

Theory and Practice of Translation: The Classics (A004231)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Van Pelt, Julie

LW07

lecturer-in-charge

Verbaal, Wim

LW07

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Translation theory, translation practice, classics, Latin, Greek

Position of the course

This advanced course teaches students how to reflect on the premises of translating as a linguistic and a literary activity. The course teaches how to apply the main ideas of Translation Studies to the field of Classics and to form a well-founded opinion on existing translations. One of the goals of this course is to acquire better proficiency in literary translating.

This course allows students to progress on their learning curves regarding language proficiency (Latin and/or Greek) and literary studies (Latin and/or Greek) because of the central attention for the linguistic and literary analysis of the source text at the start of every translation project or study.

Contents

Capita selecta from theoretical, descriptive, historical and applied Translation Studies, with cases taken from (translations of) ancient literature. Departing from a solid theoretical basis, there is ample attention for practical application. Students translate texts from different genres, from Greek and/or Latin literature (depending on the languages they study). By analyzing existing translations during the seminars, practica and integration seminars they get acquainted with a representative amount of translation output in Dutch. Depending on the combinations of languages they study, examples in French, English and German ... will also be used. Students have to carry out a final individual assessment, where they have to write an introduction to and a translation of a short Greek or Latin text. This also includes writing a statement to describe the intentions behind the translation and evaluating their own work by giving account of their choices in translating.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the following courses or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means:

- Introduction to Modern European Literature
- Ancient Literature in Translation
- (For students with Latin) Latin tradition in Europe
- Latin: language proficiency I and II and/or Ancient Greek: language proficiency I and II
- Latin literature I and/or Ancient Greek literature I

Final competences

- 1 To be aware of the relevance of Translation Studies for the study of the ancient languages and literature, and their reception history in European literature.
- 2 To be able to apply methods of Translation Studies to the (translations of) ancient literary texts.
- 3 To be able to form a well-founded opinion on existing translations, based on a sound analysis of the source text, the public the translation is aimed at, the intentions of the translator and/or his account of his choices.
- 4 To be able to write a report on the research activity worked on individually or in group.
- 5 To have an advanced feeling for different structures of language, registers and literary conventions of source and target language and to be able to make a well-founded choice for one's own translations, taking into account one's target audience and one's intentions in translating.
- 6 To be able to express a well-founded opinion on one's own capacities of translation, based on the public it is aimed at, the personal intentions in translating and by giving account of one's choices.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Practical, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

seminars: theoretical introduction, exercises, carrying out and discussing individual and group assignments.

integration seminars: (guided) discussions, short assignments, exercises.

self-reliant study activities: preparation work, individual and group assignments.

Practicum: skillslab (translation skills)

Project: individual assesment

Study material

None

References

Complementary reading list will be made available on Ufora

Course content-related study coaching

Class and/or individual feedback for all assignments. Possibility of individual supervision and feedback by appointment and via Ufora (preferably not via e-mail).

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

The individual portfolio (individual assignments, group assignment, preparation work, processing of the seminars, peer evaluation) and the individual project (= final assesment) (essay, translation and presentation of the translation).

For each of these forms of evaluation counts that the sound knowledge and mastery of the central languages (Latin and/or Greek and Dutch) are taken into account during the evaluation.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% not bound to exam periods,

Portfolio: 50% (individual assignments, and group assignment, processing of the seminars, preparation work, mastery of the central languages)

Project: 50% (essay, translation, presentation of the translation, mastery of the central languages)

The student who does not participate in or does not succeed for any part of the non-periodical evaluation will fail this course. An average score of 10 or more out of 20 will in this case automatically be reduced to 9.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance through replacement tasks.
- 2 Possible rescheduling of feedback-examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 3 Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours

Extra information:

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy