

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 607-01 (Topic 02)

Winter 2013

**Cultural Translation and Spaces of Postcolonial Resistance**

Instructor: Dr. Shaobo Xie  
Class time: Monday 9:30-12: 15  
Location: SS 1015  
Office: SS 1012  
Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment  
Telephone: 220-5478  
Email: [sxie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sxie@ucalgary.ca)

**Course Description**

Judith Butler points out in “Restaging the Universal” that cultural translation is both a theory and practice of political responsibility. According to Butler as well as Spivak and Bhabha, cultural translation designates the method and process of articulating culture-specific universality, creating spaces of postcolonial resistance. As such cultural hybridity or in-betweenness constitutes the most performative site of cultural translation. It is in this sense that cultural translation exposes the limits of what the dominant discourse or ideology can handle. In this course, students will make a systematic inquiry into the role of cultural translation and its contestatory performativity. The seminar readings and discussions will be structured along the following questions: In what senses does translation open up new possibilities of decolonization? How does cultural translation contribute to articulating culture-specific universality and promoting respect for cultural/ethnic/racial Otherness? How is the resistance of the cultural translator enacted in imaginative literature? How does the study of cultural translation broaden our critical perspectives and enrich our understanding of literature?

**Critical texts**

Susan Bassnett, “The Translation Turn in Cultural Studies”  
Etienne Balibar, “Ambiguous University”  
Benjamin, Walter, “The Task of the Translator”  
Homi Bhabha, *The Location of Culture*  
Butler, Judith, “Restaging the Universal,” *Contingency, Hegemony, Universality*  
Butler, “Competing Universalities,” *Contingency, Hegemony, Universality*  
De Man, Paul, “‘Conclusion’: Walter Benjamin’s ‘The Task of the Translator’”  
Jacques Derrida, “What Is a ‘Relevant’ Translation?”  
Roman Jakobson, “On Linguistic Aspects of Translation”  
Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, “Translation as Culture”  
Spivak, “The Politics of Translation”

**Literary texts**

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
Thomas Green, *Green Grass, Running Water*

Maxine Hong Kingston, *Woman Warrior*  
Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*  
Salman Rushdie, *The Satanic Verses*

Some of the required readings are journal articles and some are available in MacKimmie Library's Reserve Collection.

### Assignments

Review essay	25%
Seminar presentation (Written version due one week after presentation)	25%
Critical essay	40%
Participation	10%

**There is no Registrar scheduled exam in this course.**

Each student will make a seminar presentation. The written assignments will be a review essay of 1500 words and a research paper of 5000 words.

Except in cases of illness or crisis, late papers will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day (i.e., a B paper handed in a day late will receive a B-; a B paper handed in two days late will receive a C+).

### Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	90+%	4.0
A	85-89%	4.0
A-	80-84%	3.7
B+	77-79%	3.3
B	74-76%	3.0
B-	70-73%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

### Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/graduate>.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:****Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Barbara Howe at 403 220 5484 or visit her in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact Barbara Howe at [howe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:howe@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Graduate Program Director.

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that "mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision."

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints;>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Contact for the Graduate Student Association:** <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.