

TI420/Chn421B: Chinese-English Translation
Mon (Moore 203), **Wed** (PC Computer lab: Moore 153A)
12:00-1:15 pm

General Information:

Prerequisite: Chn 402 (high-level of Chinese) or consent. English fluency.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Zeng, 鄭舒 (Zhèng Shū)
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Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

This course introduces the basic techniques of Chinese→English translation. Class assignments focus on the *process* and *quality* of translation. Assignments will provide translation practice with various types of non-literary texts. Students work on solving problems encountered in the translation process, including problems involving style, syntax, culture, terminology and naturalness. Practical issues of translation will also be discussed, including research and technical issues (computer formatting, internet, etc.), and professional translator issues. By the end of the course, students will acquire knowledge and techniques to:

1. evaluate good/poor translations;
2. recognize translation problems, particularly from Chinese to English;
3. suggest strategies for solving the problems;
4. solve problems successfully and professionally;
5. produce quality translations with correct format;
6. professionally handle a translation transaction and process.

Assignments:

1. **Translation assignments:** All translation assignments have to be typed. Assignments will generally go through the following stages:

- (1) draft of translation reviewed by English native speaker;
- (2) draft of translation reviewed by peers;
- (3) submission of final translation by due date with protocol;
- (4) translation evaluated and returned by teacher with notes for correction and first grade;
- (5) submission of revised translation -- if necessary. Second grade given.

The second grade will be averaged with first. Much of the work will be in teams of linguistic pairs.

2. **Translation protocols & glossary:** Students must accompany their translations with a “protocol,”

i.e. an account, in English, of the translation process carried out when doing the assignment. This should include identification of problems encountered and how they were resolved, as well as a glossary in Chinese and English of unfamiliar or difficult terms/phrases encountered in the translation.

3. **Reading assignments:** Reading assignments will be assigned periodically throughout the course. All articles must be read by the due date. Although this course does not have a book assigned, it would be wise to bring an English-Chinese dictionary to class (especially electronic dictionaries).

Midterm and Final:

Translation training is practice-intensive, so students are being evaluated constantly. In a sense, every assignment is a test. In lieu of examinations, students must submit a midterm and final project.

1. **Midterm project:** The midterm project will demonstrate the ability to apply research and translation techniques learned in class, as well as a mastery of word-processing and formatting skills and teamwork. This will be a group project.

2. **Final project:** The final project should show further progress in understanding what constitutes a quality translation. This will most likely be an evaluation of a translation for “quality.” Quality assessment (QA) will be emphasized throughout the course. The final project will allow the student to demonstrate his/her understanding of QA in translation. The final project should include a discussion of the various translation issues that are discussed throughout the semester and how they apply to a real translation. Requirements for the final project will be explained after the Midterm.

Evaluation:

Class participation	20%
Translation assignments	30%
Midterm project	20%
Final Project	30%