SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. PROSPECTUS FALL 2024
ITALIAN TRANSLATION 3220

ITAL 3220-301
Instructor: Arianna Fognani Ph.D.
Email: afognani@sas.upenn.edu
Class meeting: MW
Class location: TBA

Course Description
Translation is a complex and multifaceted practice that goes beyond simply decoding words from one language to another. It is a creative process that demands a deep understanding of language, culture, and the nuances of human communication. In this course, we will delve into some fundamental principles of translation theory and put them into practice through hands-on exercises and case studies. We will explore the intricacies of translating texts from English into Italian and *vice versa*, examining a wide range of genres, from advertising and marketing materials to legal, and scientific documents. We will also engage with literary narratives, comics, poems, songs, and audiovisual material, gaining insights into the challenges and rewards of translating creative works. Adopting a task-based approach, we will closely examine the specific tasks that translators perform, from understanding the source text to creating an effective target text that reflects the original author's intent and style. We will analyze fundamental differences in registers, rhetorical style, and grammar structure between Italian and English, gaining a deeper understanding of the linguistic and cultural nuances that can impact translation decisions. Throughout the course, we will emphasize the relationship between language and culture, recognizing that translations often extend beyond mere words and convey the essence of a particular culture. Additionally, we will evaluate the role of artificial intelligence and computer programs in translation, assessing their strengths and limitations. **Prerequisites:** ITAL 0400 or ITAL 0340.

Learning objectives
By the end of this course, you will have developed a general understanding of some translation practices and gained the ability to effectively translate short texts from English into Italian and vice versa. By analyzing texts in terms of purpose, intended audience, style, register, tone, setting, language function, and text-type you will have enhanced your language and intercultural skills while also developing a deeper understanding of the purpose and power of effective communication, in English and Italian. You will also be better prepared to critically evaluate translations produced by artificial intelligence and computer programs.

Teaching method
The course is conducted in Italian and consists of guided readings and discussions, small group works, presentations, translation tasks, pre and post task reflections, and a final translation project. Class meets twice a week in presence. Assignments will be in Italian and English. Readings will be in Italian and English. Most classes will include: a short introduction and discussion of the topics (based on the material prepared at home) followed by hands-on activities, students presentations, group reading as indicated in the calendar. Occasionally, we will invite guest speakers (translators, publishers, experts in the professions) to discuss the reality of the profession with students and the community at large.

Required texts
All course material will be on Canvas. You need access to a good Italian-English Dictionary (*Il nuovo dizionario inglese Garzanti*) and a good English Dictionary (*Merriam-Webster*) in print or digital form.

GRADES

GRADING SCALE (DEFAULT ON CANVAS)

100-99 A+ 98-94 A 93-90 A-	89-87 B+ 86-84 B 83-80 B-	79-77 C+ 76-74 C 73-70 C-	69-67 D+ 66-64 D 63-60 D	Below 60 F

ASSIGNMENTS

In person meetings (2) with the professor 3%
These meetings are opportunities for us to get to know each other. We can meet in my office during my office hours, at the library or anywhere else on campus outside my office hours. These meetings can take any direction. We can talk about class, assignments, questions you have, or we can talk about what you like to do in school, outside school, or what your plans are for your future. My goal is to get to know you a little better so that when I prepare for class I can meet your needs and/or interests. The first meeting must be **before the end of week 3.** A sign-up google doc will be on Canvas.

Presentations (2) 12%
Translations benefit from multiple perspectives. Working with a partner you will do two presentations of approximately 8-10 minutes each (each person will speak 4-5 min for each presentation). Guidelines, dates, and partners will be determined during the first month of classes. The presentations are collaborative projects, though each one will be evaluated individually. On the day of your presentations, you will hand in a 4-5 sentence report in Italian, signed by both students, detailing the contributions of each presenter.
1. **Your first presentation is on reading in English assigned for class discussion during the first 3 or 4 weeks of class.** You and your partner will lead a 8-10 min discussion on the reading. The presentation will be in Italian. It will include: an overview of the text, its argument, the main points/ideas, and 2 questions for class discussion. In preparing the presentation in Italian you and your partner will grapple with translation issues, which will become part of the conversation.
2. **The second presentation is on a text that you and your partner select.** The text can be related to your academic interest and it must be approved by the professor 2 weeks before your presentation. You will translate the text and present it to the class, along with your reflections on the challenges you faced, comparing them with the ones of your first presentation. More details will be in the guidelines.

Preparation & in class engagement 15%
Attendance is a prerequisite to class citizenship. You must be physically present in class to be part of this community. If you miss class you cannot contribute to the discussion and learn. If you leave the classroom earlier or late, you cannot participate.So come to class, and come prepared. **Preparation & engagement with the material**. For each class session there will be a short introduction and discussion of the topics followed by some activities to complete during class. Your level of engagement and preparedness depend on them. If you don't complete the readings or the assignments before class it's hard to be engaged and prepared.
Your preparation and engagement is assessed based on:
- the quality/in depthness of your contributions (answers, comments, pertinent questions);
- you taking notes in class during presentation, lectures, activities;
- you writing down new words and expressions;
- you using your technological device only for activities related to class.

