Course Descriptions

TRAN 150   Introduction to Translation   (3 credits)
This course introduces the preliminaries of translation as both a process and a product. It covers the main issues that are involved in producing a translation, the standards for acceptable translations, the cultural issues involved in translation, and the general rules that govern the translation of texts from English into Arabic and vice versa.

TRAN 220   Translation Theory   (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the history and theories of translation. The purpose of the course is to make students aware of the main theoretical debates that have surrounded translation throughout history and more particularly in the 20th century, in order to enable them to see the relevance of theory to the practice of translation.

TRAN 225   Introduction to Interpreting   (3 credits)
The aim of this course is to provide students with basic knowledge in the field of interpretation from English into Arabic and vice versa. Practical training in listening and oral skills is central to this course. Both theoretical and practical perspectives are integrated.

TRAN 250   Contrastive Analysis   (3 credits)
This course introduces students to the cross-cultural aspects of discourse organization for different genres and different purposes, focusing on a comparison between Arabic and English languages/cultures. Students will become acquainted with the problems of Arabic speakers in learning English and will be able to describe similarities and differences between Arabic and English.

TRAN 260   Translation Techniques   (3 credits)
This course provides students with general training in translation of a variety of text types. Students will become aware of the various methods that can be used to tackle challenging texts and will perform annotated translations with commentaries, editing exercises, and textual analyses, enabling them to draw conclusions concerning the purpose of the original message and the role of the translator as communicator.

TRAN 300   Translating Business Texts   (3 credits)
This course provides students with training in reading, analyzing, and translating business, finance, and economics reports and articles. Students will compile a special topics portfolio of translated business texts, annotated translations with commentaries, textual analyses, and editing exercises. Prerequisite: TRAN 260.

TRAN 310   Translating Journalistic Texts   (3 credits)
This course provides students with training in reading, analyzing, and translating journalistic texts. Students will compile a special topics portfolio of translated journalistic texts, annotated translations with commentaries, textual analyses, and editing exercises. Prerequisite: TRAN 260.

TRAN 330   Special Topic in Translation   (3 credits)

This course is broad and flexible enough to accommodate the ongoing changes and developments in the field of translation. Such course would help students keep abreast with the dynamic and developments in the field of translation and interpreting. Possible topics to be covered in the course: latest advancements in technology-mediated translation and interpreting- quality assurance issues in translation-globalization and mobility and the evolving role of translators and interpreters-social responsibility of translators and interpreters–latest developments in corpus linguistics and the applications of parallel corpora (written and spoken) in translation and interpreting, etc. Most importantly, the implications of these trends and topics will be connected to the student translator/interpreter training and professional development.

TRAN 355   Technology-Assisted Translation   (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the most recent developments in the use of technology to help translators in their work. This covers a number of topics including machine translation, computer-assisted translation and the use of electronic dictionaries and corpora. The course offers students training in these technologically related topics.

TRAN 360   Translating Scientific Texts   (3 credits)

This course provides students with training in reading, analyzing, and translating scientific, technical, and technological texts. Students will compile a special topics portfolio of translated scientific and technical texts, annotated translations with commentaries, textual analyses, and editing exercises. Prerequisite: TRAN 250.

TRAN 365   English Literature in Arabic Translations   (3 credits)

This course deals with the metamorphosis of English literary texts in Arabic translations. Students will be familiar with the problems of literary translation, especially in terms of transplanting English texts into Arabic context. Issues like faithful, literal, free translation and cultural adaptation are dealt with extensively. Students will also be exposed to techniques of literary translation.

TRAN 370   Medical Translation   (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide students with a solid background in medical translation so as to be future translators in settings such as hospitals, physicians' offices and clinics. Emphasis is placed on the development of medical terminology. Upon completion, students should be able to translate a variety of medical texts from and into Arabic.

TRAN 375   Audiovisual Translation   (3 credits)

Audiovisual Translation is an exciting new field in Translation Studies for which there is a growing professional demand, and the need for professionals in this field has grown exponentially in the new era. The course is designed to introduce students to different areas of translation of the audiovisual material, including subtitling and dubbing. Upon completion of this course, students will acquire a basic understanding of the techniques for subtitling and dubbing of movies, documentaries and programs. In addition, the students will be able to differentiate between different modes of audiovisual translation including

subtitling, dubbing and voice-over. In addition, they will be trained on translating audiovisual materials from and into Arabic, taking account of the linguistic and cultural problems that face screen translators.

TRAN 410   Arabic Literature in English Translations   (3 credits)

This course deals with the metamorphosis of Arabic literary texts in English translations. Students will become familiar with the problems of literary translation, especially in terms of transplanting Arabic texts into English context. Issues like faithful, literal, free translation and cultural adaptation are dealt with extensively. Students will also be exposed to techniques of literary translation.

TRAN 420   Translating Legal Documents   (3 credits)

This course focuses on the theory and practice of translating legal instruments (such as certificates and contracts) from and into English and Arabic. Attention is paid to linguistic features of documentary texts (such as constitutions, charters and protocols) and the nature of the translational equivalence in the two languages. Prerequisite: TRAN 260.

TRAN 425   Contrastive Rhetoric and Stylistics   (3 credits)

This course introduces students to a higher level of contrastive analysis between Arabic and English. The purpose of the course is to equip students with a firm knowledge of different styles of the two languages including idioms, figures of speech, metaphors, and so forth in order to utilize such knowledge in translating English and Arabic texts. A special focus will be on idiomatic and metaphoric styles, and the influence of cultural settings on the production and transfer of stylistic forms from Arabic to English and vice versa.

TRAN 435   Lexicography and Terminology   (3 credits)

This course focuses on the problems of equivalences and variability of terminologies. The phenomena of terminology banks and databases are studied, as well as the role of Arabic language academies in the creation and standardization of terminologies in Arabic.

TRAN 465   Critical Analysis of Translated Texts   (3 credits)

This course presents a functional pragmatic approach to the peculiarities of situational linguistics, their sources and their targets; and then assesses the results of the situation. The students will be required to write a critique of a translated work.

TRAN 470   Machine Translation   (3 credits)

This course offers training in machine translation and it focuses on the differences between human translation/ interpretation and machine translation.

TRAN 480   External Practicum   (3 credits)

This course offers an opportunity for supervised translation in a commercial or government office. Periodic reports will be a part of the requirement for this practicum course.