

**University of Jordan
Department of English**

Course Title: Simultaneous Interpreting
Course Number: 1542739

Course Objectives

This course is designed to enable students in the MA Translation Program to perform simultaneous interpreting proper as part of their academic and professional training. Throughout the course, students receive intensive practical training on how to handle spoken discourse adequately for interpreting purposes. This requires familiarity with some standard techniques such as hearing, backward oral and written counting while listening, shadowing, echoing, and reconstruction of oral messages. All course work is conducted in the interpreting lab. The ultimate goal is to help students gain adequate training in simultaneous conference and court interpreting. The course material focuses on both English and Arabic spoken discourse through a good selection of discourse types and forms.

Learning Outcomes

A. Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of the course, students should:

1. know how to simultaneously decode and encode messages orally
2. know how to cope with speakers for purposes of interpreting
3. understand the main concepts of interpreting: the ear-voice-span, echoing, shadowing, anticipation, etc.
4. know and understand how to retrieve spoken messages by rendering meaningful TL equivalents.

B. Intellectual/Cognitive/Analytical skills

By the end of the course, students should:

1. be able to simultaneously interpret spoken messages and texts from English into Arabic and vice versa.
2. be able to maintain the highest degree of competence, accuracy and transparency.

C. Subject Specific Skills

Students should:

1. learn how to work under pressure and stressful conditions.
2. demonstrate full adherence to the code of ethics in the profession of Interpreting.
3. be alert, attentive, and with a good memory span

D. Transferable skills

students should:

1. display good oral presentation skills
2. learn how to develop quick and immediate responses to spoken discourse.

Teaching Methods

1. Lectures: An exposure to the principles and basic concepts of interpreting (learning outcomes A, C and D).
2. A practical application of the techniques, strategies and methods of simultaneous interpreting (all learning outcomes).
3. Intensive drilling and practice through class work and home assignments all learning outcomes)
4. First-hand training and exposure to real situations through attending/participating in live interpreting sessions when available (all learning outcomes).

Course Outline

Week	Topic
1& 2	Introduction: Theoretical background: basic concepts, strategies and methods to interpreting
3-15	Practical training and exercising in the interpreting lab: miscellaneous activities of practical nature in simultaneous interpreting.

Textbook

Given that the course is practical in nature, there will be no prescribed textbook for the course. However, a good number of articles will be made available to students for establishing the theoretical background required.

References

Mikkelson, Holly. *Introduction to Court Interpreting*. Manchester: St. Gerome Publishing, 2000.

Reference to recent articles through the web will also be activated when needed.

Assessment

Midterm	30%	Monday, May 14, 2001
Class work and assignments	30%	
Final Exam	40%	Monday, May 14, 2001