Syllabus

*Is Translation possible? A Journey through Modern Theories of Translation - 45841*

*Last update 04-10-2021*

**HU Credits:** 2

**Responsible Department:** Romance Studies

**Academic year:** 0

**Semester:** 1st Semester

**Teaching Languages:** English

**Campus:** Mt. Scopus

**Course/Module Coordinator:** Chiara Caradonna

**Coordinator Email:** chiara.caradonna@mail.huji.ac.il

**Coordinator Office Hours:** Tuesday, 5-6 pm

**Teaching Staff:**
  Dr. chiara Caradonna

**Course/Module description:**
In his seminal book After Babel (1975), George Steiner points out that Western reflection on translation has always moved between two extremes, between those who considered true and full translation from one language to another impossible and those who, on the contrary, believed it to be possible without any loss on the way. But, as Steiner notes, “the impossible is overcome at every moment by human affairs” (251), meaning that, in fact, despite all the doubts and reservations towards what is forever “lost in translation”, translation continues to happen and to profoundly shape the way we inhabit the world. Historically, two kinds of texts have provoked a reflection on the limits and challenges of translation: holy texts and literary texts. The issues of translation they raise lead straight into questions related to what language is, and whether communication between people through language is ever truly possible.

Course/Module aims:
The present course aims at discussing these questions by looking closely at key texts of Western modernity that have raised them, since the 19th Century until today.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Students will be well acquainted with the key theoretical text of Western modernity on translation, and will be able to apply them in order to analyze literary translations.

Attendance requirements(%):
90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Close reading and discussion of texts in class.

Course/Module Content:
11/10
Introduction: What is translation, and why should it be (im-)possible?

18/10

25/10
Friedrich Schleiermacher, On the Different Methods of Translating (1813)
Concluding Discussion

Required Reading:


Additional Reading Material:

- Levefere, André, *Translating Poetry: Seven Strategies and a Blueprint* (Amsterdam 1975)


Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Final Assignment
Students will be asked to write a paper of 10 pp. in which they will analyze one specific translation of their choice from the point of view of one the theoretical approaches discussed during the semester.

*Available to outstanding third-year undergraduate students, with instructor approval