**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**Graduate Programs—NEW COURSE PROPOSAL**

**DEPARTMENT NAME: LANGUAGES, LINGUISTICS, AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

**RECOMMENDED COURSE IDENTIFICATION:**

Prefix: _FOT_  
Course Number: _B807_  
Lab Code (L or C) ___

*(To obtain a course number, contact MJENNINGS@FAU.EDU)*

Complete Course Title: **HISTORY AND THEORY OF TRANSLATION**

**CREDITS: 3**

**TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:**

**GRADING (SELECT ONLY ONE GRADING OPTION): REGULAR ___ x __ X PASS/FAIL ____ SATISFACTORY/UNSATISFACTORY**

**Course Description, No more than 3 lines:**
History and theory of translation in Europe and in the Americas beginning with the early Roman translators and continuing through Medieval, Renaissance, Neoclassical, Modernist, and postcolonial theory and practice. The course poses questions about language and meaning, canon and culture, and cross-cultural communication.

**Prerequisites: B.A. in literary or linguistic field or equivalent.**

**Corequisites:**

**Other Registration Controls (Major, College, Level):**

**Prerequisites, Corequisites & Registration Controls Shown Above Will Be Enforced For All Course Sections.**

**Minimum Qualifications Needed to Teach This Course: Ph.D. in Literary or Linguistic Field**

Other departments, colleges that might be affected by the new course must be consulted. List entities that have been consulted and attach written comments from each.

Marcella Munson / mmunson@fau.edu / (561) 297-2118

Faculty Contact, Email, Complete Phone Number

**Signatures**

**Approved by:**

Department Chair: [Signature]

College Curriculum Chair: [Signature]  

College Dean: [Signature]  

UGPC Chair: [Signature]  

Dean of the Graduate College: [Signature]  

**Date:**

11/8/12  
11/12/12  
11/7/13

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

Syllabus—must include all details as shown in the UGPC Guidelines.

Written Consent—required from all departments affected.

Go to: [http://graduate.fau.edu/gpc/](http://graduate.fau.edu/gpc/) to download this form and guidelines to fill out the form.

Email this form and syllabus to diamond@fau.edu and eqijo@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website by committee members prior to the meeting.

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FOT 6807 – 3 credits
History and Theory of Translation
Professor Munson
Contact information: mmunson@fau.edu – (561) 197-2118 – CU 232H – Office hours M 10-12; 2-4

Pieter Brueghel the Elder, The Tower of Babel (ca. 1563) / Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

“The act of translation is the other Babel, that impossible tower.” - Barnstone, The Poetics of Translation

Catalog Description: History and Theory of Translation FOT 6807 - 3 credits. Prerequisites: B.A. in literary or linguistic field or equivalent. History and theory of translation in Europe and in the Americas beginning with the early Roman translators and continuing through Medieval, Renaissance, Neoclassical, Modernist, and Post-colonial theory and practice. The course poses questions about language and meaning, canon and culture, and cross-cultural communication.

Course Description: Translation is a basic human activity that expands boundaries of time and place. In the literary context, translation is what allows texts and authors to gain global prominence. But of course translation is never a neutral practice; it is always influenced by social, intellectual, aesthetic, political, and economic conditions. Who translates, in what context, from/into which languages, for which new audiences, and for what reasons? How have theories of translation changed over time, and in response to what ideas or circumstances? Crucially, how have translators and their texts helped to frame centuries-long debates over such heavily contested terms as “original” and “copy” “self” and “other,” “secular” and “sacred,” “civilization” and “barbarity,” “domestic” and “foreign,” “colonizer” and “colonized”? What is the historical role of translation in emergent nations? What role do discourses of nationalism and globalization have on translation?

This seminar explores the history and theory of translation in Europe and the Americas, beginning with early Roman translators and continuing through medieval, renaissance, neoclassical, colonial, modernist, and post-colonial translation theory and practice. Our case studies will take us from medieval Europe to the postcolonial Americas. Historical readings and discussions are paired with theoretical readings designed to illuminate critical issues in translation theory and studies.

Course Objectives: Through a broad historical overview of the genre of translation theory, students will become familiar with representative thinkers, translators, texts, and theoretical issues. At the beginning of the course, students will choose a specific translation case study to do research on. [Options for the case study might include: (a) the history of one text’s translation into another language (such as Montaigne’s Essais into Spanish, or Don Quixote into English); (b) the history and theoretical status of one theoretical translation problem; or (c) the history and methodology of one leading translator’s work.] Each student’s chosen case study will become the topic of the final research project for which there will be two main components: a multimedia digital exhibit (to be discussed in detail), and a more traditional term paper. Students will also keep a weekly reading journal in which they respond to our weekly readings, and be a discussion leader for at least one assigned reading.

