

SPAN 315 Introduction to Translation

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

World Languages and Cultures

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as it relates to how the course is administered.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of traditional and innovative strategies for written and sight translation of different kinds of texts and basic concepts of translation theory. Interpretation and analysis focus on texts dealing with contemporary topics.

This course will adopt a workshop, hands-on approach to teaching the art of translation. Main focus is on Spanish to English translation although we will also practice English to Spanish translation. We will be translating different types of nonfiction texts including, but not limited to: newspaper and magazine articles, essays, speeches, excerpts from books, and blog posts. We will pay special consideration to how issues of register, regional usage, context (of both the production of the “original” and the reception of the translation) and other factors affect the evaluation of translation quality.

Course Prerequisite(s):

SPAN 302.

Program Competencies

Students (non-native and native speakers) will develop thorough linguistic proficiency in combination with analytical and critical skills that will allow them to function effectively in multiple interlingual, cross-cultural contexts. Translation plays a key role in the development of these skills as it fosters a deep understanding of other cultures and languages adopting a comparative approach.

Course Competencies

In this course, students will:

- Learn methods and techniques for producing accurate idiomatic translations.
- Develop techniques to determine the meanings of words, recognize false cognates, and find solutions for other common lexical errors.
- Gain familiarity with advanced or specific grammar structures and their translation to the English language.

- Contextualize texts by studying cultural and technical approaches to translation.

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives

Successful completion of this course will enable students to:

- Be able to translate a variety of types of texts on an interdisciplinary set of topics.
- Be able to perform live translations.
- Have greatly improved their writing skills in both Spanish and English, focusing on style, language usage and vocabulary.
- Learn about current events in the Spanish-speaking world.

Required Text

All materials will be available on Canvas.

Evaluation Methods

Participation	20%
Exams (2)	20%
Translation Assignments (2)	25%
Homework	20%
Final Project	15%

Participation

(Near) Perfect class attendance is a minimum requirement. Your active and engaged participation in the class is essential to your success in the course. The members of the workshop will carefully read, discuss, comment upon, praise (there is always something to be praised), critique (constructively, always), ask questions and make suggestions about the work of fellow participants. In addition to the workshop portion of the course, we will have discussions (in Spanish) on the topics in order to understand more in depth the current events of the Spanish-speaking world. You will be assigned a grade twice during the semester for your participation which will include in-class assignments, arriving prepared and active engagement in discussions and activities.

Exams

There will be two exams during the semester. Exams will include material from class and homework assignments, as well as new texts featuring similar content or grammatical structures.

Translation assignments

These two assignments consist of translation exercises which will be graded on the basis of effort and basic accuracy. (That is... Are you getting the grammar right? Are you working through more than one version?) **Your translations should show evidence of *process*.** To this end, I will ask you to comment on the decisions you are making as you work: why did you decide to chop or rearrange a particular sentence? What meanings do you feel are excluded as you choose a particular word over another? Have you hesitated about the register you are using? If you are undecided about how to translate a word, jot down all the possibilities. Make notes to yourself about difficulties you encountered, alternate grammatical structures you may have considered employing and the references you have consulted trying to solve a particular problem. Write down questions you would like to have discussed in class. Not only does this help me to help you, it will also help you become a more thoughtful translator. Bring your first draft to class and be ready to share your translation with your classmates. I will review your draft and make comments and you will have to submit a final version a week after receiving my corrections. When I have marked corrections in your work, marked errors that go uncorrected in the final version will count double—or more.

Homework

In order to practice for the exams and translation assignments, you will have to complete other activities in class or at home. These activities will be short translations of texts or sentences that we will discuss in class. I will grade them as complete or incomplete at the beginning of the class and no submission will be necessary.

Final project

Your work this semester will build towards a substantial and challenging translation project. You will have two options provided by the instructor and you will choose one to translate. Submitting a draft is optional, but you will have to turn in the final version by the deadline (please, see calendar).

How your homework, assignments, and exams will be graded:

Process: Because this course values the process by which translation decisions are made, homework assignments must include substantive notes and observations about your work. Assignments which lack the proper annotation and documentation of your work are not acceptable and will be returned unmarked and recorded as a zero.

