



Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Cihan University Sulaimaniya
Department of: Translation

Legal Translation

4th Year- 2nd Semester

Lecturer:

Dr. Momen Yaseen M.Amin

Course Book

Academic Year: 2025-2026

1. Course Name	English-Kurdish Translation
2. Course Code	
3. Lecturer in Charge	Dr. Momen Yaseen M. Amin
4. Department/ College	Department of Translation
5. Contact information	e-mail: momen.amin@sulicihan.edu.krd Mobile:
6. Office Hours	Availability of the lecturer during the week:
7. Teacher's Academic Profile	✓ ☐ Graduated from the English Department, College of Education, Salahaddin University, in 2010. ✓ ☐ Obtained an MA in English Language and Literature from Bangalore University, India, in 2013. ✓ ☐ Earned a PhD in English Language Teaching from Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Northern Cyprus–Turkey, in 2021.
8. Keywords	Translation, Legal Translation,
9. Course Overview:	This course is designed to provide fourth-year translation students with comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in legal translation between English and Kurdish/Arabic. Students will explore the complexities of translating legal documents, understanding legal terminology, and navigating different legal systems. The course emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical application in legal translation, preparing students for professional

careers in legal translation services, international law firms, courts, and governmental institutions.

10 Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Master specialized legal terminology in English, Kurdish, and Arabic
- Understand the fundamental differences between common law and civil law systems
- Translate various types of legal documents accurately and professionally
- Apply appropriate translation strategies for legal texts
- Recognize cultural and legal system differences that affect translation
- Demonstrate ethical awareness in legal translation practice
- Use legal dictionaries and research tools effectively
- Produce translations that meet professional standards for legal documents

11 Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance (minimum 90% attendance required)
- Active participation in class discussions and activities
- Completion of all assigned translation exercises
- Preparation of one major presentation on a legal translation topic
- Submission of term project (comparative legal terminology glossary)
- Successful completion of mid-term and final examinations
- Use of recommended textbooks and supplementary materials

	• Access to legal dictionaries and online legal resources
12	Forms of Teaching: • Interactive lectures with multimedia presentations • Hands-on translation workshops and practice sessions • Group discussions and peer review activities • Case study analyses of real legal documents • Guest lectures from legal professionals and practicing translators • Individual and group translation projects • Presentation sessions and peer feedback • Online learning resources and digital platforms • Field trips to courts or legal institutions (when possible)
13	Assessment scheme: - Class participation5% - Activity 15% - Activity 2.....5% -Presentation5% -Term exam20% - Final Exam: 60% Note: Students have to contact the Head of the Department if they need to miss class. It is students' own responsibility to find out what works they may have missed. More than 10% absences without serious causes will automatically result in their dismissal from the course.
14	Students Learning Outcome:

By the end of this course, students will demonstrate:

Knowledge and Understanding:

- Comprehensive understanding of legal translation principles and challenges
- Familiarity with legal systems and their impact on translation
- Knowledge of specialized legal terminology across multiple languages

Intellectual Skills:

- Ability to analyze legal texts and identify translation challenges
- Critical thinking in selecting appropriate translation strategies
- Problem-solving skills for complex legal translation scenarios

Professional and Practical Skills:

- Proficiency in translating various legal document types
- Competency in using legal research tools and resources
- Professional presentation and communication skills

General and Transferable Skills:

- Time management and project organization abilities
- Collaborative work and peer review skills
- Ethical reasoning and professional responsibility awareness
- Continuous learning and professional development orientation

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Course Reading List and References:

Primary Textbooks:

- Cao, D. (2017). *Translating Law: Theory and Practice*. Multilingual Matters
- Šarčević, S. (2019). *New Approaches to Legal Translation*. Kluwer Law International

Supplementary Materials:

- Harvey, M. (2015). *A Beginner's Course in Legal Translation*. La Sapienza Editrice

- Borja Albi, A. (2016). *Legal Translation Studies: Theory and Practice*. Comares
- Black's Law Dictionary (Latest Edition)
- Legal terminology glossaries in Kurdish and Arabic

The Topics of the Semester:

No.	Title of the subject	Weeks	Lecturer's name
1	Week #1: Introduction to Legal Translation - Overview and Challenges	1	Momen
2	Week #2: Legal Systems Comparison - Common Law vs Civil Law	2	-
3	Week #3: Legal Terminology and Specialized Vocabulary Building	3	-
4	Week #4: Translation of Constitutional Documents and Basic Laws	4	-
5	Week #5: Contract Translation - Commercial and Civil Contracts	5	-
6	Week #6: Court Documents and Judicial Proceedings Translation	6	-
7	Week #7: Legislative Texts and Statutory Translation	7	-
8	Week #8: Legal Correspondence and Professional Communication	8	-
9	Week #9: International Law Documents and Treaties	9	-
10	Week #10: Notarial Documents and Official Certifications	10	-
11	Week #11: Legal Research Tools and Professional Resources	11	-
12	Week #12: Ethics in Legal Translation and Quality Assurance	12	-
13	Week #13: Student Presentations and Peer Review Sessions	13	-
14	Week #14: Review and Comprehensive Case Studies	14	-
15	Week #15: Exam Preparation and Final Questions Review	15	-

Sample Exam Questions –

Sample Exam Questions:

Part A: Multiple Choice ()

1. Which translation strategy is most appropriate when translating legal terms that have no equivalent in the target legal system? a) Literal translation b) Functional equivalence c) Descriptive paraphrasing d) Omission
2. The principle of "stare decisis" in common law systems refers to: a) Standing in court b) Following precedent c) Legal procedure d) Evidence rules

Part B: Short Answer Questions

3. Explain the main differences between translating contracts and translating court judgments. ()
4. Identify three major challenges when translating from English legal texts into Kurdish, and suggest solutions for each. ()
5. Define "legal equivalence" and explain why perfect equivalence is often impossible in legal translation. ()

Part C: Translation Practice (50 points)

6. Translate the following contract clause from English to Kurdish, maintaining legal accuracy and clarity: ()

"The Party of the First Part hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Party of the Second Part from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses arising from or related to the breach of this agreement."

7. Translate the following Kurdish legal text into English, ensuring appropriate legal terminology: ()
- [Kurdish legal text would be provided here]

Part D: Essay Question (Choose one -)

8. Discuss the role of cultural competence in legal translation, providing specific examples from your coursework.

OR

9. Analyze the challenges of translating international treaties and conventions, with reference to linguistic and legal system differences.

Peer Review

I certify that:

- 1- I read and verify all requirements of teaching quality assurance are respected in this course book.
- 2- The scientific contents are new, convenient and well organized for this stage.
- 3- The order of chapters is well done.
- 4- References are new and available for students.

That's why I signed on this course book. And I take all responsibilities.

Name:

Scientific title:

Institute:

Department:

E-mail

Mobile:

Date

Signature: