

Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are:

1. To investigate the most effective translation strategies in the field of legal translation.
2. To master the use of idiomatic English and terminology pertaining to legal language.
3. To examine a variety of legal texts and terms relating to domestic and international law. The former will include contracts, civil status, personal status, tort, promissory notes, powers of attorney, notary public transactions, certificates and the like. The latter will focus on selected aspects of international charters and statutes governing international organizations.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Subject-Specific Skills:

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Translate a variety of legal texts from Arabic into idiomatic English.
2. Observe the style, format and presentation of legal discourse.
3. Use a range of strategies to overcome translation difficulties in the legal field.

Core Academic Skills:

At the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired the skills required to do the necessary research on which any good piece of specialized translation is constructed.

Personal and Key Skills:

At the end of the course, students are expected to know:

1. How to approach a piece of translation in terms of comprehension, analysis into components, decisions on key issues (including terminology) and delivery.
2. How to put the English translation into an organic whole, observing cohesion, coherence, paragraphing, emphasis, linking devices and other organizational aspects.
3. How to apply their acquired knowledge to translation projects on the ground.
4. How to effect a linkage between theories of translation and practical application.

Learning/Teaching Methods:

Introductory lecture; analysis and criticism of translated texts gleaned from the textbook; individual student translations (with group participation); discussion, further analysis and feedback. Major learning tools will be the Internet, bilingual and monolingual dictionaries, thesaurus-based investigation, and extensive readings in English of legal texts.

Assignments:

In the first part of the course, students are assigned segments gleaned from the textbook for study, analysis, comment and discussion. In the second part, pieces are assigned for translation from Arabic into English. These will be based on issues pertaining to international law, charters and organizations. A term paper will be written involving

extensive translation combined with research on problems encountered in the translation process. Comparison will be made with Arabic legal discourse.

Assessment:

First test:	30%
Term paper:	20%
Class participation:	10%
Final examination:	40%

Syllabus Plan:

Week	Topic	Hours
1.	Introduction; course content; methodology; learning methods; approaches to discussion and presentation.	3
2-7.	Analysis, comment and group discussion pertaining to translation issues in domestic law based on the textbook at the rate of ten to twelve texts per session.	18
8.	Test	3
9-14.	Discussion, analysis and strategy-building in connection with up to three major pieces per session on international law, charters and organizations.	18
15.	Round-up; strategy analysis; discussion of term papers.	3
16.	Final examination.	3

Indicative Basic Reading List

Textbook: Hatim, Basil, Abdullah Shunnaq and Ron Buckley (1995). *The Legal Translator at Work: Arabic-English Legal Translation*. Dar Al-Hilal For Translation and Publishing.
Any Arabic-English dictionary of legal terminology, with emphasis on variety.
Any monolingual English dictionary, again with emphasis on variety.
Translation texts selected from a variety of legal texts which meet the course objectives.

Reference will be made to standard works, theses and articles according to need, although theory will take second place to the acquisition of the craft of legal translation. Bilingual dictionaries should be used with caution, as will be regularly demonstrated during the course. A thesaurus, even one of a general nature, will be helpful at certain critical junctures.

Suggested Readings (recent works):

1. Adler, Mark (2nd ed.) (2006). *Clarity for Lawyers: Effective Legal Writing*. London: The Law Society.
2. Alcaraz, E. and B. Hughes (2002). *Legal Translation Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
3. Asensio, Roberto (2003). *Translating Official Documents*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
4. Butt, P. and R. Castle (2006). *Modern Legal Drafting: A Guide to Using Clearer Language*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
5. Garner, Brian (2001). *Legal Writing in Plain English: A Text with Exercises*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
6. Sarcevic, Susan. (2000). *New Approach to Legal Translation*. The Hague: Kluwer Law International.