

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2021-2022 SPAN 405: A1  
Exercises in Translation: Spanish to English  
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Ann De León  
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Course Website: e-class

Time: Tu, Th 11:00AM-12:320PM  
Place: ED 177  
Office Hours: F 1-2PM online (sign up on eclass),  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>



Florentine Codex Depicting Dona Marina (Mallintzin), Female Indigenous Mexica Interpreter for Spanish Conquistador Cortez.

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**Course Prerequisite:** \*3 at the 300-level numbered above 306 (excluding SPAN 330 or SPAN 360) or consent of the department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Technology requirements (minimum):** You must have access to a device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or cellphone to access e-class. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Experiential Learning Component**

√ No

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

√ No, not needed

### **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

### **Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

Through a combination of translation theory and practical translation workshops, students in this course will explore some of the major challenges of translating a variety of text types from Spanish into English and they will develop practical strategies for addressing these challenges. Students will also read and think critically about some important Hispanic translators and theories of translation. As a final project, students will have the opportunity to either translate a literary text (750-1000 words) from Spanish into English or they can comment on and analyze the successes and limitations of an already existing literary translation. The course will for obvious reasons be conducted both in Spanish and English, given that the source texts to be translated are originally in Spanish and the final translations or target texts will be produced in English.

**Themes:** The themes covered in the course are very broad and will give students a panoramic overview on different types of translations ranging from literary translation, cultural and consumer-oriented translation etc. Texts to be looked at will range from poems, manuals, movies, advertisements, comic books, official documents etc.

### **Learning outcomes:**

*By the end of this course, students will be able to:*

- \*Define some basic terminology used in translation studies.
- \*Reflect on translation not only as the creation of an end product, but also as an intensive process.
- \*Recognize different types of translations and text-specific techniques employed.
- \*Identify the genre, the intended audience, and the linguistic characteristics of a text type and how to make informed decisions as to your translation approach.
- \*Critically comment on translation ideas and theories presented in various readings.
- \*Describe translation issues relevant to consumer-oriented texts, diverse cultural contexts, and challenges posed by various dialects.
- \*Assess the merits and shortcomings of different translations of a text.
- \*Use dictionaries and other online translation resources thoughtfully to determine context appropriate translations.
- \*Produce adequate translations of short texts and justify their translation choices.
- \*Produce an original translation from English into Spanish of a literary text; or thoughtfully comment on the successes and limitations of an already existing literary translation from English into Spanish.

\*This course counts towards the MLCS Major/Minor: <https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students/index.html>

\*This course counts towards the MLCS Certificate in Translation Studies: <https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/translation-studies.html>

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned through a combination of lectures, readings, workshopping translations of different text types, guest presentations, and audiovisual materials.

**Texts:**

All readings, class notes, and assignments will be provided through e-class.

\*Students though are encouraged to purchase any economically priced bilingual English-Spanish Dictionary and bring it to class especially given that the Midterm exam will require its use as no electronic devices or online translation resources will be allowed during this exam. Students can of course bring a personal electronic device (laptop/ipad/smartphone) to access online monolingual and bilingual dictionaries during regular class day assignments.

**Additional Course Fees**

√ No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date (if applicable): N/A

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

<i>Participation:</i>	15% (ongoing)
<i>3 Translation theory e-posts @ 5% each:</i>	15% (Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 23)
<i>6 Homework assignments @ 2.5% each:</i>	15% (Sept 9, Oct 4, 11, 25, Nov 17, 29)
<i>Midterm Exam:</i>	25% (Nov 4)
<i>Final Project:</i>	30% (Dec 16)

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

*Notes:*

*\*All class assignments will be submitted through e-class by the due dates (unless noted otherwise). In case of any unforeseen technological issues with e-class, you may email the instructor your assignment by the due date explaining why it was not possible for you to submit the work via e-class.*

*\*\* In light of the ongoing pandemic and to ensure your safety and that of everyone on campus, it is imperative that you carry out the daily University of Alberta “Check In” and “Check Out” forms <https://here.ualberta.ca/> (for purposes of contact tracing) as well as the Government of Alberta Health Daily Covid-19 Screening Checklist: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-alberta-health-daily-checklist>. If you are feeling unwell or experience any of the symptoms outlined in the checklist, it is imperative that you stay at home, test for Covid-19, isolate if positive, and follow guidelines as directed by the University of Alberta and Alberta Health. In the case that you have tested positive for Covid-19 it is important that you isolate, inform your course instructors, and follow Alberta Health Guidelines.*

**Participation (15%):** Will be factored through attendance and thoughtful participation. Attendance will be documented the first 5 minutes of class via a sign-up sheet as you enter the classroom. Thoughtful participation means actively and respectfully engaging in class discussion on the topic at hand, evidencing thoughtful reading of the texts, and completion of translation assignments.

**Three Translation theory e-posts (total 15%) @ 5% each** due on (Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 23): Students will be asked to submit three e-posts throughout the semester reflecting on a reading on translation theory. Each e-post will be (200-300 words in length) and must identify at least two key ideas that stood out from the text.

**6 Homework assignments @ 2.5% each (total 15%)** due on (Sept 9, Oct 4, 11, 25, Nov 17, 29): Throughout the semester students will have low-stakes homework assignments consisting of translating brief sections of different text types which will be workshopped in class.

**Midterm Exam (25%)** on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>: Will be in class and will consist of short and long-answer questions on translation terms, theories, and concepts covered up to that point and will require students to carry out translations of short texts. A midterm review will take place in class on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Only hard-copy dictionaries will be allowed in class for that day.

**Final Project (30%)** due on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>: As a final project, students will have the opportunity to either translate a literary text (750-1000 words) from Spanish into English (that has not been translated before) or they can comment on and analyze the successes

and limitations of an already existing literary translation from Spanish into English. Guidelines will be provided in e-class.

**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 [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) 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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

**In this course**, attendance and participation in discussions are an important part of the course and counts 15% of the final grade. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions by having thoughtfully completed their readings and assignments for that day. In the case of an unforeseen emergency, students may request an excused absence within two working days through email.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**

All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult *in advance* with the 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 without penalty. Should a student be given an extension for a late assignment but fail to abide by the new deadline, no further extension will be granted and the student will receive a zero for that assignment. In case of an emergency which has impeded the student from submitting an assignment by the deadline, an email should be sent to the instructor within 48 hours of the due date explaining the situation. Unless supported by substantial reasons, a grade of zero will be assigned to any work not submitted on time.

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:**

***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](#) and avoid any behaviour that 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

***Language and Translation Courses:***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation resources to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour](#).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, 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. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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).

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[The Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

### **Learning and working environment:**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

### **Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components **may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades**. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<p><b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations.</p>	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>95-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>90-94</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>86-89</b>
<p><b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>82-85</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>75-81</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>70-74</b>
<p><b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>66-69</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>61-65</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>58-60</b>
<p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>55-57</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>50-54</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-49</b>

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