Required Texts (to be purchased):

Supplemental Texts (made available in PDF format on Blackboard):
*Selected essays from Schulte and Biguenet, eds., Theories of Translation: Anthology (Chicago, 1992)
*Selected readings from Weissbort and Eysteinsson, eds, Translation Theory and Practice—A Historical Reader (Oxford, 2006)

Grade Distribution and Class Projects:
Oral Presentation: 10%
Reading Journal: 15%
Annotated Bibliography: 10%
Oral/Written “State of the Project” report: 10%
Digital multimedia (“curated”) exhibit: 25%
Final term paper (15 – 25 pages): 30%
GRADING SCALE

Grades are calculated according to the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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COURSE POLICIES

If you must be absent for any reason, you are expected to get in touch with me as soon as is reasonably possible (and ideally, before class begins that evening). Although there is no component of the course grade which calculates class participation, it is vital to be present in class in order to be fully engaged with the material we are studying. In the context of graduate studies, it is expected that students will attend every single class, with no exceptions. If you must miss class for an exceptional circumstance, however, please note that not being in class does not excuse you from turning in all assignments: You will still be fully responsible for all material covered in class that day, and for turning all assignments in by the stated deadline. I strongly recommend that each of you exchange contact information with a classmate so that in the event of an absence you can get the nitty-gritty on what we did in class. Also, remember to check the Blackboard site regularly; it will provide important updates.

It goes without saying that all students are expected to exhibit active and informed participation throughout the entire semester; this means doing all course readings and assignments thoroughly and professionally. Please make every effort to stay on top of all homework assignments and readings.

Students are expected to demonstrate active and informed engagement with assigned readings through in-class participation, and also through the reading journal. Reading journal assignments will vary; sometimes students will be given specific questions to reflect upon, and sometimes students will be asked to respond to readings in an open-ended way.

FAU OFFICIAL ACADEMIC POLICY

Students with Disabilities

- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton –SU 122 (561-297-3880), in Davie, MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter –SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast –CO 128 (772-873-3305) and follow all OSD procedures.

Academic Integrity

- Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high values on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the following link:

Welcome to The History and Theory of Translation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>READING/ASSIGNMENT DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>12 January Introduction to Course</td>
<td>Course Bibliography</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Texts, Syllabus, Projects</td>
<td>Monday, Chapter 1 &quot;Main Issues of Translation Studies&quot;</td>
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<td>Introduction of Terms</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
<td>19 January Classical Practice and Sacred Translation:</td>
<td>Monday, Chapter 2 &quot;Translation Theory before the 20th Century&quot;</td>
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<td>Word for Word or Sense for Sense?</td>
<td>Venuti, SR: Jerome, &quot;Letter to Pammachius&quot; (21-30)</td>
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<td>Robinson, WTT: Roman to Renaissance periods (excerpts)*</td>
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<td>Barnstone, &quot;Prehistory of the Bible&quot; (135-52)</td>
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<td>&quot;History of the Bible and Its Flagrant Trans.&quot; (153-216)</td>
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<td>Reading Journal Entry #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Three</td>
<td>26 January Translators and the Emergence of National Literatures</td>
<td>Robinson: Tudor to Romantic periods (excerpts)*</td>
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<td>Venuti, TSR: D'Ablancourt, &quot;Prefaces to Tacitus and Lucian&quot; (31-9)</td>
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<td>Schleiermacher, &quot;On the Diff. Methods of Tr.&quot; (43-63)</td>
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<td>Goethe, &quot;Translations&quot; (64-66)</td>
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<td>Reading Journal Entry #2</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td>2 February Translators and Intercultures</td>
<td>Robinson: Nietzsche (excerpts)*</td>
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<td>Venuti, TSR: Nietzsche, &quot;Translations&quot; (67-68)</td>
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<td>Venuti, The Translator's Invisibility (1-124)</td>
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<td>Reading Journal Entry #3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Five</td>
<td>9 February The Task of the Translator</td>
<td>Venuti, The Translator's Invisibility (125-277)</td>
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<td>Monday, Chapter 9 &quot;The Role of the Translator&quot;</td>
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<td>Venuti, TSR: Benjamin, &quot;The Task of the Translator&quot; (75-82)</td>
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<td>Gaddis-Rose, &quot;Walter Benjamin as Translation Theorist: A Reconsideration&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- it includes:</td>
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<td>&quot;Walter Benjamin and His Translator-Angel Carrying a Hermetic Third Language into the Metaworld&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Benjamin's Parable&quot;</td>
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<td>Ortega y Gasset, &quot;The Misery and Splendor of Translation&quot;</td>
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<td>Reading Journal Entry #4</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>16 February The Semiotic Slant</td>
<td>Preliminary Bibliography Due</td>
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<td>Further Notions of Equivalency</td>
<td>Monday, Chapter 3 &quot;Equivalence and Equivalent Effect&quot;</td>
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<td>Barnstone, &quot;Signs of Our Times: A Semiotic Slant&quot; (226-40)*</td>
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<td>Venuti, TSR: Nabokov, &quot;Problems of Translation&quot; (115-27)</td>
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<td>Jakobson, &quot;On Linguistic Aspects of Trans.&quot; (138-44)</td>
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<td>Vinay &amp; Darbelnet, &quot;A Methodol. for Trans.&quot; (128-37)</td>
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<td>Nida, &quot;Principles of Correspondence&quot; (153-67)</td>
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<td>Reading Journal Entry #5</td>
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Week Seven
23 February
The Philosophical Turn
Munday, Chapter 10 "Philosophical Theories of Translation"
Venuti, TSR: Steiner, "The Hermeneutic Motion" (193-98)
Toury, "The Nature and Role of Norms" (205-18)
Steiner, After Babel
Reading Journal Entry #6