Accuracy: The worst mistake a professional translator can commit is to introduce errors of fact into a document. Be especially attentive to proper names, quantities, units of measurement, dates, sequencing of events and the like. Likewise, proper spelling, punctuation and grammar are minimum requirements for a translator. Careless errors will quickly lower your grade on an assignment.

Style: A good translation should sound natural, not stilted and artificial. As the semester progresses the expectations in this regard will increase.

Research: When translating a text you must do background research on people, places and events that you have never heard of. If you do not fully understand the contents of the text, it will

show in the translation. In addition to learning how to translate, one of the main objectives of the class is to learn about current events in Latin America and Spain.

Attendance Policy and Make-up Work

Your instructor will keep a record of attendance for every class. If you are in a 3 credit class and you miss more than three days, your final overall grade will drop 2 points per absence. If you are absent due to a school-sponsored activity (debate team, sports teams, etc.), you may make up any missed work. In any case, please be aware that excessive excused absences like these might affect your grade negatively because you will miss too much important content to have a good grade in this class.

If you need to miss class, please notify your instructor about this need with any details you can provide so your instructor can give you the best recommendation. It is your obligation to contact your professor or a classmate to know what you missed.

Make-up work: If due to an absence you do not submit an assignment on time, no make up work or extension will be allowed unless that absence is excused. You need to notify your instructor *before* the submission of the assignment. So please, if you know that you will not be able to submit an assignment on time due to specific circumstances, notify your instructor before the deadline. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The first late homework will be deducted 50% and subsequent late homework will not be accepted.

Tardiness: Be respectful of your classmates and your instructor – be on time to class. Three (3) late arrivals or early departures will be counted as (1) absence.

Grading Scale

A	95 – 100
A-	90 – 94
B+	87 – 89
B	84 – 86
B-	80 – 83
C+	77 – 79
C	74 – 76
C-	70 – 73
D+	67 – 69
D	64 – 66
D-	60 – 63
F	00 - 59

University Policies

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are currently optional for all faculty and students in the classroom.

Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements), <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf), https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor.

Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established

requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are subject to the Nevada System of Higher Education's Records Retention Policy, meaning that the recordings can only be deleted 120 days after the end of class (i.e., after grades are posted). Once this requirement is met, the recordings should be deleted. Class recordings are protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of “I” (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student’s control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one

calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of “F” will be recorded, and the student’s GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the [Libraries’ Research Consultation](https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian) website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also [ask the library staff](https://ask.library.unlv.edu/) questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork – General Policy

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Classwork policy, under Registration Policies, on the [Academic Policies](https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=10666) webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=39&navoid=10666>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student submits official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a “Drop one” option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the

Faculty Senate's policy, and an infringement on the student's right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Title IX

UNLV is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of unlawful discrimination including sexual and gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence like sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has experienced or is experiencing these types of behaviors, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available. To learn more or to report an incident, please visit the [Office of Equal Employment and Title IX website](https://www.unlv.edu/compliance) at <https://www.unlv.edu/compliance>. Please be aware that as an instructor, I am not a confidential resource, and I will need to report incidents of sexual misconduct to UNLV's Title IX Coordinator. You can also report concerns directly using the [online reporting form](#), at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofNevadaLasVegas&layout_id=18, or [via email](mailto:titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu) at titleixcoordinator@unlv.edu or 702-895-4055. For confidential support in matters of sexual violence, relationship/family violence, or stalking, contact [the Care Center](#) at <https://www.unlv.edu/carecenter> or 702-895- 0602.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC

programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the

[Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3–301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

988 FREE 24/7 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

In addition to campus resources such as the [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](https://www.unlv.edu/caps) website at <https://www.unlv.edu/caps>, visiting the [YOU@UNLV website](https://you.unlv.edu/) at <https://you.unlv.edu/>, and [Early Alert](https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/academy/early-alert) (for graduate students, at <https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/academy/early-alert>), you may now **call or text 988** or **chat at 988lifeline.org** if you or someone you know is in crisis and in need of support.

