The University of Jordan/Aqaba
Faculty of Languages
English Departments
Political and Diplomatic Translation (2201742)
Course Instructor: Dr. Ayman Abu-Shomar
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday (9:30 – 11:00). Tuesday (10: 00 – 2:00 p.m.)
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Course description

The course looks at current research methods in translation. Its main objective is to offer guidance and training to students in the preparation of appropriate research proposals, especially for an MA thesis. Topics include the layout of a research report in translation, hypothesis statement, sampling, data gathering and analysis. The collected linguistic data may exemplify different fields of written translation and interpreting. Students are also expected to produce a short research paper applying the methods and skills they have learnt.

Course Objectives
This course aims to:

- Teach students the areas, issues, and methodologies used in Translation Studies
- Train them on how to conduct a research in Translation Studies
- Teach them how to write a research proposal, paper, and/or thesis

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- Explain the theory involved in comparative, process, and causal models of translation studies
- Differentiate between conceptual and empirical research
- Recognize a variety of research areas in Translation Studies: Text analysis; quality assessment; genre translation; multimedia translation; translation process, technology, history, and ethics; terminology; interpreting; translator training; and translation profession
- Critique published pieces of research in terms of hypothesis, methodology, results, and significance
- Locate published pieces of research in the map of Translation Studies
- Appreciate a variety of data collection methodologies
- Make interpretive, descriptive, explanatory, and predictive hypotheses and claims
- Write research questions that operationalize their hypotheses
- Test their research hypotheses

- Identify variables and variable relations
- Perform quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Quote and cite references in text
- Review and report relevant literature on their research topic
- Describe their research methodology
- Discuss their results and draw conclusions
- Write an introduction and an abstract
- Document their research and compile their references

Topics to be covered

Week	Topics
1	- Introduction - What is research, why, and how to go about it - Philosophical assumptions of social research - Western thoughts of ontological and epistemological claims
2	- Research Paradigms (positivist, interpretivist, critical research) - Areas in translation research - Theoretical framework in research - The role of theory in research
3	- Theoretical models of translation - Research methodology - Case study research - Discourse analysis - Action research
4	- Research planning - Questions, claims, hypotheses - Developing research topic - developing research questions
5	- Data collection methods - Sampling in research
6	- Presenting the research - An overview of how to write the research report - Assessing the research
7	- Writing the literature review - EndNote *Translation studies and applied linguistics*
8	- Researching interpreting - Reflections on selected research articles in translation *From Linguistic systems to cultures in contact*
9	- Writing the research methodology *Equivalence: Pragmatic and textual criteria* *Cultural studies and translator invisibility*

	• *From word to text and beyond*
10	• Evaluating selected MA theses in terms of research methodologies
	• *Literary and cultural constraints*
	• *Register-oriented research models*
	• *The pragmatics turn in research*
11	• Writing the results and discussion
	• *Focus on the text*
	• *Translation and ideology*
	• *Translation of genre vs translation as genre*
12	• Academic writing (research language)
	• *Empirical research in translation studies*
	• *Theory and practice in translation teaching*
	• *Action and reflection in practitioner research*
13	• Writing the introduction, conclusion, and abstract
14	• Dissemination of research
	• Research ethics
	• *Setting a teaching and research agenda: the case of style translation*
15	• Publication and research

References

- Hatim, Basil. (2013) Teaching and Researching Translation, 2nd ed. Routledge
- Williams, Jenny & Andrew Chesterman. (2002). *The MAP: A Beginner's Guide to Doing Research in Translation Studies*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- Hatim, Basil. (2001). *Teaching and Researching Translation*. London: Pearson Education Ltd.
- Alvsted, Cecilia, AdelinaHild, and Elisabet Tiselius. (2001). *Methods and Strategies of Process Research: Integrative Approaches in Translation Studies*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing.
- Wallwork, A. (2011). *English for Writing Research Papers*. New York City: Springer Science and Business Media.
- Thomson Reuters. (2013). EndNote Web [Computer Software]. Carlsbad, CA: Thomson Reuters (Scientific) Inc.
- TechSmith Corporation. (2012). Camtasia Studio.Okemos, Michigan: TechSmith.

Evaluation:

Presentations:	10
Mid Term Exam:	20
Research Paper proposal:	20
Final Exam:	25
Research Paper	25