

**Department of Romance Languages**

Hunter College-CUNY

Winter 2025

***Audiovisual Translation***

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00 am - 1:00 pm / 4:00 pm- 5:45 pm

Friday 10:00 – 12:00 pm



Professor: Rafael Fernández  
Office hours by appointment / HW 1323

Telephone: (212) 772-5134  
Email: rfe0007@hunter.cuny.edu

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This *introductory course* on "Audiovisual Translation" (AVT) provides students with a comprehensive overview of the field, exploring the basics of translating visual content across various platforms. From subtitling and dubbing to localizing comics, films, TV series, documentaries, mobile applications, video games, web pages, and emerging media, students will gain a broad understanding of the AVT landscape.

This course will allow students to learn about the fundamentals of audiovisual translation (AVT) and its applied practice. It aims to familiarize students with the key concepts of audiovisual translation and provide insight into its practical applications, setting the stage for further exploration in this dynamic field.

Throughout the duration of this course, participants will delve into the historical context, inherent challenges, and specific techniques associated with subtitle and dubbing translation. They will investigate the impact of linguistic variations, censorship constraints, and technological progress on the decision-making processes of translators. A particular focus will be placed on understanding the intricate interplay between culture, language, and visual presentation.

The course aims to introduce students to the main modalities of Audiovisual Translation (AVT), equipping them with essential tools, strategies, and best practices. The format includes a blend of theoretical lectures, practical workshops, and screening sessions. The course will meet from Monday to Thursday, spanning a total of 45 hours. Sessions will be scheduled from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. On days designated for midterm and final exams, classes will be 2 hours each.

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Prerequisite: SPAN 202 or SPAN 208

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and intricacies of audiovisual translation (AVT) in the context of global content consumption through immersion in course materials.
- 2) Students will analyze various case studies, participate in screening sessions, and examine translated content to better understand the nuances of cultural, linguistic, and technological aspects in AVT.
- 3) Students will develop critical thinking skills by composing assessments and evaluations of real-world examples of subtitled and dubbed translations, highlighting both successful practices and areas for improvement.
- 4) Students will acquire introductory practical skills by engaging with industry-standard software tools and platforms, gaining initial hands-on experience in producing basic subtitles, simple dubbing scripts, and other fundamental AVT modalities. This introductory exposure will provide a foundation for understanding the contemporary translation industry, preparing students for further learning and development in the field.

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### **GRADING**

Participation.....	20%
Oral presentation.....	20%
Midterm.....	20%
Final Exam.....	20%
Final Project.....	20%

## **PARTICIPATION**

Regular attendance in all classes is mandatory and anticipated. Any absences without a valid reason will result in penalties. For fruitful class interactions, it's imperative that students come prepared, having fully completed the assigned readings and tasks. Once a session commences, students are advised not to leave the classroom. A brief ten-minute intermission will be provided approximately halfway through each class.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Students are expected to turn in your work and read through it by the due date, as indicated in the course calendar below. In instances of excused absences, all tasks should be submitted before the subsequent class session.

## **MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAM**

For the audiovisual translation course, the midterm and final assessments may encompass a mix of the following formats: brief definitional responses, analysis of translated clips, identification and critical commentary on subtitled or dubbed passages, along with short and extensive essay prompts. Both examinations will cover all material presented throughout the course. It is compulsory for all students to undertake the final examination.

## **COURSE FINAL PROJECT**

For this introductory audiovisual translation course, students will complete the following:

- A video presentation of 5 - 8 minutes in length.
- The video should analyze a specific aspect of audiovisual translation, demonstrating the concepts learned in the course.
- A brief written summary (1-2 pages) of the video content, including references in MLA Style, must accompany the video submission.
- Students are required to discuss their project topic and approach with the instructor prior to beginning.

Deadline for submission: Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

For the audiovisual translation course, your assignment involves crafting an eight to ten-page analysis paper, referenced following the MLA Style guidelines. Students are advised to discuss their project specifics with the instructor. Deadline: xxxxxxxx

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Hunter College and CUNY have expressed a firm commitment to maintaining access for people with disabilities. Sometimes this necessitates special test taking procedures or other accommodations for students. If any such students have registered for this course, the Office for Access and Accommodation will send me a memo identifying the accommodation you require. This information will remain confidential and I will only discuss these issues in private. If you need further information please call the Office for Access and Accommodation at 212-772-4891 or visit their website at

*<http://studentservices.hunter.cuny.edu/DisabilitiesOffice.html>*

**ACADEMIC HONESTY-PLAGIARISM-CHEATING**

“Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The college is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.”

“Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgement of the source is plagiarism. It is, in fact, intellectual theft. Serious students, scholars, and teachers agree that they cannot tolerate plagiarism. It is not, of course, plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others if the source is clearly and specifically acknowledge. Plagiarism will result in disciplinary proceedings. A more detailed explanation of plagiarism and the accepted procedures for acknowledging sources is available from the Department of English or the Office of the Hunter College Senate” (Undergraduate Catalog, p. 49).

**GRADING SYSTEM**

A+	100-97.5%	C+	79.9-77.5%
A	97.4-92.5%	C	77.4-70%
A-	92.4-90%	B+	89.9-87.5%
B	87.4-82.5%	D	66-63%
B-	82.4-80%	F	59-0%

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\*Syllabus may be subject to changes

**TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Arrival at Gran Canaria Airport. Get settled at the Hotel / Airbnb

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Historic Tour of Vegueta** the oldest quarter of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This charming neighborhood, founded in the late 15th century, offers a captivating glimpse into the island's rich past and cultural heritage. This historic tour offers a fascinating and enriching experience. Trip to the **Museo Canario**. The permanent exhibition on display at the Canarian Museum is devoted solely to the aboriginal population of Gran Canaria, the canarios. The exhibition explains the way of life of this human group of berber origin who inhabited the islands from the second half of the first millennium BC to the 15th century, when the conquest and colonization by the Crown of Castile took place.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday 6<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Día de Reyes Magos (Three Kings' Day) in Gran Canaria, Spain**

This celebration is a significant holiday that marks the end of the Christmas season in Spain. It begins on January 5th with the Cabalgata de los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Parade), where the Kings, accompanied by their entourage, distribute sweets and small gifts to children in the crowd. This parade is a highlight of the holiday season, drawing families and visitors from all around the island.