Diversity Statement

As an institution of higher learning, UNLV represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students, and is committed to aspiring to maintain a Campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the University supports understanding and appreciation of all members of its community, regardless of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, or political affiliation. Please see [University Statements and Compliance](https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance), <https://www.unlv.edu/about/statements-compliance>.

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect and trust between the students and the instructor. Accordingly, the instructor asks that students be willing to listen to one another's points of view, acknowledging that there may be disagreements, keep discussion and comments on topic, and use first person, positive language when expressing their perspectives.

UNLV Land Acknowledgement

UNLV is situated on the traditional homelands of Indigenous groups, including the Nuwu or Nuwuvi, Southern Paiute People, descendants of the Tudu, or Desert People. We honor and offer gratitude for those who have stewarded the land; for the land itself; and for the opportunity to cultivate a thriving, diverse, inclusive, and just scholarly community here today that works for a better tomorrow for all.

Schedule

Week 1

Tuesday Aug. 30

- Introduction to the course
- Questionnaire
- What is translation?
- Homework for next day: Read Rabassa: “No two snowflakes are alike: Translation as Metaphor”

Thursday Sept. 1

- Translation essentials: Research, investigation and fact checking
- Homework for next day: Activity 1 (*find resources*)

Week 2

Tuesday Sept. 6

- Translation strategies: Cultural transposition
- Homework for next day: Dossier 1

Thursday Sept. 8

- Review of dossier 1 in class

Week 3

Tuesday Sept. 13

- Translation strategies: Grammatical transposition
- Homework for next day:
 - Dossier 2
 - Activity 2 (*short translation*)

Thursday Sept. 15

- Review of dossier 2 and activity 2 in class
- “What do you know about this topic?”

Week 4

Tuesday Sept. 20

- Turn in draft of translation assignment 1
- Discussion about translation assignment 1
- Homework for next day: Activity 3 (*the reader*)

Thursday Sept. 22

- Translation in class: Manolito Gafotas
- Homework for next day: Activity 4 (*Manolito Gafotas or Mimi*)

Week 5

Tuesday Sept. 27

- Review of activity 4 in class
- Translation strategies: Grammatical transposition
- Homework for next day: Activity 5 (*short translation*)

Thursday Sept. 29

- Review of activity 5

Week 6

Tuesday Oct. 4

- Final version of translation assignment 1
- Discussion about the final version of translation assignment 1
- Homework for next day: Activity 6 (*translation loss and gain*)

Thursday Oct. 6

- Review of activity 6
- Comparing two translations

Week 7

Tuesday Oct. 11

- Comparing two translations
- Back-and-forth translation

Thursday Oct. 13

- Exam 1 review and practice

Week 8 Midterm

Tuesday Oct. 18

- Exam 1

Thursday Oct. 20

- Translation, adaptation, localization
- Homework for next day: Activity 7 (*localization*)

Week 9

Tuesday Oct. 25

- Review of activity 7

Thursday Oct. 25

- Colloquialisms and sayings: *Siete apellidos vascos*
- Homework for next day: Activity 8 (*identifying cultural references*)

Week 10

Tuesday Nov. 1

- Review of activity 8

Thursday Nov. 3

- “What do you know about this topic?”

Week 11

Tuesday Nov. 8

- Draft of translation assignment 2
- Discussion and proofreading of a classmate’s work

Thursday Nov. 10

- Revise your translation: Strategies and techniques

Week 12

Tuesday Nov. 15

- Revise your translation: Strategies and techniques
- Homework for next day: Activity 9 (*Revision*)

Thursday Nov. 17

- Review of activity 9

Week 13

Tuesday Nov. 22

- Final version of translation assignment 2
- TBD

Thursday Nov. 24 (no class)

Week 14

Tuesday Nov. 29

- Exam 2 review

Thursday Dec. 1

- Exam 2

Week 15

Tuesday Dec. 6

- In-class work for final project

Thursday Dec. 8

- In-class work for final project

Final project due on December 15.