

عنوان المحاضرة: مقدمة
المادة الدراسية: الترجمة القانونية
المرحلة الدراسية: الرابعة
مدرس المادة: د. أوس عادل عبدالوهاب
العام الدراسي: 2025-2026



جامعة الموصل
كلية الآداب
القسم: الترجمة

Introduction to Legal Translation (Arabic-English)

Instructor: Dr. Aus Abdulwahhab

Office Hours: Thursday and Wednesday 9-11

Course Overview

Welcome to the fascinating world of legal translation! This course is designed to provide you with the foundational knowledge and practical skills needed to navigate the complexities of translating legal texts between Arabic and English.

We will explore the unique **features of legal language**, learn how to approach sensitive documents with the precision and accuracy they require, and practice with a variety of text types. Our goal is to build your confidence and competence in this demanding but rewarding field.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify the key characteristics and features of legal language in both Arabic and English.
- Understand the main challenges involved in legal translation.
- Apply appropriate strategies to translate different types of legal documents accurately.
- Analyze and compare legal texts such as contracts, wills, and official certificates.

Course Materials

Textbook: We will use selected chapters from *Arabic-English-Arabic Legal Translation* by Hanem El-Farahaty (2014).

Other Resources: Additional readings and resources will be provided throughout the course.

Videos: A short video will be provided before lectures depending on the topic. These are mandatory and will prepare you for our class discussions.

Grading and Assessment

Your final grade will be calculated out of a total of 40 marks, based on the following components:

Tests (20 marks): There will be four tests throughout the semester, each worth 5 marks. These will assess your understanding of key concepts and your translation skills.

Assignments (10 marks): You will be given various translation assignments to complete outside of class. These are designed to give you hands-on practice.

Attendance & Participation (10 marks): Your active participation in class is essential. This mark reflects your attendance, your contributions to discussions, and your interactive engagement with the course material. Your valuable contribution is key to success!



Class Policies

Late Submissions: All assignments must be submitted by the specified deadline. A time frame for submission will be provided for each assignment. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up on the material covered.

Classroom Engagement: This is an interactive course. You are expected to come to class prepared, having watched the video and completed any assigned readings. Your active participation will not only enhance your own learning but will impact your learning outcome.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Legal Translation (LT):
History and Importance



□ Spoken or written

- case law, law reports and prescriptive legal texts.
- international treaties, constitutions, orders, regulations, insurance policies, wills and contracts

Lexical features: archaic, technical and foreign words and phrases.

Archaisms: *hereinafter*, verb: *darraign* (*contest or defend a claim*), noun: *surrejoinder* (a plaintiff's reply to the defendant's rejoinder, and adjective: *aforesaid*, *a priori*, *ad hoc*.

Terms belonging to formal style: pursuant to (under, in accordance with), prior to (before), subsequent to (after)

□ **Technical terms:** These are the words legal professionals use as technical terms for their purposes in specific contexts. They are idiosyncratic because they have precise definitions in the domain of legal science. (Litigation, arbitration, Attorney General)

Foreign words: There is a considerable amount of foreign words and phrases in Legal English, which are mainly of Latin and French origin. EX: bequeath, goods, guilt, manslaughter, murder, oath, right, sheriff, steal, swear, theft, thief, ward, witness.

Synonymy: Assign – transfer; Breach – violation; Clause – provision – paragraph – article; Contract – agreement; Default – failure; Lessee – tenant; Promise – assurance – undertaking; Void – invalid – ineffective

Syntactic features

Sentence length:

In the past every part of a legal document used to consist of a single sentence

Nominalization:

Nouns derived from verbs are often used instead of verbs, such as: to give consideration instead of to consider, *to be in opposition rather than to oppose*, *to be in contravention instead of to contravene*, *to be in agreement instead of to agree*.

Impersonal style:

The use of passive voice and peculiar use of pronouns are characteristics of a highly impersonal style of writing. Passive voice is inherent in legal language, but it is also overused in all types of legal documents.