

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE EMPHASIS IN TRANSLATION STUDIES

<http://www.complit.ucsb.edu/translationstudies/emphasis>

University of California, Santa Barbara

Student Name: _____ Perm: _____

EMPHASIS IN TRANSLATION STUDIES – 2025-26

Following a year of successful study, the Emphasis in Translation Studies is available to doctoral students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in the following departments/programs: Classics, Comparative Literature, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, English, Linguistics, Religious Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese. Any enrolled student in good academic standing with an interest in literary translation, competency in more than one language and a willingness to complete the required coursework/research project may take part in the emphasis. Candidates pursuing the Emphasis in Translation Studies must also fulfill the departmental and University requirements related to their degree program.

Translation Studies in the humanities is comprised of at least two components: translation theory and the practice of translation as a literary art. In the theoretical domain, students are expected to achieve conversance with the history and philosophy of translation, and to discover for themselves an understanding of a number of abstract (theoretical) questions with significant implications: is an original text fixed and complete or incomplete and, in that sense, unstable? What is the relationship/s of a translation to an original? Is it inherently mimetic or can it be conceived as an interaction or even a collaboration? What, theoretically, should a translation achieve or aspire to achieve and what, as a corollary, are the translator's tasks? The contemplation of these and related "big questions" is facilitated by close reading of the "canon" of translation theory including post-structural linguistics, and, more broadly, the philosophy of language.

In the domain of translation as literary art, students labor to render artfully texts from a source language into English. This difficult enterprise confronts students with questions about the nature of reading in a source language, about style, and about the impact on the reader of "technical" approaches that range from literalism to creative fidelity. The translation specialization is designed to encourage and enable students to apply, or at least to relate, what they have understood from their theoretical study about the possibilities inherent in translation and about philosophical goals to approaches, techniques and choices made by translators.

Curriculum and Course Requirements

Courses in Translation Studies engage the theoretical questions that are germane to a philosophy of translation and that inform the practice of translation. The existing UCSB activities help prepare students for their career objectives. The translation curriculum examines translation as a cultural practice and covers theoretical developments and consequent shifts in the field of Translation Studies. One such development focuses on the shift from the notion of translation as a metaphor to translators or actual writers working in particular circumstances. The curriculum in this case charts the course from prescriptive, theoretical models for translation to descriptive case studies. For example, students watch Translation Studies move past the debates over what a translation ought to be through discussion of the role translators have played in important cultural and literary movements.

REQUIRED CORE COURSE (4.0 units total)			
COURSE #	COURSE NAME	UNITS	GRADE
CLIT 260	Literary Translation: Theory and Practice*	4.0	

**Students may also substitute an equivalent course covering some aspect of translation theory and practice for CLIT 260, with the approval of the faculty advisor in consultation with the advisory committee.*

REQUIRED ELECTIVE COURSES

Students must complete an additional 12.0 units of coursework. These three courses may be fulfilled in a number of ways, including by independent directed research.

At least one of the three courses (**4.0 units**) should be taken outside of the student's home department.

At least four of the sixteen units (**4.0 units**) can be taken as an independent study/practicum, in the event that an approved course does not have a sister graduate-level course (see the list of approved course options on the Translation Studies website <http://www.complit.ucsb.edu/translationstudies/emphasis>, or consult the Director of the Emphasis and the graduate advisor in one of the participating departments.

At least two courses (8.0 units) pertaining to critical, theoretical and/or historical approaches to translation; one course needs to be outside of the student's home department.

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	UNITS	GRADE

Students may take any two 4-unit courses in their department in which a translation component can be integrated into the course material – e.g. any literature course in the various language and literature departments; any catalogue or approved independent study course in Religious Studies, Classics, etc. involving close textual reading, linguistic analysis, cultural study/interpretation – and work with the faculty/supervisor on a translation-related final project aside from doing all the course work.

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	UNITS	GRADE

Independent Directed Research

4 to 8 of the 16.0 required units can be an independent directed research devoted to the final research project.

COURSE #	COURSE NAME	UNITS	GRADE

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT

Students must complete a paper of approximately 30 pages, based on the translation of a particular text, which examines the relationship between textual practices and theoretical perspectives, thus addressing some relevant aspect of translation theory, criticism, or history. The student may include their own translation as part of the project. The final project must be unanimously passed (B or higher) by the three-member project committee, made up of affiliated faculty.

Requirement satisfied: _____

VERIFICATION OF COMPLETION

EMPHASIS REQUIREMENTS SATISFIED (DATE): _____

EMPHASIS DIRECTOR SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____