COURSE SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH TRANSLATION
Argentine Universities Program, Buenos Aires

Suggested US semester credit hours: 3
Contact hours: 45
IFSA course code: SP401-03
Course length: Semester
Language of instruction: Spanish
Delivery method: Face to Face

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The general purpose of this course is double. First, the course aims to improve students’ handling of the Spanish language through the translation tasks between Spanish and English, paying attention to grammar issues as well as discourse (vocabulary, particular structures, register and dialect variations, etc.). On the other hand, the course introduces students to the world of translation. We will study the fundamental aspects of the theory of translation and some exercise will be performed to in the frame of the basic problems that this field confronts.

COURSE DELIVERY

Students are expected to read assigned resources in advance and be prepared to actively discuss them in class. Students are also expected to do translation homework for each class. In most meetings, the instructor will overview the topic and then facilitate a group discussion, drawing out relevant themes, following up on specific lines of inquiry, and prompting students’ thoughtful engagement with the topic. Most of the meetings will have four segments (which will vary its order according to the needs of each encounter): checking homework, presentation of some linguistic or translation aspect, discussions of the reading proposed by the teacher, and a practice of translation.

Students are encouraged to bring their prior learning experiences into class discussions (based on experiential learning theory) and to make cognitive connections between this course and others in IFSA Buenos Aires whenever possible (based on the philosophy of integrative learning).

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- Deepen the understanding and the use of the Spanish language through exercises of translation between Spanish and English;
- Reinforce the knowledge of diverse linguistic, grammar and discourse problems through the comparison of the formal and pragmatic characteristics of both languages;
Develop reflection around essential topics of theory of translation through reading and discussing pertinent texts.

Become familiar with resources available for further research on Spanish translation

Make cognitive connections between learning in this course and other learning experiences in the IFSA Argentine Universities Program.

COURSE OUTLINE

CLASS 1
Introduction: The role of the translator
The use of the dictionary
Translation activity in colloquial speech (English → Spanish)

Homework
Reading: “Filosofía del lenguaje, significado y traducción” (in Guix y Wilkinson, p. 31 to 52)
Practice: En otras palabras, false cognate exercise (p. 9)

CLASS 2
Discussion: “Filosofía del lenguaje, significado y traducción”
Practice: Basic concepts of translation (En otras palabras, p. 3 to 9).
Translation activity (Spanish → English)

Homework
Reading: “Procedimientos de traducción”-first part- (in Guix y Wilkinson, p. 235 to 266)
Practice: En otras palabras, exercise 2, 4 and 5 (p. 10 and 11).

CLASS 3
Lecture: Translation procedures I (borrowing and calque; literal translation and transposition).
Practice: Basic notions of applied translation (En otras palabras, p. 59 to 65).
Translation activity (English → Spanish)

Homework
Reading: “Procedimientos de traducción”-second part- (in Guix y Wilkinson, p. 266 to 297)
Practice: En otras palabras, exercises 2, 3 and 5 (p. 65 and 66).

CLASS 4
Lecture: Translation procedures II (modulation, equivalence, adaptation, expansion, reduction and compensation)
Practice: Narration I (En otras palabras, p. 13 to 17)
Translation activity (Spanish → English)

Homework
Reading: “El «genio de la lengua» y su importancia para la traducción” (Guix y Wilkinson, p. 57 to 81)
Practice: En otras palabras, exercises 1 and 4 (p. 18 and 19)

CLASS 5
Lecture and discussion: “El «genio de la lengua» y su importancia para la traducción” (about common traits and different logics in Spanish and English)
Practice: Narration II (En otras palabras, p. 21 to 26)
Translation activity (English → Spanish)

*Homework*
Reading: “Rasgos diferenciales entre el inglés y el castellano (1): estructuras sintácticas”; “Rasgos diferenciales entre el inglés y el castellano (1): puntuación” (*Guix y Wilkinson*, p. 83 to 93 and 145 to 159)
Practice: *En otras palabras*, exercise 1 and 4 (p. 26 and 27)