Active listening is another important skill to cultivate inside and outside the classroom, especially in language courses. If you are distracted when your classmate or the professor speak, if you space out, you are not listening

actively. What is more, if you are distracted by your phone, tablet, computer or wearable technology you cannot be an active listener. Make regular efforts.

Being respectful is another component of class community and engagement. Respecting other points of views, accepting that we do not have the same opinions, that we do not have the same level of confidence in speaking, and that we do not talk at the same pace, are elements to consider. We don't have to agree and we don't have to convince other people that they are wrong and we are right. Respect changes based on people's origins, age, culture, upbringing, etc. What I find disrespectful, for instance, may be different from what you find disrespectful.

Home Work 15%
HW in Italian may include:
- Language activities to review specific topics.
- Short writing assignments may include pre and post translation tasks; summary of texts; preparing questions for guest speakers; post-class 5 min writing activities to answer questions such as "what did I learn today?" and/or "what questions do I still have?"

HW in English may include:
- Occasional peer-reviews charts
- Written feedback for your partner's translation, grammar exercise and guided analytical activities.

Translation tasks (6 out of 7) 30%
Translation is about *decision, revision, and precision*. You complete **6 out 7** translation tasks during the semester: your *decision*. Each translation task will have a draft and a final version. This is the *revision*.
You will be graded on both. All your translations will be saved and collected in your PORTFOLIO **digital & paper format.** This is the *precision*. You need to organize and maintain the folder during the semester. **You will submit the paper folder at the end (Friday) of week 11.** Guidelines will be provided on Canvas.
1. Each draft is **75 points** and it is due at the end of the week. Because you only complete 6 tasks out of 7 there is no late submission or resubmission for the draft.
2. Each final version is worth **20 points.** The final version of each task is due on week 11. The final version must show clear signs of improvement depending on the suggestions and feedback that you received on the draft (language, vocabulary, syntax, style, tone, or register).
3. The portfolio is **5 points.** It is your responsibility to maintain the folder in good status and to keep all the documents in order. You will lose 5 points if the portfolio is incomplete. It must contain the original copy of:
   a. the original draft with my comments,
   b. the pre and post task handouts that you completed,
   c. the final version of your translation.

Final translation project 25%
The last weeks of the semester will be dedicated to the final collaborative translation project.

<div align="center">

UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES

</div>

COURSE ABSENCE NOTIFICATION
You are strongly encouraged to notify me of your absence when they need to miss class due to extenuating circumstances. You access Course Action Notices through a link on Path@Penn
However, course absence notifications DO NOT represent an excused absence beyond the two (2) allowed and do not excuse you from your course obligations. But I do appreciate it if you let me know through the notification system and ahead of time. It helps me to plan the class accordingly. **Student athletes are expected to turn in their calendar within the second week of class.**
When you miss class, you are still **responsible for the homework** due on the dates you were not present **and** to catch up with **class material** discussed when you were not present. Check Cavans for links and handouts given

in class. For further information regarding attendance, consult the College webpage on <u>Policies Governing Class Attendance</u>

Gender Pronoun
This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to correct others on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

Statement of Inclusivity
This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, etc.

Correspondence with me
Email is the preferred method of communication. I strive to respond to emails within 24 hours. Emails received after 6:00pm may experience delayed responses. Emails received during the weekend will be answered the following Monday. **Please, note that writing an email to your professor is not texting.** Appropriate opening and closing greetings are important, better if they are in Italian :-)   Learning how to write professional emails is an important skill for your future career. Prompt communication is also an essential tool for success in this class. Announcements relating to the course will be posted regularly on Canvas. **You should sign-up to receive email or text notifications for this course on Canvas and check your email regularly (daily).** Assignments, reminders, deadlines, will be posted on Canvas (announcements, calendar).

Code of Academic Integrity
The Department of French, Italian, and Germanic Studies fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents someone else's work as your own, you will face severe discipline by the university. For more info consult: University <u>Code of Academic Integrity</u> and <u>The Office of Student Conduct</u>

Use of Machine Translation and Artificial Intelligence
Artificial Intelligence and other tools may be accurate but often fail to consider the context, register, and cultural backgrounds/implications of a language. One of the things to remember is that these tools are only useful if they aid your learning and not replace it; mistakes are important for language learning, as are revisions and practice. If you use any tools to complete your assignments, be sure you acknowledge their use and indicate why you used them (grammar, vocabulary, ideas, other reasons). Also, try to understand and learn the words, structures, or verbs you looked up.

Students with Disabilities
The Weingarten Center provides services for students who self-identify with a disability in order to ensure equal access to all University programs, activities, and services. The process begins when a student requests an accommodation, provides documentation of their condition, and meets with a Disability Specialist. Use this <u>link</u> to register with Disability Services.

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services including individual and group counseling and therapy, crisis intervention, structured workshops, psychological testing, medication reviews, and consultation. One or more of our services could be suitable for you. In the past few years, we have

provided individual counseling services to over 2,900 Penn students per year. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). 133 South 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday. Emergencies: 215-349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call). Tel: 215-898-7021.Fax:215-573-8966. Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu

Italian Language Program Director
Dr. Rossella Di Rosa
dirosa@sas.upenn.edu

Undergraduate Chair of
Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies
Prof. Scott Francis
franciss@sas.upenn.edu