



Course Specification

— (Bachelor)

Course Title: Translation of Legal and Islamic Texts

Course Code: ENG3403

Program: BA in English Language

Department: Department of English

College: College of Social Sciences

Institution: Umm Al-Qura University

Version: 2

Last Revision Date: 2023- 1445



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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: 3

2. Course type

A. University College Department Track Others
B. Required Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: Level 7

4. Course general Description:

This course is bi-planar, involving translating two major types of texts that have several things in common, legal and Islamic texts. As to translating legal texts, the first part of the course, students are introduced to the language of law and features of legal texts in as simple terms as possible. Legal translation is also introduced through the translation and discussion of a variety of principal legal documents such as birth certificates, contracts, treaties, and UN and Security Councils resolutions. In addition, students will be introduced to the specific characteristics of legal documents and the method and procedures of translating them.

Regarding the translation of Islamic texts, the second part of this course, it covers points like the importance of translating Islamic texts into English, especially for Non-Muslim readers; the difficulties of translating from Arabic into English in general, and Islamic texts in particular; the methods and procedures of translating Islamic texts; the characteristic features of religious language; types of Islamic texts (including the Holy Qur'an, the Prophet's Tradition, books of jurisprudence; reference books of Exegesis of the Holy Qur'an, and supplications / prayers), and so on, if and when time allows. It is a translation practice from Arabic into English only, intended to train the students in translating various types of Islamic texts. Special attention is paid to the peculiarities of the Islamic register, concepts and terminology. In short, the contents of this course include the problems of translating Islamic terms and their solutions: translatability of Islamic terms; different types of grammatical, lexical, pragmatic and stylistic equivalence of Islamic texts, understandability of Islamic translation and terminology by readers and procedures of translating Islamic terms and texts in general. Throughout, the whole course is expected to be handled with care and as simply as possible with a minimum of complications to be followed and understood well by students at this stage.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

(ENG2401) Foundations of Translation

6. Co-requirements for this course (if any):

None

7. Course Main Objective(s):





1. Training students how to approach translating legal and Islamic texts.
2. Introducing students to the specific linguistic, stylistic and cultural features of legal and Islamic text and the better translation method to translate them.
3. Encouraging students to attend carefully to the accuracy of legal and Islamic texts and how to deal with them at the different linguistic levels of the Target Language.
4. Indicating the various translation procedures and strategies employed to tackle the problems of translating idiosyncratic legal and Islamic terms and expressions.

2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	3 hours per week	100%

3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	33 hours
2.	Laboratory/Studio	
3.	Field	
4.	Tutorial	
5.	Others: Exams	3 hours
Total		36 hours

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding			
1.1	Identify the basics of translating texts in general, particularly legal and Islamic texts	K4	- Traditional lecturing. - Reading articles. - Seminars	- Quizzes and exams.
1.2	Identify common translation problems and solutions.	K4	- Traditional lecturing. - Reading articles. - Seminars	- Quizzes and exams. - Class discussion.
1.3	Identify the theories and principles of	K4	- Traditional lecturing. - Reading - critical articles.	-Quizzes and exams. - Class discussion. -Online discussion.



Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of CLOs aligned with program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	translation in relation to specific texts.			
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Apply the basics of the practice of translation to assigned texts	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional lecturing. - Class discussion. - Online discussion. - Reading articles. - Seminars. - Interactive workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open-book quizzes. - Analytical exam questions. - Translation assignment - Class discussion.
2.2	Demonstrate research and analytical skills.	S5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional lecturing. - Reading articles. - Research seminars. - Interactive workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translation assignment.
2.3	Use taught solutions to address common translation problems.	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class discussion. - Reading articles. - Interactive workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translation assignment. - Analytical exam questions.
2.4	Use the theories and principles of translation to translate assigned texts.	S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyzing select articles. - Reading articles. - Interactive workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class discussion. - Online discussion. - Translation assignment.
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	Demonstrate ethical behavior in all professional, personal and academic contexts.	V1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional lecturing - Reading scholarly articles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class discussion.
3.2	Generate the spirit of cooperation and community service by reinforcing empathy, open-mindedness and acceptance of other cultures and beliefs.	V2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional lecturing - Class discussion. - Watching documentaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class discussion.

