

Translation through Theatre and Film Boston University (in Madrid)

Professor Cristina Pérez

Course description:

The course is oriented toward students in their second or third year of Spanish who are interested in perfecting their language skills in direct contact with the native language. Various texts have been selected from a diverse literary genre: theatre, movie scripts, humorous texts, and articles.

The translation of the texts will serve to amplify vocabulary, reinforce grammar and perfect style, while the students compare the morpho-syntactic peculiarities of each language. The objectives of the course will principally be: a) to introduce the student to some basic aspects of the translation process; b) to make the students sensible to the recognition and differentiations of sayings, metaphors, “false friends”, etc.; and c) to deepen and support those grammatical concepts that the class needs to review.

Method of Presentation:

The most important goal of the class is to offer the student a simple methodology that will serve to experiment with the meanings and significance that each word implies, and oblige them to reflect about the way they interpret the text itself. For that we will use a diverse range of materials and resources: theoretical explanations, comprehension and vocabulary exercises, exercises that demonstrate specific morphological aspects and some related to the use of grammar.

The students must do the translations on their own, and they will have the opportunity to correct them in class in order to arrive at the best solution possible. After using various dictionaries, the students will have a better ability to express their ideas and will understand more of the specific problems of Spanish.

Assignments and course grades:

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| Participation, homework and attendance | 20% |
| Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Final Paper | 25% |

There are various texts that will be translated, including:

- Colloquial dialogues and situations
- Newspaper articles
- Works of drama
- Various screenplays, including *Annie Hall* by Woody Allen; *Shrek* by Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio; *American Beauty* by Alan Ball; *La flor de mi secreto* by Pedro Almodóvar, etc.
- Stories and prose

Materials needed for the course:

There are various dictionaries that are recommended for the course.

English/Spanish:

Oxford English Dictionary, Larousse Diccionario Moderno Español-Inglés

Synonyms and antonyms:

Diccionario práctico de sinónomos y antónomos (Larousse)

Dictionary for doubts:

Diccionario de dudas y dificultades de la lengua española (Manuel Seco)

Diccionario del uso del español (María Moliner)

Course Outline

- Week 1. Presentation of the course. What does translation consist of? Specific problems when translating a dramatic text.
- Week 2. Using the dictionary. Dialogues and situations.
- Week 3. Translation
- Week 4. Situations and Article 1. Idiomatic expressions.
- Week 5. Problems when translating humorous texts.
- Week 6. Translating prose. Idioms and dialogues.
- Week 7. Review for the midterm. **Midterm exam.**
- Week 8. Screenplay translation and activities.
- Week 9. Story translation. Dialogues and situations.
- Week 10. Screenplay translation and idiomatic expressions.
- Week 11. Article 2. Idiomatic expressions.
- Week 12. Short story translation. Dialogues and situations.
- Week 13. **Final Papers due.** Screenplay translation.
- Week 14. Review for final exam.
- Week 15. **Final Exam**

Note about the Course:

Students must do exercises on the selected topics for each class. These exercises must be done at home and will be corrected in class. It is **very** important to do the exercises in order to maximize the value of the class.

Each exam will have grammar and vocabulary sections. There will also be a written composition on each exam.

Compositions should be turned in on time. To prepare them you may consult books, dictionaries, etc., but **you should not** ask anyone else for help.

The professor may adjust the schedule of the classes or assignments if needed due to time or other constraints.

Bibliography:

Alarcos Llorach, Emilio, *Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Espasa, Madrid, 1994.

Álvarez, Miriam, *Tipos de escrito I. Narración y descripción*. Arco Libros, Madrid.

Tipos de escrito II. Exposición y argumentación. Arco Libros, Madrid.

Gómez Torrego, L., *Gramática didáctica del español*, S.M., Madrid, 1997.

Montolio, E. ed., *Manual práctico de escritura académica*, Ariel, Barcelona, 2000.

Seco, Manuel, *Gramática esencial del español*, Espasa, Madrid, 1994.