Department of English
Individualized Translation Project (Proposal)

Students in the Department of English have several options for completing the MA/PhD program’s foreign language requirement, including completing an individualized translation project. Through their translation project, students demonstrate their ability to think and work productively *across* languages in their research and, where appropriate, their pedagogy.

A translation project may be completed in one of several contexts: (1) in the Translation Seminar course, offered by the English department; (2) in another course or independent study, with permission of the instructor; or (3) under the supervision of the student’s committee chair, or another committee member.

NOTE: Many but not all English department faculty are willing and prepared to supervise translation projects. In the event that the supervising instructor does not have knowledge of the source language, the project may also be reviewed by a second faculty member with the relevant language expertise, either inside or outside of the department.

Students select one of two options for completing the translation project:

* Option A: The student produces their own translation, accompanied by a translator’s commentary
*The student completes a translation of either primary or critical materials germane to the student’s focus; the translated material should be substantial (a journal article, a chapter of a novel, a short story, etc) and the translation should be accompanied by a brief (3-5 page) translator’s commentary on the process of translation, critically analyzing particular macro- and micro-level translation decisions, the challenges encountered, and the ways in which the translator opted to resolve them. NB: the translation may be from another language into English, or from English into another language.*
* Option B: The student produces an article-length analysis of an existing English translation (or multiple translations of the same text)
*The student completes a substantial, article-length analysis of an existing English translation; in this case, the analysis is grounded in the student’s ability to read and engage the work in the original, but the focus is on assessing the impact of the existing English translation and its rhetorical effects.*

The form below must be submitted to the English Graduate Advising Office. The choice, scope, and relevance of the project should be discussed and determined by the student and the faculty supervisor. The student is responsible for ensuring that the supervising faculty sends their approval to the English Graduate Advising Office after the translation project has been successfully completed. Translations projects will be evaluated on the basis of (1) demonstrated comprehension of the source text and its specific (ideological, political, historical, and sociocultural) context; (2) awareness of and sensitivity to elements of the source language (syntax, diction, idiomatic expressions, register, cultural references, etc) that make literal (verbatim) translation impossible; (3) ability to identify and reflect on one or two of the central problems or challenges posed by the task of this translation.

Translation Project Proposal Form

Student’s Full Name:

Supervising Faculty:

Consulting Faculty (as needed, if Supervising Faculty lack knowledge of the source language):

Quarter:

Select **one** option below and identify the text(s) and language(s) that will be used:

\_\_\_ Option A: The student produces their own translation, accompanied by a translator’s commentary

* Text/s to be translated:
* Language/s of original text:
* Language/s you will translate into (if other than English):

\_\_\_ Option B: The student produces an article-length analysis of an existing English translation

* Translation/s to be analyzed:
* Language/s of original text (prior to translation):

NOTE: The student is responsible for ensuring that the supervising faculty sends their approval to the English Graduate Advising Office after the translation project has been successfully completed.