These festive days are brought to life with vibrant parades and joyous festivities. In Gran Canaria, the streets come alive with colorful floats, music, and performances that depict the journey of the Three Kings to Bethlehem.

For Hunter College students, experiencing Día de Reyes Magos in Gran Canaria provides a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish culture and traditions. They can witness the excitement and anticipation of local children, enjoy traditional foods such as Roscón de Reyes (a sweet bread decorated with candied fruits), and participate in community events.

### **Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Get settled at the university dorms.

Students will visit the facilities at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Orientation sesión at the the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

*Afternoon (4:00pm – 7:00pm)*

Review of basic translation techniques I. Subordinate Translation: Forms and Comics.

Readings: Capítulo 9 – Introducción a la traducción. La traducción subordinada, Antonio F. Jiménez Jiménez

### **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Review of basic translation techniques II. Introduction to Subtitling.

Readings: Capítulo 10 – Introducción a la traducción - La traducción subordinada, Antonio F. Jiménez Jiménez / Chapter 1 – The Routledge Handbook of Audiovisual Translation. Luis Pérez-González.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45pm)*

Review of basic translation techniques III.

#### **Thursday, January 9th**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Script analysis and Spotting.

Readings: Chapter 5 – The Routledge Handbook of Audiovisual Translation. Luis Pérez-González.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45 pm)*

Review of basic translation techniques IV.

#### **Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)*

Dubbing. Overview of dubbing in the context of audiovisual translation.

Readings: Chapter 1 and 2 - The Voice Over Actor's Handbook: How to Analyze, Interpret, and Deliver Scripts -Jhon Burr.

*Afternoon*

No classes scheduled.

#### WEEK 2

#### **Monday, January 13th**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Fansubbing (Amateur Audiovisual Translation). Subtitle formatting: readability vs. aesthetics, fonts, colors, positioning. Tools, software.

Readings: Chapter 2 - Fans, Bloggers, and Gamers: Media Consumers in a Digital Age, Henry Jenkins. Fans, Bloggers, and Gamers - Media Consumers in a Digital Age, Henry Jenkins.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45 pm)*

Karaoke. Legal: copyright, lyric adaptation ethics, fansubbers' role.

#### **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Closed Captioning - Inclusivity and accessibility in audiovisual content. Historical evolution, standards and guidelines.

Readings: The Closed Captioning Handbook, Dobson, Gary D.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45 pm)*

Continuation of the morning class on Closed Captioning.

**Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Supertitling. Importance. Translation challenges. Technical aspects. Practical challenges, problem-solving.

Readings: Introduction and Chapter 1 - Uttering Lamentations, Morgan, Brian

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45pm)*

Continuation of the morning class on Supertitling.

**Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)*

MIDTERM EXAM

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 7:00pm)*

Historical field trip: ***The Cueva Pintada de Galdar***. It is a rock chamber decorated with geometric paintings that lends its name to the present-day archaeological zone and museum center associated with the cave. The Galdar painted motifs are the most authentic manifestation of pre-Hispanic murals, an exceptional testimony to the artistic and symbolic expression of the early Canarians. Sugarmill in Agaete, used by conquistador Alonso Fernandez de Lugo to finance the conquest of the islands of Tenerife, La Palma and Africa. Cenobio de Valerón is a network of approximately 200-300 caves, which were used as granaries. Within a large basalt arch in the volcanic rock are rows of round and rectangular chambers dug out with stone or animal bone tools. The caves are connected by steps and passages and were once flanked by towers, according to accounts from the time of the Spanish conquest.

**Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Song translation. Lyrics as poetry/music. Translating cultural references, idioms, historical contexts. Managing cultural taboos/sensitivities. Synchronizing translations with music, on-screen visuals.

Readings: Selections - Translating Song (Translation Practices Explained), Low, Peter

*Afternoon*

No classes scheduled

WEEK 3

**Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Continuation of the morning class on Song translation.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 5:45pm)*

Localization. Importance, challenges, and strategies in adapting content for different cultures and languages.

**Tuesday, January 21<sup>th</sup>**

*Morning (10:00 am – 1:00 pm)*

Video Games. Translation and localization challenges, technical aspects, and cultural considerations. Mobile Applications.

Selected articles on video game localization and Mobile Applications.

*Afternoon (4:00 pm – 7:00 pm)*

Historical field trip: **Columbus House** The Christopher Columbus House is an architectural complex, including what was originally the Island Governors' House, and now functions as a five hundred years old museum. The rooms of the museum are mainly devoted to the New World and the role played by the Canary Islands in its Conquest of America. Museum Nestor de la Torre. The museum is located in the Pueblo Canario neighborhood, in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Néstor Martín-Fernández de la Torre was a leading figure of the European symbolist and modernist movements. He was also an essential part of the culture of the Canary Islands for his efforts to create an indigenous artistic expression.

**Wednesday, January 22<sup>th</sup>**

*Conclusions. This day we will meet for 2 hours.*

*FINAL EXAM*

**Thursday, January 23<sup>th</sup>**

Students will depart back home.

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