

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2015-2016** GERM: 643 B1  
Advanced Translation: German into English  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Smith-Prei

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Personal Website: <http://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/feminism/>

Time: MWF 10:00-10:50

Place: HC 2-41

Office Hours: M 11-1,  
or by appointment

Course Website: n/a

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**Course Prerequisite:** n/a

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes  No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required  Optional  None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes  No

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course is a graduate-level course in German-English translation, taught in conjunction with GERM 443. This course is an advanced course in German-English translation. Building particularly on the grammatical skills learned in GERM 342, this course will turn to the theoretical, philosophical, and ethical underpinnings of translation with a focus on literary translations. Students will read and discussion translation theory, apply this theory to practice in the form of essays, engage in reflective translation journals, and participate in weekly small-group workshops as well as plenary discussions. At the end of this course students be able to identify and analyze some of the more detailed complexities of translation beyond the grammatical features of the two languages by taking into account cultural and historical

considerations, voice, word-play, symbolism, and genre, among others. Further, students will learn to evaluate the best routes for approaching these complexities in their weekly translation practice and peer-work. These smaller assignments will lead, step-by-step, to two larger projects (one group, one individual) for which students will synthesize these approaches, develop their own understanding, and hone their translator's voice. The course will be run as a seminar, with discussions in German and English.

**Texts:**

Required

- Texts, including theoretical essays and translations to be done, will be uploaded to eClass. It is the student's responsibility to print out and bring these materials to class as they will not be distributed in class.

- A good, comprehensive, hard-cover German-English + English-German dictionary (Collins recommended)

**Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

10% for participation, including homework preparedness and leading of theoretical discussions; homework collected at the end of each unit

10% for translation journal: ongoing, due April 8<sup>th</sup>

15% for development of reading comprehension questions for theoretical texts, which will form the basis of the discussions, due as upload to eClass January 15<sup>th</sup>, January 29<sup>th</sup>, and February 12<sup>th</sup>

20% for one critical essay applying theory to a published translation, February 29<sup>th</sup>

45% Individual translation project, including short critical essay, due April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Participation, homework preparedness, and peer-work: Students will be working together in workshop format regularly throughout the semester. Students are expected to come prepared to these sessions with sample translations (either those distributed in class or those chosen by the student, depending on the assignment) to exchange with their fellow students. Peer-feedback will then be given. These assignments (including peer-feedback notes) will be collected at the end of each unit. Graduate students are also responsible for leading one of the theoretical discussions during the course.

Journal: You are expected to keep a translation journal (on eClass with time stamps) throughout the duration of the class. You should be reflecting on the process of translation, thinking about difficulties, or keeping lists of useful techniques. This journal will be "collected" at the end of the semester. While there is no limit to length, the entries should be a paragraph at least and you should be keeping the journal weekly.

Reading Questions: Graduate students will be responsible for creating reading questions for the essays undergraduates are expected to read for the theoretical discussion days (three days throughout the semester). In your development of questions you must display your understanding of the key concepts of the essay in question. These questions will form the basis of the theoretical discussions for that day.

One critical essay: Students will be expected to write-up one shorter critical essay. This essay should pair **at least two** of the theoretical essays read during the semester (or essays not discussed in class, in consultation with the instructor) and apply these to a discussion of a published translation. Students should discuss the translator's decisions based on the theories at hand, and, where appropriate, make suggestions as to how the student would have gone about it differently in light of that theory. Essays are to be 5-7 pages and are worth 15%.

Project: Students will select a translation to complete as an individual project, genre and style open. The translation must be accompanied by a critical essay reflecting on the choices made and theories that informed those choices. The critical essay should be 10-12 pages; the length of translation will be discussed individually with the instructor.

### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

### ***Academic Integrity:***

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> ) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

### ***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

***Academic Honesty:***

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

**In this course,** *Here, coordinators or instructors of single-section courses should phrase a description of how attendance and participation are assigned a portion of this grade component.*

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

*Make sure yours is clear and that it is applied fairly and equally to all. Here, coordinators or instructors of single-section courses should phrase policy for late assignments, e.g.: “Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for*

*this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.”*

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.ssds.ualberta.ca](http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca) ).

***Grading:***

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Graduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

**“MLCS Graduate Grading Scale”**

**MLCS Graduate Grading Scale**

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure