



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - VICTORIA COLLEGE
2013-2014 FALL/WINTER
GER 430/VIC402H1 F - Translation and Comparativity
NF004; Monday, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Willi Goetschel
CONTACT INFORMATION: w.goetschel@utoronto.ca ((416) 926 23 20)
OFFICE HOURS 313 Odette Hall; Monday, 2:00pm and by appointment
COURSE WEBSITE: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>

Accessibility Needs (www.accessibility.utoronto.ca)

If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

In which way is language, speech, writing, and communication dependent on translation? Is reading and speaking always already translation? Is what we do when we think also already translation as Wittgenstein suggested? This course explores introduces to the way in which language and translation have been theorized as tools and media that facilitate and complicate communication as transfer of knowledge on the one hand and, on the other, the capability to create and express individuality. Readings include texts from the works of Spinoza, Mendelssohn, Goethe, Humboldt, Marx, Benjamin, and Derrida.

REQUIRED READINGS

Books

Jacques Derrida, *Monolingualism of the Other or The Prosthesis of Origin*. Standord UP 1998.
ISBN 978-0804732895
The Translation Studies Reader, ed. Lawrence Venuti, Routledge. 3rd ed. 2012.
ISBN 978-0415613484

All books are available at The Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse, phone: (416) 922-3557

All other texts are posted on the course website on Blackboard.

COURSE WORK AND GRADING

Assessment Tool	Grading Weight	Due Date(s)
Participation and presentation	10%	Class presentations
Response Paper 1 (3-4 pages)	15%	October 11
Response Paper 2 (3-4 pages)	15%	November 15
Final Paper (10-12 pages)	60%	December 4

Email Communication with the Course Instructor

At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring

that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system. You can do that by using the following instructions:

To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the “Validate” button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UofT email address, go to the ROSI system (www.rosi.utoronto.ca), log in and update the system with your new UofT email address.

Assignments

Details of the assignments will be posted on blackboard.

Assignments are due in class by 3:00 pm on the appropriate date noted above. If you know that you cannot make it to class on the day when the assignment is due you must make prior arrangements to avoid the late penalty.

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website

Like many other courses, VIC 402 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the VIC 402 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the VIC 402 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Activating your UTORid and Password

If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to www.utorid.utoronto.ca. Under the “First Time Users” area, click on “activate your UTORid” (if you are new to the university) or “create your UTORid” (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to “activate your UTORid” will find reference to a “Secret Activation Key”. This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

Late Assignments: Assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class. Late assignments will be subject to a 5% late penalty for the first 24 hours after the deadline, and then 3% for each additional day up to a maximum of 5 days.

Assignments will not be accepted 5 days after the due date.

If there are extenuating circumstances (illness, death in family) that prevent you from completing an assignment on-time you must email the instructor as soon as possible, preferably BEFORE the deadline and NO LATER than one week after the due date. Requests for extensions will be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds only. Documentation (such as the UofT medical form etc.) must be submitted.

Participation

Participation and attendance are important aspects of the course. Students who attend class will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the course.

You are expected to do the assigned readings before the class and come to class prepared to ask questions and participate in discussions. Your participation grade will be based on reasoned, thoughtful and informed contributions to this course.

Students who miss a lecture will have to make arrangements to get notes from another student.

Remarking term work policy

Requests for “remarks” must be submitted in writing to the person who originally graded the assignment. Requests must be submitted within 2 weeks of the date the graded papers were made available for students to pick up. The particular day you choose to retrieve your assignment is irrelevant. To request a remark, you must submit a written request explaining precisely why you believe your assignment should receive a different grade. As well, please remember that on a remark your grade may go up or down. The grade after the remark will be the grade recorded on the assignment. Any work remarked by the instructor will involve the entire assignment, not simply the questions or portion you believe were scored improperly. Note that in the course of remarking your assignment, he may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected on the paper or test. As a result, it is possible that your revised mark may actually go down, rather than going up or staying the same. The revised mark stands. It is not to your advantage to submit a request for a second remarking unless you believe you will actually gain points.

Academic Misconduct (www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac)

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. **Teaching Assistants and Instructors are required to report any instance of suspected academic dishonesty to the Program Office.**

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers.
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.
- Misrepresentation:
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out

additional information from me or other available campus resources like the College Writing Centers www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres/arts-and-science , the Academic Success Centre www.asc.utoronto.ca , or the U of T Writing Website www.writing.utoronto.ca.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC
Sep 9	Introduction, What is Translation, what is Comparison?
Sep 16	Derrida, “What is a ‘Relevant’ Translation?”
Sep 23	Derrida, <i>Monolingualism of the Other or The Prosthesis of Origin</i>
Sep 30	Word vs. Meaning: Goethe, Schleiermacher
Oct 7	Humboldt, What is Language? On Language

Oct 14	Thanksgiving – No Class
Oct 21	Spinoza, Prophecy and other Forms of Knowledge
Oct 28	Benjamin, The Task of the Translator and Derrida, Tours de Babel
Nov 4	Mendelssohn, The “living script” and the translation into action

Note: November 4th is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty. After this date a zero is assigned for incomplete work and the mark is calculated into the grade point average

Nov 11	November Break - No Class
Nov 18	Marx, Value, Commodity, Equivalence
Nov 25	Foreign and Familiar: Rafael and Berman
Dec 2	Dec 2: Montreal: Simon; Gender: Chamberlain Dec 4: Final Discussion (Make-up Monday)

NOTE: December 3rd is last day to request LWD from F section code courses