

UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA
SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES
B.A. IN ENGLISH
SECTION: II TO IV YEAR

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| Name: Translation V | Requisites: LM-0361 |
| Code: LM-0362 | Co-requisites: None |
| Credits: 3 | Cycle: VII |
| Hours: Work in class: 3 h per week Out-of-class: 6 h per week | Type: Exclusive of the B.A. in English |
| | Mode: 100% face-to-face |

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students enrolled in the B. A. in English program with the elective track in translation. It is the fifth course and focuses on offering students a general outlook as to how to manage the translation of legal, financial, and official documents based on their characteristics. This course emphasizes the application of the Skopos theory as a translation model that guides the decision process for such texts. Mediación Virtual will be the official platform for submitting documents, presentations, videos, and evaluations.

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

By the end of the course, students will be able to produce high-quality legal, financial, and official translations by identifying their main characteristics, purpose, audience, and context.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Recognize the difference between common law and civil law.
- B. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the Costa Rican legal system.
- C. Distinguish between different legal and financial documents.
- D. Apply the appropriate research and format techniques for translating legal and financial documents.
- E. Identify the difference between legal, official, and court-related translation.
- F. Define basic concepts related to economy, finances, and trade.
- G. Identifying the characteristics of official translation.
- H. Follow the appropriate format for official translations.
- I. Analyze the translation process for legal, financial, and official documents.
- J. Determine the translators' professional and ethical responsibilities when translating legal, financial, and official documents.

IV. CONTENTS

A. Legal Translation

1. Characteristics of legal systems based on common law and civil law.
2. Costa Rican legal system.
3. Main characteristics of legal texts.
4. Stylistic resources and strategies for translating legal texts.
5. Legal, court-related, and official translation.
6. Official translation.
7. Ethical scope of legal and official translation.

B. Financial Translation

1. Difference between economy, finances, and trade.
2. Characteristics of documents addressing economy, finances, and trade.
3. Translation of financial documents.
4. Types of financial documents.
5. Stylistic resources and strategies for translating financial documents.

V. METHODOLOGY

During the first semester of 2025, this course will be 100% face-to-face. Mediación Virtual is the main platform that will be used for uploading course materials, presentations, and videos. Mediación Virtual is also **the official platform to submit all the evaluations of the course**, unless otherwise indicated by the professor.

Classes will last three hours per week. During class, students will review and analyze both theoretical and practical aspects of translation simultaneously, focusing on the active participation of students and guidance from the instructor. Students will have six hours a week for independent out-of-class work to complete the tasks specified in the calendar of activities.

Activities will include proposing ideas related to the topic, analyzing translation instructions and parallel texts, and reading comprehension, terminology and theory-related exercises. Besides, students will identify translation problems, find solutions, and analyze the strategies used and proposed solutions.

Readings and exercises will be assigned for class discussion and analysis. Students should work on them (individually, in pairs or small groups) to find appropriate solutions to the different translation problems. Students are expected to discuss the challenges they faced, propose solutions, and comment on the solutions proposed by other students.

This course emphasizes the application of Skopos Theory as a theoretical model of translation. In addition, the course will focus on translation as a process that accounts for the different types of

relationships operating between the source text (ST) and target text (TT), and the criteria used by translators to make their decisions.

VI. EVALUATION

Components:

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| Two in-class translations ¹ | 30% |
| One out-of-class evaluation ² | 25% |
| Assignments (4 minimum) ³ | 20% |
| Project ⁴ | 25% |

1. In-class translations will occur within the class time established. Each one is worth 15%.
2. Out-of-class evaluation will include the translation of a text (15%) and an analysis of it, based on the studied theory (10%).
3. Assignments may include any of the topics of the course, and they will be announced at least one week before.
4. The final project will be done in groups and in different stages. The project will include four stages: presentation of a fictional translation company, a negotiation, a translation, and an oral presentation in class.
5. They must follow the instructions provided by the professor and present their analysis in front of the class.

VII. OBSERVATIONS

- A. No assignment will be accepted after the due date.
- B. The use of Google Translate or any other automatic translation resource in the evaluations will annul the points obtained, since the students would be presenting intellectual material that is not their own.
- C. The students will be bound by the *Reglamentos de Evaluación* de la Universidad de Costa Rica.
- D. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will be punished according to *Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la UCR (Artículos 4-20)*.

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Mayoral Asensio, R. (2007). Comparación de los contratos en inglés y en español como ayuda al traductor. *Papers Lextra*, 3. <http://www.lextra.uji.es/papers/2007/mayoral07.pdf>

OCDE. (2022). *Perspectivas económicas de Costa Rica, 2022*.

PWC. (2020). *Basic Understanding of a Company's Financial Statements*.
<https://www.pwc.com/jm/en/research-publications/pdf/basic-understanding-of-a-companys-financials.pdf>

The Common Law and Civil Law Traditions. (2017). *Berkeley Law*. <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CommonLawCivilLawTraditions.pdf>

IX. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

| Week | Date | Readings/material | Evaluations |
|----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Week 1 | March 10-14 | Introduction to the course Common Law and Civil Law Costa Rican Legal System <u>Reading: The Common Law and Civil Law Traditions</u> | |
| Week 2 | March 17-21 | Legal Documents and Their Translation <u>Reading: Estudio sobre el texto jurídico y su traducción</u> | |
| Week 3 | March 24-28 | Legal Texts and Their Translation <u>Lectura: Practical Problems in Translation Explained</u> | Assignment 1 |
| Week 4 | March 31 April 4 | Style and Punctuation of Legal Texts <u>Reading: La puntuación del texto jurídico - Norma, estilo y estrategia</u> | Project: First Advance |
| Week 5 | April 7-11 | Contracts <u>Reading: Comparación de los contratos en inglés y en español como ayuda al traductor</u> | Assignment 2 |
| Week 6 | April 14-18 | Easter Break | |
| Week 7 | April 21-25 | Official Translations | In-Class Translation 1 |
| Week 8 | April 28- May 2 | Official Translations | Project: Second Advance |
| Week 9 | May 5-9 | Official Translations | |
| Week 10 | May 12-16 | Legal Interpreting Overview | Assignment 3 |
| Week 11 | May 19-23 | Introduction to Finances <u>Reading: Las finanzas</u> | Out-of-class Submission |
| Week 12 | May 26-30 | Financial Documents and Their Translation <u>Reading: La traducción de los textos económico-financieros</u> | |
| Week 13 | June 2-6 | Types of Financial Texts <u>Reading: Basic Understanding of a Company's Financials Statement</u> | Assignment 4 |
| Week 14 | June 9-13 | Financial Documents and Their Translation <u>Reading: Perspectivas económicas de Costa Rica (junio 2022)</u> | Project: Third Advance |
| Week 15 | June 16-20 | | In-Class Translation 2 |
| Week 16 | June 23-27 | Final Project Presentations | Project: Fourth Advance |
| Week 17 | June 30- July 4 | Final Grades | |

Ampliación: July 18, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Note: This calendar is tentative and could be modified to the professor's discretion according to students' progress and time management.