to submit as his or her own; *fabrication*—deliberately creating false information on a works cited page, and *plagiarism*—the presentation of another person’s work as your own (e.g., copying parts of or whole papers off the Internet, to include Google translate and similar machine translation).
- Any type of cheating or plagiarism constitutes a violation of university policies and of the code of conduct to which all students must adhere. Violations are reported to the Dean of Students. See [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html) for more information.
- The University of Texas at El Paso requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. Students are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend students nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject students to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under university policies.

**ADA - STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
The *Americans with Disabilities Act* requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. When students suspect they have a disability and need an accommodation, they should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at (915) 747-5148, Union Building East Room 106, [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

**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.

**COURSE CALENDAR**
The Course Calendar is provided separately. Please do consult it regularly to keep abreast of weekly topics to be covered, objectives, and, most importantly, your deadlines and deliverables.