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
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1.	Translating Major Types of Legal Texts: They include: some samples of contracts, applications, notary public, court documents, court proceedings, Declarations, certificates (of death, birth, etc.), promissory notes, civil law documents, religious marriages contracts, martial law documents, civil status certificates, academic certificates, official / formal documents, verdicts, attestations, etc. Problems of translation, solutions and procedures to solve them are focused on throughout.	5
2.	Translating Legal Texts (cont.): Certificates: certificates of conversion to Islam, certificates of legacy, certificates of custody, , certificates of non-liability, certificates of stewardship, certificates of maintenance of legal minors, certificates of divorce, certificates remarriage to divorced wife, certificate of irrecoverable divorce, certificate of guardianship, religious court power of attorney, lawsuits, verdicts, court pleadings, testimonials, witnesses' cross-examinations, etc. Problems of terminology, wording and complex sentence structure are tackled along with suggested solutions to them.	5
3.	Translation of UN and International Documents: some UN and Security Council resolutions, UN Organizations, acronyms and terms in general, etc., difficulties of translating characteristic and complex terminology in particular how to sort them out in translation both ways: Arabic-English-Arabic.	5
4.	Translation of the Language of the Holy Qur'an: Difficulties and problems regarding in particular accuracy of translating meaning, readability of the translation of Islamic texts, intricacies of meaning; multiplicity of interpretation of some verses; lexical and grammatical gaps; polysemy, synonymy, proper names, cultural expressions, cohesion, tense and styles of repetition, circumlocution, frozen formality of Classical Arabic, brevity, ambiguity, rhythmical language, parallelisms, euphemisms, rhetorical questions, generalization, specification, etc.	5
5.	Translation of the Prophet's Tradition: Difficulties of translating the language of the Prophet's sayings and how to sort them out. They include major types of Tradition / Hadith, Traditions of the Five Obligations, traditions of special occasions, traditions of generic reference, old/classical words and expressions, etc. Also, short extracts are picked up from jurisprudence texts with special reference the Prophet's Tradition in general and the Prophet's Biography, side by side with their problems of translations and suggested solutions.	5
6.	Translation of supplications: difficulties including those of terminology, repetitions, parallelisms, rhyme and rhythm, superordinate prayers, specifying supplications, pronoun reference, glorification of God, etc.	5
Total		30

D. Students Assessment Activities

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Midterms or Quizzes:	Week 6	20%





No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The exam should contain at least 10% subjective questions dedicated to measuring the students' ability to analyze and think critically. - Students should be held responsible for language mistakes. A "reasonable" percentage of the grade should be allocated to language and punctuation problems. - A clear rubric should be followed. 		
2.	<p>Analytical essay and/or Creative projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topics, guidelines and deadlines should be specified at the beginning of the course. - Assignments should be marked for structure, punctuation, content and proper citation of sources. - A clear rubric should be followed. 	Week 9	20%
3.	<p>Discussion in class and online:</p> <p>Students should be encouraged to speak up and express their opinion on a variety of topics and issues related to the course.</p>	Weekly	10%
4.	<p>Final:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The exam should contain at least 20% subjective questions dedicated to measuring the students' ability to analyze and think critically. - Students should be held responsible for language mistakes. A "reasonable" percentage of the grade should be allocated to language and punctuation problems. - A clear rubric should be followed. 	Final Exam Period	50%

*Assessment Activities (i.e., Written test, oral test, oral presentation, group project, essay, etc.).

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Essential References

1. El-Farahaty, H. (2015). *Arabic-English-Arabic Legal Translation*. London: Routledge. doi: <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315745893>
2. Ghazala, H. (2021). *A Textbook of Legal Translation: Problems and Solutionss: A Textbook*. Jeddah: Konooz Al-Marifah.
3. Hatim, B., Shunnaq, A., Buckley, R (1995). *The Legal Translator at Work: Arabic-English Legal Translation*. Irbid: Dar Al-Hilal.
4. Al-Harabsheh, A. (2018). *A Practical Course in Legal Translation (English-Arabic-English)*. Irbid: Dar Al-Hilal.
5. Ghazala, H. (2014). *Translating Islamic Texts: A Textbook*. Jeddah: Konooz Al-Marifah.



	6. Elewa, A. (2015). <i>A Textbook of Islamic Translation</i> . Cairo: Qalam and Dar Albayan.
Supportive References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Garzone, G. 1999. "The translation of legal texts: a functional approach in a pragmatic perspective." <i>Textus (Translation Studies Revisited)</i>, XII, 393-409. 2. Gibbons, J. 1994. <i>Language and the Law</i>. New York: Longman. 3. Hatim, B. 1997. <i>English-Arabic and Arabic-English Translation</i>. London: Saqi Books. 4. Different Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Qur'an. 5. Translation(s) of the Prophet's Biography. 6. Translation of Ibn Katheer's Exegesis of the Holy Quran.
Electronic Materials	Updated natural online & electronic legal and Islamic translations of different types and sources to be used in the classroom, taken out from the web and social communication media, including Facebook and X.
Other Learning Materials	1. Computer-Assisted Translation Tools.

2. Required Facilities and equipment

Items	Resources
facilities (Classrooms, laboratories, exhibition rooms, simulation rooms, etc.)	Classrooms
Technology equipment (projector, smart board, software)	Projectors
Other equipment (depending on the nature of the specialty)	NA

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Students	Survey (Indirect)
Effectiveness of Students assessment	Peer Reviewer	Sample of exam papers and Peer review form (Indirect)
Quality of learning resources	Students	Survey (Indirect)
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Course Instructor	Exams and Assignments (Direct)
Other		

Assessors (Students, Faculty, Program Leaders, Peer Reviewer, Others (specify))

Assessment Methods (Direct, Indirect)





G. Specification Approval

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	DEPARTMENT COUNCIL
REFERENCE NO.	424040414453/132022
DATE	07 Rabi-II 1445 – 22 October 2023

