

Translation, Language, and Community

COLI 380J, ENG 3000, LING 339N

Fall 2009

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:50 - 4:15 PM

Science 2 Room 337

Instructor: Erin Riddle, eriddle1@binghamton.edu

Library Tower 1409

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-2:30 and by appointment

Course Description

This course will examine the projects of translators or groups of translators to highlight the connections between translation, language, and community, and also show how each can influence the other two. The following are some of the topics to be covered: the institutionalization of language and literature through translation, considerations of the source and target communities that affect translation decisions, defending the independent existence and usage of a language through translation, translation and national or cultural identity, and translation and feminism.

As a Composition (C) course, students will also have the opportunity to develop their skills in academic writing and practice the key components and acceptable conventions thereof—an equally important aspect of the course. Students will also be required to submit three 5-page essay, and a revision of one essay. See below for further details on these policies.

Texts

Most of the texts will be available via e-reserve through BlackBoard or regular reserve at the library. The only text you must purchase at Mando Books (just off campus near the Bunn Hill entrance) is:

Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

We will be reading three essays from this book:

Ed. Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi. *Postcolonial Translation: Theory and Practice*. New York: Routledge, 1999.

You may be interested in purchasing this book, but a copy will be available on regular reserve at the university library.

You are responsible for reading the texts on your own and preparing for class discussion. To insure that you are able to access the text before class discussion, do not wait until the last minute to print/copy/purchase and read the assigned texts.

General Requirements

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and absences will be noted on the record. Students are expected to arrive on time and attend scheduled class meetings. Any student who misses more than 3 scheduled classes will have a reduced final grade of one-half letter grade for each additional missed day. So, for example, a B will become a B-.

Participation: Attending class does not constitute participation. Students are expected to read the assigned materials and be prepared to participate in discussion. I will call on students who are not participating and lack of preparation will be noted and result in a lower grade.

Each student is required to work with another student to draft discussion questions to guide the classroom discussion of the assigned text. Students are expected to meet outside of class in pairs and prepare discussion questions, then meet with the instructor to finalize the questions to be sent to the other students. A sign-up sheet for each text will be distributed.

Laptops and Cell Phones:

Laptops and cell phone may not be used in class. If you must bring your cell phone, be sure to put it on silent before class starts.

Essays: There will be three assigned essays of about 5 pages in length, and a required revision of one essay to be resubmitted. The grade for the revised essay will not replace the grade of the first submission, but count as an additional grade. The topics for each paper will be announced via Blackboard communication and in class. Students are expected to follow the instructions of the assignment, including meeting the established deadline. Late submissions will *not* be accepted. There will be no extensions or incompletes and papers that are not submitted on time will receive a zero grade. The writing assignments will be graded for 20 points each: 10 points for form and 10 points for content.

Grades: Final grades will be based on the following:

80%: Essays- (three essays and revision of one essay)

20%: Participation (including discussion questions)

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Any student who is found to commit this offence will fail the course, and will also be subject to further action according to Binghamton University policy. For more information on the University's policy regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism, see the Student Academic Honesty Code (<http://bulletin.binghamton.edu/integrity.htm>.)

Calendar Schedule and Assignments

Sept. 1:

Introductions and Course Syllabus

Sept. 3: The Original and Its Representation

Plato, Benjamin Jowett, and William Chase Greene. Book X of "The Republic." *The Dialogues of Plato: Selections from the Translation of Benjamin Jowett*. New York: Liveright Pub, 1927. 414-430. (e-reserve)

Sept. 8: Constructing Truth and Knowledge

Nietzsche, Friedrich.. "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense." *Philosophy and Truth: Selections from Nietzsche's Notebooks of the Early 1890's*. Ed. and trans. Daniel Breazeale. Amherst, N.Y.: Humanity Books, 1999: 79-97. (e-reserve)

Part 1, Chapter 1: "They Say: Starting with What Others are Saying" and "Entering Class Discussions" (appendix) from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

First writing assignment announced.

Sept. 10: The Community and Interpretation I

Fish, Stanley. "How to Recognize a Poem When You See One." *Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980: 322-337. (e-reserve)

Sept. 15: The Community and Interpretation II

Fish, Stanley. "What Makes An Interpretation Acceptable?" *Is There a Text in This Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980: 338-355. (regular reserve)

Part 1, Chapter 2: "Her Point Is: The Art of Summarizing" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Sept. 17: The Status of Translation

Venuti, Lawrence. "Introduction." *The Scandals of Translation: Towards an Ethics of Difference*. New York: Routledge, 1988: 1-7. (e-reserve)

Sept. 22: (Pseudo)translations and Cultural Change

Tourey, Gideon. "Enhancing Cultural Changes by Means of Fictitious Translations." *Translation and Cultural Change: Studies in History, Norms, and Image Projection*. Ed. Eva Hung. Benjamins translation library, v. 61. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Pub. Co, 2005: 3-17. (e-reserve)

