

SPAN 3130-301, Spanish – English Translation

Prospectus, Fall 2022

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Course Description

This course is designed for students who already have a solid foundation in Spanish *and* English grammar. It provides an introduction to the theory and practice of translating between English and Spanish, addressing important topics such as discourse strategies, register and mood, dialect, genre, and cultural norms linked to written and oral communication. There will be some review of particular grammar topics that tend to be problematic for English speakers, in particular with respect to how those play out in translating.

The class will be conducted in Spanish. This is a very writing-intensive class, both in and out of the classroom. There will be assigned readings from the textbooks and/or assignments online for every class meeting, which we will use to discuss both the practicalities and the cultural implications of translation. Class meetings will consist of class discussions about translation in general, and critiques of your own translation efforts in particular, combined with small group or pair work on translation exercises.

Prerequisite

To enroll in Spanish 325, you must have successfully completed Spanish 219 or 223.

Objectives

- To learn to translate effectively and expressively between languages
- To increase knowledge of Hispanic culture(s) as appropriate and applicable to assignments
- To develop critical thinking abilities
- To expand vocabulary and build an awareness of nuances of meaning

Class Structure for Fall 2022

In-Person Class Sessions: All class sessions will meet face-to-face in a campus classroom. However, Canvas is always an integral part of the course structure, where I hope we can continue to build our class community. It will also house any and all information you need to know what to prepare for class every day, and offer a source of feedback and interaction when someone can't be in class for any reason.

- In-class activities will typically include reviewing any questions you might have on the homework, discussing important points from the reading (homework), and working on short translation activities in groups.

Out-of-class Activities: There will be homework assigned for every class session, which needs to be prepared BEFORE coming to class on any given day. Homework typically includes (but may not be limited to):

- Reading from the textbook. We work on a “flipped” classroom model in which students are expected to have read the information before coming to class so that we can spend more time discussing things you don't understand and practicing actual translation.
- Online vocabulary or grammar review exercises (always important for accurate translation). There will be some kind of vocabulary and/or grammar review assigned every week, most likely as a quiz in Canvas. These are designed to help expand and refine your lexical and

linguistic precision, which will ultimately improve your performance in the class (as well as other Spanish classes) and make you a better translator. These online quizzes count towards your homework grade, and have varying point values.

- Regular discussion posts or other online activities. When beginning any new chapter in the textbook, there will always be comprehension questions on the blog, along with some more open-ended discussion questions. These discussion posts (*foros*) will be particularly important if/when some members of our community need to be absent, to help keep them abreast of class discussions and activities.

Major Assignments & Assessments

- There will be three major translation projects (100 points each) assigned during the semester of about 1.5–2 pages long. Each will be a different genre, such as fiction, academic, technical or scientific, journalism, advertising, etc. You will have about a week to complete each one, and they will be spaced fairly regularly throughout the semester (about every 4 weeks). These translation projects will be in lieu of exams.
- There will be a final paper of 7-10 pages due on the day during Finals Week when we would otherwise have had our final exam. The final project will require you to apply the different concepts we've studied during the semester to analyze the efficacy of some translations. This paper is also worth 100 points.

Essential Course Policies

With regard to all work in this class, I strongly suggest that you do NOT wait until the last minute to try to get it done. When it comes to translation, things will ALWAYS take you longer than you think they will.

Required Books

- Jiménez Jiménez, Antonio F. *Introducción a la traducción, inglés <> español*. Routledge, 2018.
- Dictionary and thesaurus; we will discuss a number of excellent online resources.

Recommended Books

- Butt, John, and Carmen Benjamin. *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. 5th ed., Routledge, 2011 or 6th ed., 2019. This book provides very complete grammatical explanations. If you love grammar for the sake of grammar, this is the book for you.

OR

- Foster, David W., Daniel Altamiranda, and Carmen de Urioste. *The Writer's Reference Guide to Spanish*. The U of Texas P, 2000. This is more geared towards how to write well, so if you only want enough grammatical detail to help you choose the right structure, as well as practical tips on the writing process (e.g., structuring an essay, formatting a bibliography), then you'll probably prefer this one.
 - Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.