Week Eight
2 March
Your Research in Translation History
Presentation of Research Projects (oral and written)
Steiner, After Babel (cont.)

--------------- SPRING BREAK : March 7 – March 13 ---------------

During Weeks Nine, Ten, and Eleven, there will be guest lecturers presenting case studies relating to their own research:
Dr. Horswell (translation in the colonial context); Dr. Gamboa (topic TBA); and Dr. Rutenberg (translation and sacred texts).

Week Nine
16 March
GUEST LECTURE
Reading Journal Entry #7

Week Ten
23 March
Culture and Ideology
GUEST LECTURE
Munday, Chapter 8 "Cultural and Ideological Turns"
Motzkin, "Memory and Cultural Translation"*
Venuti, TSR: Brisset, "The Search for a Native Language" (337-68)
Spivak, "The Politics of Translation" (369-88)
Apollia, "Thick Translation" (389-401)
Reading Journal Entry #8

Week Eleven
30 March
Translating the Sacred
GUEST LECTURE
Derrida, "Des Tours de Babel" (excerpts)*
Reading Journal Entry #9

Week Twelve
6 April
RESEARCH DAY
Detailed one-on-one discussions with the professor on your research project
WORK ON FINAL PAPER

Week Thirteen
13 April
ROUND TABLE: IN-CLASS PEER REVIEW
First Draft of Papers Due
Borges, “Pierre Menard, Author of Don Quixote”*

Week Fourteen
20 April
Functional Theories and Applications
Munday, Chapter 5 "Functional Theories of Translation"
Munday, Chapter 6 "Discourse and Register Analysis Approaches"
Munday, Chapter 7 "Systems Theories"
Reading Journal Entry #10

Week Fifteen
27 April
YOUR CURATED EXHIBITS
Concluding Remarks
Presentation of Individual Curated Exhibits
Munday, Chapter 11 "New directions from the new media"

--------------------------------------- FINAL PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, MAY 4TH BEFORE 5 PM ---------------------------------------

Thanks for a wonderful semester!
History and Theory of Translation
Selected Reading List

N.B.: Also see Bibliographies in Weissbrot & Eysteinsson, and in Hokenson & Munson

GENERAL:


--- and Hans Vermeer. Grundlegung einer allgemeinen Translationstheorie. Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1984. The two leading theorists in German flank of 'cultural turn,' downplaying lexical items for "text-type" and cultural transfer.


**GREEK AND ROMAN:**


MEDIEVAL:


*Forum for Modern Language Studies* [Oxford University], special issue on "Medieval Translation," 35.4 (October 1999).

RENAISSANCE:


Rener (above).

NEOCLASSICAL:


**ROMANTIC and 19thC**

Berman (above).


Steiner (above).

**TWENTIETH CENTURY/OTHER**


Toury, Gideon. *In Search of a Theory of Translation.* Tel Aviv: Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics, 1980.


SELF-TRANSLATION


Lloyd-Jones, K. “The ‘Translative Dilemma’ in the French Renaissance’ [on Dolet]. Beer


BIBLIOGRAPHIES:


**On Electronic Sources:**


Mabercom. *The Translator’s Portfolio of Internet Resources.*

**Translation Projects:**

CMT: Center for Machine Translation, Carnegie Mellon University
Gazelle Project, University of Southern California
TALANA [Traitement Automatique du LAngage NAturel], Université de Paris 7
GETA [Groupe d’Étude pour la Traduction Automatique], Université de Grenoble

**PERIODICALS:**

*Assises de traduction littéraire.* Arles, Fr.: Actes Sud. 1988+
*Babel, journal of the International Federation of Translators [FIT].* 1955+
*Cuadernos de traduccion e interpretacion.* 1980+
*Daedalus*
*Der Übersetzer*
*IJT, International Journal of Translation.* New Delhi
*Translation and Literature.* Edinburgh. 1991
*Translation and Interpretation Studies.* Kent State? 2006+
*Translation Studies.* Birmingham [Routledge journals]. 2008
*The Translator.* Manchester
*TRANSST: An International Newsletter of Translation.* Tel Aviv.
Publisher’s bulletin; Stjeromenews@stjeromepublishing.com
Language Memoirs