**CLASS 6**
Discussion: “Rasgos diferenciales entre el inglés y el castellano (1): estructuras sintácticas”; “Rasgos diferenciales entre el inglés y el castellano (1): puntuación”
Practice: Description I (*En otras palabras*, pp. 28 to 33)
Translation activity (Spanish → English)

*Homework*
Reading: “Las dos maneras de traducir” (Jorge Luis Borges); “The Purloined Letter”, E. A. Poe; “La carta robada” (trans. J.L.Borges) and “La carta robada” (trans. J. Cortázar)
Practice: *En otras palabras*, exercise 1, 3 and 5 (pp. 34 and 35)

**CLASS 7**
Discussion and analysis: Borges and the two ways of translation; Borges and Cortázar as translators of Poe.
Practice: Description II (*En otras palabras*, pp. 36 to 42)

*Homework*
Study for midterm exam

**CLASS 8**
Exam

**CLASS 9**
Practice: Impersonality (*En otras palabras*, p. 43 to 48)
Conversation about the Individual translation projects (Final work)
Translation activity (English → Spanish)

*Homework*
Reading and choosing: Research and select two opinion article to share with the class (original text in English)
Practice: *En otras palabras*, exercise 1 and 3 (p. 47 and 48)

**CLASS 10**
Practice: *Indicativo* and *subjuntivo* (*En otras palabras*, p. 49 to 54)
Analysis of the opinion articles brought to class. Selection for the final project.
Translation activity (Spanish → English)

*Homework*
Practice: *En otras palabras*, exercises 1, 2 and 3 (p. 54 and 55)
First translation of the opinion article.

**CLASS 11**
Practice I: Advertisement and register (*En otras palabras*, pp. 67 to 71)
Practice II: Analysis and class work on the first translation of the opinion article.
Homework
Reading and selection: Research and select two short stories or short essays to share with the class (original text in Spanish)
Practice: En otras palabras, exercises 1 and 4 (p. 72)

CLASE 12
Practice: Linguistic expression and good manners (En otras palabras, pp. 73 to 78)
Analysis of the stories or essays brought to class. Selection for the final project.
Translation activity (English → Spanish)
Homework
Practice: En otras palabras, exercise 1 (p. 79)
First translation (partial) of the story or essay.

CLASS 13
Practice I: Review of pretéritos perfecto e imperfecto (En otras palabras, pp. 91 to 95)
Practice II: Analysis and class work on the first translation (partial) of the story or essay.
Homework
Practice: First complete translation of the story or essay.

CLASS 14
Practice: Review of subjuntivo (En otras palabras, p. 97 to 103)
Practice II: Analysis and class work on the first complete translation of the story or essay.
Homework
Preparation of the final folder and oral presentation.

CLASS 15
Turning in the final folder (with two translations: opinion article, from English to Spanish, and the story or brief essay, from Spanish to English).
Final oral presentation (Analysis of the translation process)

RESOURCES

**EVALUATION METHODS**

The course instructor will provide specific requirements and grading rubrics for individual assignments for the course. Your final grade in the course will be comprised of the following course requirements:

Attendance and punctuality will be considered when evaluating students’ performance. Students will do numerous exercises that must be shown in class, and in some cases, turned in. The reading of some theoretical text will be required and the participation of associated discussions in class will be considered in the final grade. At midterm, there will be a partial exam, which will include a practical part and a theoretical one. Finally, in the last class, students will must hand in a folder with two translation pieces which they will have done in the second part of the semester, and they must provide an oral presentation about the translation process.

**Grade breakdown**

Attendance and participation: 30%
Midterm exam: 30%
Final translation folder: 30%
Final oral presentation: 10%

**Attendance**
The minimum required to pass is 80%.

**Timely Submissions**
Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student’s original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating, fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.