

CRW 5370: Literary Translation/ Spring 2020/Prof. R. Alcalá

Tuesdays 3-5:50/ Old Main 201

Office hours: Thursdays, 2:30-4:30 & by appointment / EDU 904/Tel: 747-7020 & email: ralcala1@utep.edu

In this course, we will discuss the theory, practice, history, and politics of literary translation. In order to do so, we will read a range of poetry translated to and from Spanish and English, including work by Gabriela Mistral, Langston Hughes, Nicolás Guillén, and Julia de Burgos. We will also read and discuss a number of critical essays and foundational theories of translation, from Walter Benjamin's "The Task of the Translator" to Kristin Prevallet's "Risking It: Scandals, Teaching, Translation." We will begin the semester by engaging in language games and translational writing exercises, and then move on to identifying and discussing the myriad issues that arise in a translation practice. This is a hybrid course that combines extensive reading and discussion of translated poetry and theory, with a workshop component to discuss and critique student translations. In addition to readings and exercises, you will write a proposal, as well as a book review, and you will submit a final portfolio of translated poems with a critical preface.

GRADING/REQUIREMENTS

Assignments: 27%

5 reading responses @ 3 pts each. Write a short response (300-500 words) to each week's reading and upload to Blackboard before class.

4 exercises @ 3 pts each. I will give you prompts for each exercise a week prior and then you will bring copies for the class, so that we may discuss them. We may do some exercises together in class.

These will be graded accordingly: 3= Excellent, 2=Good, 1=Fair, 0=Poor, Late, Didn't Turn In

Participation: 18%

Discussion: Please be prepared to discuss readings. Active participation in class discussions is extremely important. You must have in front of you all reading materials to be discussed, and you should refer to them when they are being discussed. If you do not bring required reading materials to class, you will be asked to leave. In order to prepare for a productive class discussion, read the materials carefully, take notes, and make a list of observations and/or questions you'd like to share with the class. In class discussions, we are not after opinion ("I didn't like it") or summary, but rather a critical assessment of the work (What argument is being presented here? How is it presented? What is at stake? Why? What choices did the translator make? etc.).

Workshop participation: You are expected to come prepared for workshop. This means that you must submit carefully executed work on time. Or, you must carefully read work submitted, prepare a critique, and come prepared to discuss it.

Required Attendance at Tracy K. Smith & Carmen Giménez Smith readings: 5%

Proposal: Guidelines on Blackboard. **5%**.

Community Engagement: 5%

Book Review: Guidelines on Blackboard. **10%**

Final Portfolio: Revised translations, with critical preface. Guidelines on Blackboard. Submission of Final Portfolio is required to pass the class. **25%**

ATTENDANCE: More than **1 absence** or habitual tardiness will affect final grade for the course. Unless I've approved additional absences, final grade will drop a letter for each absence beyond one. If you are absent, please contact a classmate via Blackboard for notes and missed assignments.

CELL PHONES

Please silence and put away cell phones during class; they are not permitted for class use.

A NOTE ON LAPTOPS:

You are allowed to use them to refer to the readings and take notes; however, please close them when they are not needed, in particular during discussions, presentations and workshop. Rather than looking at your screen, please acknowledge when others are talking by directing your attention to them. You might even consider printing out the readings and/or taking notes by hand. Studies have shown that students absorb less of what is being said in the classroom when they are staring at a screen, as they are distracted by its offerings. I have found that it is the greatest deterrent to students being fully engaged in the class, and, ultimately, it makes for a lackluster experience for all. In the past I have banned laptops from the classroom, but I understand that it saves everyone time and money to not have to print out readings, so please respect our time together by implementing the above suggestions.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as one's own. And collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

To be more specific, plagiarism in this class means that you are handing in creative or critical work under your name that you did not write yourself. It also means that you are handing in work you've written for another class.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I will make reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Center for Accommodations and Support Services within the first two weeks of class: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY Fax: (915) 747-8712 E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

202 Union West

El Paso, Texas 79968

(915) 747-5302

Mondays & Tuesdays 8am-7pm

Wednesdays – Fridays 8am-5pm

REQUIRED READING:

Most readings are Blackboard or online as per weekly schedule below. We will discuss two full-length poetry book (*Tracy K. Smith's Atravesar el agua (trans. Andrea Cote Botero)/ Carmen Giménez Smith's Be Recorder*), which you will acquire on your own. You must bring readings to class for discussion, either in print or digital form on your laptop. If you regularly come to class without the assigned reading, or it is clear you have not read it, it will be reflected in your final grade.

PRINTING/COPIES:

In addition to printing out required readings (if needed), you will be asked to make copies of translations for workshops. Please budget accordingly.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE TOOLS

Spanish-English Dictionary: Larousse Unabridged (New Edition)

Oxford English Dictionary (online)

Real Academia Española (online)

Online thesauruses and etymology dictionaries

Linguee.com

Not recommended (or allowed):

Google Translate or any other translation app

Looking at existing translations as a guide

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/translation/threepercent/>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (due to change at the discretion of the instructor)

- Jan. 21:** **Introduction**
- Jan. 28:** Read contents of “Introduction” and “Publishing Translations” folders. [Response #1](#)/ [Exercise #1](#)
Read *Atravesar el agua* in preparation for [required attendance at Tracy K. Smith reading 1/30](#)
- Feb. 4:** **Mode of Intention:** See “Mode of Intention” folder on Blackboard.
[Response #2 due](#)
- Choose a poem from *Atravesar el agua* that could present a certain difficulty or problem for a translator and be prepared to discuss how Andrea Cote Botero resolved this issue in the Spanish translation.
- Feb. 11:** **Comparing Translations:** See “Comparing Translations” folder on Blackboard) [Response #3 due](#)/ [Exercise #2](#)
- Feb. 18:** **Politics of Translation:** See contents of folder “Politics of Translation” folder on Blackboard) [Response #4 due](#)/ [Exercise #3 Workshop](#)
- Feb. 25:** **Translating Traditional Form:** See “Traditional Form” folder on Blackboard. [Response #5 due](#)/ [Workshop](#)
- Project Proposals due:** See guidelines on Blackboard. Also, read my grant proposals (See “Grant proposals” folder). These should serve as models for your own proposals.
- Mar. 3:** Read Carmen Giménez Smith’s book and choose one poem to translate. Bring translation draft to class (This is [Exercise #4](#)). Please bring copies for everyone, as we are doing to workshop them)
- Mar. 10:** Review of CGS revisions/ [Sharing of translation projects](#)
[Required Attendance at CGS reading 3/12](#)
- Mar. 17:** **SPRING BREAK**
- Mar. 24:** Workshop (1st workshop of your translated poems)
- Mar. 31:** Workshop
- COURSE DROP DEADLINE: April 5**
- April 7:** Workshop
- Apr. 14:** Workshop

- April 21:** Workshop
- April 28:** Workshop
- May 5:** [Presentation of Book Review](#) (see guidelines on Blackboard)