Part 1, Chapter 3: "As He Himself Puts It: The Art of Quoting" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Sept. 24: Interpretation and Feminism

Culler, Jonathon. "Reading as a Woman." *On Deconstruction—Theory and Criticism after Structuralism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007: 43-64. (e-reserve)

Sept. 29: Translation and Feminism

Simon, Sherry. "The Bible in Feminist Frame." *Gender in Translation: Cultural Identity and the Politics of Transmission*. London and New York: Routledge, 1996: 111-133. (e-reserve)

Part 2, Chapter 4: "Yes / No / Okay, but: Three Ways to Respond" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Oct. 1: Translation and Cultural Identity I

Venuti, Lawrence. "The Formation of Cultural Identities." *The Scandals of Translation: Towards an Ethics of Difference*. New York: Routledge, 1988: 67-87. (regular reserve)

First writing assignment is due.

Second writing assignment is announced.

Oct 6:

Part 2, Chapter 5: "And Yet: Distinguishing What you Say from What They Say" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Writing Instruction

Oct. 8: Translation and Cultural Identity II

Brisset, Annie. "The Search for a Native Language: Translation and Cultural Identity." *The Translation Studies Reader*. Ed. Lawrence Venuti. London: Routledge, 2004: 338-268. (regular reserve)

Oct. 13: Translation and Cultural Identity III

Harvey, Keith. "Translating Camp Talk: Gay Identities and Cultural Transfer." *The Translation Studies Reader*. Ed. Lawrence Venuti. London: Routledge, 2004: 402-422. (regular reserve)

Part 2, Chapter 6 "Skeptics May Object: Planting a Naysayer in Your Text" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Oct. 15: Translation and Cultural Identity IV

Mudrovic, María Eugenia. "Reading Latin American Literature Abroad: Agency and Canon Formation in the Sixties and Seventies." Ed. Daniel Balderston and Marcy E. Schwartz. *Voice-Overs: Translation and Latin American Literature*. SUNY Series in Latin American and Iberian Thought and Culture. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002. 129-143. (regular reserve)

Oct. 20: Translating Law

Legrand, Pierre. "Issues in the Translatability of Law." Ed Michael Wood and Sandra Bermann. *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*. Translation/transnation. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005. 30-50. (regular reserve)

Part 2, Chapter 7 "So What? Who Cares?: Saying Why It Matters" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Oct. 22: Translating History

Bermann, Sandra. "Translating History." Ed Michael Wood and Sandra Bermann. *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*. Translation/transnation. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005. 257-273. (regular reserve)

Oct. 27: Translation and Postcolonial Studies I

Chapter 1: "Postcolonial Studies, Translation Studies" (pp. 8-20) from:

Robinson, Douglas. *Translation and Empire: Postcolonial Theories Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997. Translation Theories Explained, 4. (regular reserve)

Part 3, Chapter 8 "As a Result: Connecting the Parts" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Oct. 29: Translation and Postcolonial Studies II

Chapter 2: "Power Differentials" (pp. 31-45) from:

Robinson, Douglas. *Translation and Empire: Postcolonial Theories Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing, 1997. Translation Theories Explained, 4. (regular reserve)

Second writing assignment is due.

Third Writing assignment is announced.

Nov. 3

Part 3, Chapter 9 "Ain't So / Is Not" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Writing Instruction

Nov. 5: Translation and Postcolonial Studies III

Prasad, G.J.V. "Writing Translation: The Strange Case of the Indian English Novel." *Postcolonial Translation: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi. New York: Routledge, 1999: 41-57. (regular reserve)

Nov. 10: Translation and Postcolonial Studies IV

Lefevere, André. "Composing the Other." *Postcolonial Translation: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi. New York: Routledge, 1999: 75-94. (regular reserve)
Part 3, Chapter 10 "In Other Words" from Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say / I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006.

Nov. 12: Translation and Postcolonial Studies V

Arrojo, Rosemary. "Interpretation as Possessive Love: Hélène Cixous, Clarice Lispector and the Ambivalence of Fidelity." *Postcolonial Translation: Theory and Practice*. Ed. Susan Bassnett and Harish Trivedi. New York: Routledge, 1999: 141-161. (regular reserve)

Nov. 19: A "Relevant" Translation?

Derrida, Jacques. "What is a Relevant Translation?" *The Translation Studies Reader*. Ed. Lawrence Venuti. London: Routledge, 2004: 423-446. (regular reserve)

Nov. 24

Third writing assignment is due.

Dec. 1

Writing Instruction

Dec. 3

Final essay presentations

Dec. 8

Final essay presentations

Dec. 10

Final portfolios with revision due

*****Course syllabus is subject to revision by instructor at her discretion.*****