

TRAN 101 – 04  
Introduction to Translation  
3:30 MW  
Science Building /Room B 111

Instructor: Mortaza Mollaei  
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Office Hours: MW 12:30-3:30  
or by prior appointment

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### **The University Mission Statement**

The American University of Kuwait is a liberal arts institution, based on the American model of higher education. It is dedicated to providing students with knowledge, self-awareness, and personal growth experiences that can enhance critical thinking, effective communication, and respect for diversity. AUK seeks to create leaders and life-long learners who aspire to the highest standards of moral and ethical responsibility in their societies.

#### **Catalog Course Description:**

The course aims at providing students with a clear picture of translation practice. They would be aware of some of translation approaches. In addition to the emphasis on some of the theories, students would be encouraged to apply modern translation theories on actual translation texts. The language of instruction will be both Arabic and English. Intensive practice in the translation of short texts in various fields from English into Arabic and Arabic into English will be carried out. Main emphasis will be given to the application of translation theory. The course also aims at providing students with insights to Source Language and Target Language texts. A textbook which contains this information is chosen for this course. Moreover, the course aims at improving students' proficiency in English, to allow them to translate from English into Arabic and vice versa. Students compare and contrast the grammatical structures of languages, seeking patterns and contradictions. Students carry out various classroom translation exercises, gaining experience in practical translation. Throughout this course, students also build their knowledge of technical English and Arabic vocabulary, phrases and sentences.

#### **Course Objectives**

The objective of the course is to educate the students about different theoretical approaches which discuss the field of translation as a science more than just a practice. They would be able to apply these theories on actual translation texts. Moreover, the course aims at improving the knowledge of English and Arabic through translation studies using excerpts of different documents (legal, scientific, medical, technical...) as well as newspaper articles and the like.

Approach: Using a good text book that tackles the issue of translation theories, students will be asked to apply these theories on translation texts. In addition using a good bilingual dictionary, students will be assigned translation tasks in English and in Arabic alternatively, which they will prepare at home, for correction in class. Elements of methodology of translation will also be taught through these practical activities.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to

- 1 – Be able to translate English texts into Standard Arabic.
- 2 – Be able to translate Arabic texts into English with ease.
- 3 – Carry out consecutive translation from English to Arabic and vice versa.

**Textbooks:** 1 – English – Arabic/Arabic English Translation:A Practical Guide – Basil Hatim  
2 – In Other Words : Mona Baker

Additional Resources: A Good English – Arabic / Arabic English Dictionary

The books are available in the AUK Bookstore. Course materials will be made available in the class.

## Methods of Assessment

### Attendance:

#### Note: new class attendance policy:

"The American University of Kuwait recognizes that class attendance is an important element of students' classroom success. Students are expected to attend all classes, laboratories, and/or required fieldwork. Because excessive absences prevent students from receiving full course benefit, and disrupt orderly course progress, AUK has established the following policy on class attendance:

Any student who misses MORE THAN 15% of the class sessions of any course during a semester should expect to fail, unless s/he submits documented evidence to the course instructor of inpatient medical care, death of an immediate family member, academic instructional activities, or national athletic activities. If excused, students are required to satisfy all coursework due or assigned during their absences, as determined by the course instructor. If a student does not submit documented evidence for her/his absences exceeding the limit, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the specified deadline, as indicated on the Academic Calendar. Students who withdraw from a course receive a grade of "W." Students who do not withdraw from a course nor submit supporting documents for excessive absences will receive a grade of "FN" (failure for non-attendance)."

If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, you are marked absent.

You should come to class carrying your notebooks and pens

Participation and homework 20%

Late homework will not be accepted. Homework should be typed

Chapter quizzes 20%

Midterm 20%

Covers both textbook materials and translation of excerpts

Final 40%

Covers materials studied and translation of excerpts

Make-up exams may only be taken with prior permission from the instructor.

Cheating on a quiz/exam will result in getting a 0. If you help someone during a quiz/exam, both you and that person will receive a 0 for that quiz/exam.

### Miscellaneous

Cell phones must be TURNED OFF before coming into the class.

Students who keep on missing classes should forget about getting excellent or good grades.

Students, who want to leave the class for a reason, should take permission from the instructor.

Wishing you all the best of luck.

**Tests:**

Test information will come from textbook and translation. Tentative Test dates are listed below.

1. Quiz 1 – Wed. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2018
2. Midterm – Wed. Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2018
3. Quiz 2 – Wed. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. 2018

**Tentative Syllabus Outline:**

Week 1& 2 – Add Drop Week - Equivalence at word level – with practical translation practices.

Week 3 (Sep) – The Problem of non-equivalence in different languages with practical translation exercises.

Week 4 (Oct) – Continuation of the problems of non-equivalence. Quiz 1.

Week 5 (Oct) - Equivalence above word level – practical Exercises on the translation of Collocations and Idioms.

Week 6 – Strategies to Overcome Lack of Equivalence – Translation practice

Week 7 (Oct) Exercise and Midterm Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.

Week 8 (Oct) – Grammatical Equivalence and Practical Translation Exercises

Week 9 & 10 (Nov) Comparison of Grammatical Structure and Word Order between Arabic and English – Practical Exercises.

Week 11 (Nov) – Translation of Literary texts

Week 12 – Textual Equivalence – Cohesion – Practical Translation Exercises.

Week 13 (Dec) Reference – Substitution and Lexical Cohesion.

Week 14 (Dec) Exercises and second Quiz Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Week 15 (Dec) Exercises

Week 16 (Dec) – Winter Break.

Week 17 (Jan) New Year Break.

Week 18 (Jan) Final Exams.

## **Student Acknowledgment of Receipt and Understanding of Syllabus**

I \_\_\_\_\_, Student ID \_\_\_\_\_, have received and understood the syllabus for TRANSLATION 101. I agree to abide by the policies stated therein and to accept the consequences if I fail to do so.

Signature

Date