

**RTU Course "History of Translation Theory"**

23201 null

**General data**

Code	VIA608
Course title	History of Translation Theory
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Larisa Iljinska
Academic staff	Tatjana Smirnova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN
Annotation	The aim of the course is to provide students with a sense of the diversity of approaches to translation (linguistic, socio-linguistic, philosophical, literary, semiotic, computer-aided, etc), and the diversity of contexts in which they appear, as well as a broad introduction to key moments in the history of translation theory. The lectures explore the theory and practice of translation in the context of a specific historical moment. Placing particular emphasis on the history of scientific and technical translation, the course plan is thematic rather than purely chronological. Acquisition of the course is through a combination of lectures and guided seminars. Throughout the course, the students are encouraged to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject as well as to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aim of the course: This course aims at investigating the key role which translation has played in shaping the development of ideas and the spread of knowledge. The analysis of key moments in the history of translation theory should facilitate students' awareness of the main concepts of translation theory they acquired during the Bachelor studies. Objectives of the course. Within the framework of the course students should: •Study the diversity of approaches to translation (philosophical, linguistic, socio-linguistic, literary, technical, semiotic, computer-aided, etc); •Discuss the role of translation in communication, spreading of knowledge, sharing of ideas, developing cultural
Structure and tasks of independent studies	During the course students have to write at least two essays on the topics covered, prepare and present a report on a selected period in the history of translation theory, attend lectures and participate in seminars.
Recommended literature	1.Baker M. (2009) The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies, Routledge, GB 2.Bassnett S. (2002) Translation Studies (New Accents), Routledge, GB 3.Cronin M., (2000) Across the Lines: Travel Language and Translation, Cork University Press, UK 4.Gentzler, E. (2001) Contemporary Translation Theories. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters 5.Lefevere A., (2005) Translation/History/Culture: A Sourcebook (Translation Studies), Routledge, GB 6.Montgomery S. L., (2002) Science in Translation: Movements of Knowledge Through Cultures and Time, University of Chicago Press, USA 7.Munday J. (2005) Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications, Routledge, GB 8.Munday J. (2007) Style and Ideology in Translation (Routledge Studies in Linguistics), Routledge, GB 9.Nord Ch. (2006) Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application of a Model for Translation-Oriented Text Analysis, Second Edition, Rodopi, the Netherlands 10.The Translation Studies Reader, (2004) edited by L. Venuti, Routledge, GB 11.Venuti L., (2007)The Translator's Invisibility: A History of Translation, Routledge, GB
Course prerequisites	English language skills at level B2 according to CEFR

**Course outline**

Theme	Hours
Introduction: aims and tasks of the course. Philosophy and translation. Linguistic theory of translation.	2
The Classical period. Translation in Ancient Greece and Rome. Concept of equivalence	2
The early Christian period and the Middle Ages. Bible translations. Ecclesiastic literature.	2
The Renaissance. Translation as adaptation and imitation. Translation of Classic works.	2
The German tradition. Martin Luther. The French tradition. The domestic values inscribed and masked in foreign texts.	2
Romanticism. Translation of Classic works. Embellishment of translations.	2
The role of translation in shaping the development of ideas and science, and the spread of knowledge.	2
Translation in Latvia.	2
Evolution of the concept of equivalence. Nida. Newmark. Nord. Toury. Reiss	2
Functional approach. Diversification of text types. Scopus theory. Evolution of target reader oriented translation.	2
Translation and ideology. Translation of fiction, political speeches and films.	2

Translation and semiotics. Verbal and non-verbal texts.	2
Development of machine translation. Corpus linguistics. Term banks. Terminology.	2
Cultural approach: domestication vs. foreignising. Translation in the global environment.	2
Translation and national identity. The relationship between travel and language	2
Translation in the 21 century. New trends and tools. Translation and multilingualism.	2

### ***Learning outcomes and assessment***

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to recognize different translation approaches (philosophic, linguistic, sociolinguistic, literal, technical, semiotic, computer, etc.)	Students study historical and modern translations in historical and scientific perspective. Assessment: participation in lectures and practical classes, essays, reports, exam. Evaluation: mark according 10 grade scale.
Students are able to evaluate critically the scope of translation theories.	Students evaluate diversity of translation theory in connection with historical period and target audience perception of translation. Assessment: participation in lectures and practical classes (seminar), essays, reports, exam. Evaluation: mark according 10 grade scale.
Students are able to recognize the impact of the development of translation theory on the development of society.	Students analyze the impact of translation on communication, skill development, generation of ideas and development of culture awareness. Assessment: participation in lectures and practical classes (seminar), essays, reports, exam. Evaluation: mark according 10 grade scale.
Students are able to summarize reference, scientific, historical literature on translation theory.	Students compile a bibliography of sources on translation theory. Assessment: quality and precision of bibliography.

### ***Study subject structure***

Part	CP	Hours per Week			Tests		
		Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	*		