

TRANSLATION & WRITING
LING 1100.110
WRN 138, MWF 10:10-11:00
Ekarina Winarto

Contact information: My email address is ew385@cornell.edu and the best way to reach me is by email. I generally check my emails regularly during the weekdays, but I might not check it as often during the weekends. My office is located in the basement of Morrill Hall (B06). If you decide to drop by, just knock on the door and someone will open it for you. I will let you know about my office hours as soon as I can confirm the schedule for my classes and seminars.

Course Description: Translation from a foreign language sharpens the skills that are required for good writing of any kind: a clear grasp of the objectives of a text, an understanding of one's audience, and the ability to control a consistent style. This is not a course in translation: instead it explores the various goals and difficulties of translation in different genres. It will address the differences between languages, the 'exotic' in translations, and the translatability of the different kind of texts. Readings come mainly from the book "Thinking German Translation;" and will be provided through Blackboard or through email. While we might talk about German examples a lot due to the nature of the text that we are using, knowledge of any foreign language is not needed in the class.

Rationale: Skill and control of language is integral to producing an accurate and readable translation. Taking an idea in one language and transforming it into readable prose or poetry in another language is similar to translating an idea from your own thoughts into a written form. Linguistics is the scientific study of language as it is used. It breaks down aspects of language into its component parts and attempts to reconstruct them compositionally. Translation is the place where both the micro and macro elements of language interact. Using the ideas of translation theory as well as facts about language, you will be expected to examine your own writing process and techniques with the aim of self-improvement.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this class, students should be able to:

- 1) Discuss the goals and choices made in a translation in a sophisticated way.
- 2) Understand basic principles of language and discuss them using precise terminology.
- 3) Clearly state the arguments of their own essays and those of others.
- 4) Use and evaluate correctly cited evidence.
- 5) Critique their own and others writing for clarity and organization, as well as for correctness of grammar, punctuation, and register.
- 6) Develop a personal 'writing toolkit' that can help bring any piece of writing to a professional level.

The Basic Requirements:

Essays: 6 essays, 3 of which also include rough drafts; workshop readings; 2 writing conferences.

Late papers will not be accepted. One extension is allowed, but it must be requested at least 24 hours before the assignment is due (If you have other extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as you can).

Readings: There will be reading for every week. Most of these readings will have an accompanying assignment. These assignments will receive check/+/-.

In Class Assignments: Collected assignments will receive check/+/- . This will mostly be in the form of in-class short essays.

Attendance: Active, awake, and aware participation is required in this class. If you must miss class, please contact me ahead of time. If you are ill and contagious, respect your classmates by not coming to class. You are responsible for all work missed. Excessive unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

Workshop: Workshop is where we will practice critiquing skills. Everyone will bring a draft to read aloud in workshop during the semester. Bring enough printed copies of your draft for the group. You will read it aloud. Your classmates will follow along making notes. After you read, your classmates will tell you what they liked and what problems they had as a reader. We will work on ways to improve the clarity and focus of the drafts, and your classmates will also make note of any errors they spotted.

Guidelines for Workshop:

- Avoid interrupting.
- Avoid repeating yourself and each other. If you agree, nod.
- Be considerate and gentle, yet professional.
- Always encourage in the critique. Be constructive and tactful.
- Avoid blurting your ideas. Take a minute to consider a diplomatic phrasing of negative reactions.
- Avoid words such as "stupid" or derogatory judgments such as calling someone a beginner.
- Writers are free to do whatever they like with feedback--implement it or ignore it. Writers decide later, on their own, after the meeting.
- Offer suggestions and solutions, but avoid rewriting a story.
- Be aware of style. Help others develop their style rather than imposing your style on them.
- Avoid making jokes about a manuscript. Humor is personal, potent, and often hurtful.
- No digressions into other topics during critiquing.

For more advice on critiquing, see:

<http://www.rickwalton.com/writers/critique.htm>

Guidelines for the Submission of Essays and Drafts:

All formal essays and drafts should be typed, in 12pt font with 1-inch margins. Your name should be in the header on every page. Essays and drafts should be submitted by midnight on the day it is due by email to me (attach your essay to your email).

Your essay can be in .pdf, .doc or .docx format, but please name your file with your name and the code for this class (LING1100). (E.g. WINARTO_LING1100)

While you are required to write 6 essays, you only have to submit 3 drafts. I will let you know which essays I want you to write drafts for.

Conference requirement: You are required to meet with me individually twice over the course of the semester. These conferences are intended to give you individualized attention and focus on your particular writing strengths and weaknesses. Please come to these conferences prepared! I will give you more information about the conferences later in the semester, when you sign up for time slots.

Grading Policy:

Participation + attendance= 15%

3 drafts = 15%

Essay 1 = 5%

Essay 2-6= 50%

workshop participation= 5%

conferences = 10%

Statement about Policy:

This instructor respects and upholds University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired student; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective University regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

Students with Disabilities:

In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except in unusual circumstances, so that arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Integrity:

All the work you submit in this course must have been written for this course and not another and must originate with you in form and content with all

contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Make yourself familiar with Cornell's Academic Integrity Code, which is distributed to students in the *Policy Notebook*. The code, together with a guide to *Acknowledging the Work of Others*, can be downloaded at

<http://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/pdfs/AIAckWorkRev90620.pdf>. In this

course, the normal penalty for a violation of the code is an "F" for the term.

Collaborative work of the following kinds is authorized in this course: peer review and critique of students' essays by one another.

Calendar:

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

WEEK 2: TRANSLATION AS A PROCESS

- 09/03 Reading: "Preliminaries to translation as a process"
- 09/05 Essay 1 due

WEEK 3: TRANSLATION AS A PRODUCT

- 09/08 First workshop
- 09/10 Reading: "Preliminaries to translation as a product"

WEEK 4: CULTURAL ISSUES IN TRANSLATION

- 09/17 Reading: "Cultural Issues in Translation"
- 09/19 Essay 2 draft due

WEEK 5: COMPENSATION IN TRANSLATION

- 09/22 Second workshop
- 09/24 Reading "Compensation"
- 09/26 Essay 2 final due

WEEK 6: TECHNICAL vs. NON-TECHNICAL TRANSLATION

- 10/01 Reading: TBA
- 10/03 Essay 3 draft due

WEEK 7: POETRY & LITERATURE TRANSLATION

- 10/06 Third workshop
- 10/08 Reading: "On Translating Poetry"
- 10/10 Essay 3 final due

WEEK 8: FALL BREAK

WEEK 9: ADVERTISING TRANSLATION

- 10/22 Reading: "Translation Practices in International Advertising"
- 10/24 Essay 4 draft due

WEEK 10: FILM TRANSLATION: SUBBING

-10/27 Fourth workshop

-10/29 Reading: "For an Abusive Subtitling"

-10/31 Essay 4 final due

WEEK 11: FILM TRANSLATION: DUBBING

WEEK 12: INTERPRETING

-11/12 Reading: "The Accuracy of Medical Interpretation"

-11/14 Essay 5 draft due

WEEK 13: MACHINE TRANSLATION

-11/17 Fifth workshop

-11/19 Reading "Machine translation and Philosophy of Language"

-11/21 Essay 5 final due

WEEK 14: THANKSGIVING

WEEK 15: TRANSLATION in FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

-12/03 Reading: "Strange bedfellows: Translation and Language teaching"

-12/05 Essay 6 draft due; Sixth workshop

-12/13 Essay 6 final due