

**Universidad de Costa Rica**  
**School of Modern Languages**

B.A. in English  
Section II to IV year

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Name: Translation III	Requisite: LM-0359
Code: LM-0360	Co-requisite: None
Credits: 3	Cycle: V
Schedule: 3 hours (class work) 6 hours (independent work)	Type of course: Elective for the B.A. in English
Level: Third year	Modality: 100% face-to-face

**I. DESCRIPTION**

This is the third course of the Translation track, and it has been designed for students enrolled in the B.A. in English program. It aims at providing students with proper guidance and hands-on experience in the translation of scientific and medical texts from English to Spanish and vice versa. This course highlights the importance of primary and secondary online sources of information, so students can develop essential research skills required for the accurate translation of scientific and medical texts. This course will be taught 100% face-to-face. *Mediación Virtual* will be the official platform for accessing documents and submitting evaluations.

**II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

By the end of the course, students will be able to translate scientific and medical texts accurately and in a bidirectional manner, so they will enhance their knowledge and required skills for the translation of specialized texts, following the Skopos theory.

**III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to

1. identify the main features of scientific and medical texts from a practical and theoretical perspective.
2. apply Skopos' principles and techniques while translating scientific and medical texts.
3. reproduce the steps of the translation process to deliver a scientific-based translation collaborative project, complying with the required specifications of the scientific articles.
4. identify the ethical principles of the translation practice, emphasizing the translation of scientific and medical texts.
5. use adequate terminological and reference resources to translate scientific and medical texts.
6. apply revising and editing principles to improve the final product of their own and their peers' translations.

## IV. CONTENTS

### A. Translation theory

1. Introduction to scientific and medical translation
2. Classification and characteristics of scientific and medical texts
3. Analysis of scientific documents such as abstracts, research articles, lectures, and scientific news articles
4. Analysis of medical documents such as preparatory and discharge instructions, medical leaflets, fact sheets for patients, case reports, clinical histories, and informed consents
5. Ethical principles applied to the translation of scientific and medical texts

### B. Stylistics

1. Stylistic resources and strategies applied to scientific and medical texts
2. Analysis of scientific and medical texts based on the Skopos theory
3. Research techniques and specialized terminology applied to scientific and medical texts
4. Strategies for revising, proofreading, and editing scientific and medical texts

## V. METHODOLOGY

Classes will last three hours per week; they may combine in-class and out-of-class activities that will include the discussion of theoretical topics and their practical application. Thus, the professor and the students will approach theory and practice simultaneously, while emphasizing students' active participation. Students will need at least 6 hours per week to complete independent out-of-class work, which includes completing the tasks specified in the timetable. **All documents and course materials will be uploaded to *Mediación Virtual*, which will serve as a platform for submitting evaluated assignments and accessing the course material.** All evaluations will be carried out face-to-face in the assigned lab.

Activities will include the analysis of translation briefs, the compilation and examination of parallel texts, as well as reading comprehension, theoretical, and terminology-related exercises. Moreover, students will work on identifying translation problems and researching their possible solutions. Students will discuss translation strategies, the challenges that they have encountered, and their proposed solutions.

Readings and exercises will be assigned for class analysis. Students must work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to find appropriate solutions to different types of translation problems. Students are expected to ask questions about the identified problems, come up with different solutions, and comment on and/or scrutinize their peers' proposed solutions.

This course will use the Skopos Theory as the translation theoretical model. In addition, the course will also emphasize translation as a process that responds to the different relationships between the source text (ST) and the target text (TT) as well as the criteria that translators must analyze when making their decisions.

## VI. EVALUATION

Two in-class translations <sup>1</sup>	30%
One out-of-class translation <sup>2</sup>	20%
Assignments <sup>3</sup> (at least 3)	25%
Final project <sup>4</sup>	25%

1. Each in-class translation is worth 15%. Students will complete both translations during the assigned class schedule.
2. This assignment includes a translation and its corresponding analysis.
3. Each professor will assign specific tasks to evaluate course content. These assignments could include—but are not limited to—short translations, research evidence, quizzes, exercises, oral presentations, analysis, and editing tasks.
4. The final project is divided into four phases or stages. **Phase 1** consists of the analysis of a scientific article (5%); **phase 2** is a preliminary translation of the text (5%); **phase 3** consists of the final version of the translation (10%), and **phase 4** includes the oral presentation of the project (5%).

### Notes:

- Each professor will provide detailed instructions for each translation or assignment.
- Late assignments or translations will not be accepted.
- **Using any automatic translation tool or artificial intelligence is considered plagiarism since the task would not be done by the student. Plagiarized work will be penalized according to “Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica,” (articles 4 -40).**

## VII. REFERENCES

- Aguilar, M. J. (2013). Las normas ortográficas y ortotipográficas de la nueva *Ortografía de la lengua española (2010)* aplicadas a las publicaciones biomédicas en español: una visión en conjunto. *Panace@*, 14(37), 101-120.
- Byrne, J. (2014). *Scientific and technical translation explained*. Routledge.
- Marsh, M. (2010). Algunas consideraciones sobre la traducción médica.  
<http://cvc.cervantes.es/lengua/aproximaciones/marsh.htm>
- Montalt, V. (2015). *Medical translation step by step: Learning by drafting*. Routledge.

### VIII. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Week	Date	Topics	Evaluations
1	March 12-13	Course Introduction	
2	March 19-20	Topic: Scientific Translation	
3	March 26-27	Topic: Scientific Translation	
	March 30-April 3	Holy Week	
4	April 9-10	Topic: Scientific Translation	<i>Project: Submit text</i>
5	April 16-17	Topic: Scientific Translation	Assignment #1
6	April 23-24	Topic: Scientific Translation University Week	
7	April 30 <sup>th</sup> May 1 Holiday	Topic: Scientific Translation	<i>Project: Phase 1 (5%)</i>
8	May 7-8	Topic: Ethical Principles	
9	May 14-15	<b>In-Class Translation 1 (15%)</b>	
10	May 21-22	Topic: Medical Translation	<i>Project: Phase 2 (5%)</i>
11	May 28-29	Topic: Medical Translation	
12	June 4-5	Topic: Medical Translation	Assignment #2
13	June 11-12	Topic: Medical Translation	<b>Out-of-Class Translation (20%)</b>
14	June 18-19	Topic: Medical Translation	Assignment #3
15	June 25-26	<b>In-Class Translation 2 (15%)</b>	
16	July 2-3	<i>Project: Phase 3 (10%) y Phase 4 (5%)</i>	
17	July 8	Grades	
18	July 16	<i>Ampliación Exam</i> 9:00 to 11:50 a.m.	

**Note:** This timetable is tentative, so it could be modified at the professor's discretion according to students' progress and class pacing.