LING/LEST 385-010: Language and Law: Court Interpretation
Spring 2007

General Information:

Professor: Dr. Nancy Schweda Nicholson
Office: 46 E. Delaware Ave. Phone: 831-2837 (Message Room 203 Jane: x6806)
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Office Hours: 11:00-12:00 and 2:00-3:00 Tuesday; 11:00-12:00 Thursday and by appointment


In addition, a variety of readings from journals, newspapers, and magazines will be assigned. I will hand out some of these in class, and you will also be required to download and print materials from websites.

Course Objectives:

This class is designed to provide students with an opportunity to learn about a wide variety of topics and issues in the area of court interpretation at both the federal and state levels. Course work includes: an examination of Constitutional due process rights as the basis for the appointment of an interpreter; an historical overview of language planning and policy development; the use of ad hoc interpreters; the National Center for State Courts’ Testing Consortium; linguistic challenges; different cultures' perceptions of the American judicial system; professional organizations; ethics and responsibilities; team interpreting; interpreting at the Nuremberg Trials; language services at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), both in The Hague; American Sign Language (ASL)/English court interpreting; new policy development for court interpreter services throughout the European Union (EU); and appeals filed based on interpretation issues. We will also examine some comparative data by looking at court interpretation policies in Denmark and Japan. The semester concludes with an outlook on court interpretation services in the 21st century. Guest speakers and videos from relevant areas will supplement our coursework.

Students will be required to apply the knowledge gained by preparing (1) a midterm article critique and (2) a “Prof for a Day” oral presentation.
Evaluation:

Midterm Article Critique* = 1/3

“Prof for a Day” Oral Presentation = 1/3

Preparation of Assignments and Participation in Class Discussions** = 1/3

*NOTE: The Midterm Article Critique (hard copy) will be due in class on March 20. “In class” means just what it says...NOT via e-mail or dropped off at my office later that day. If the Critique is not submitted on time as indicated, your grade will drop a full letter grade for every day it is late. If you turn in your paper after class sometime on March 20, the same rule applies. Your grade will drop a full letter grade as well. No extensions will be granted.

Length Guideline: Between 4 and 6 pages, 1.5-spaced, 14-point type. No shorter than 4; no longer than 6.

**NOTE: You, as students, are expected to attend class, complete the assignments, and take an ACTIVE ROLE in class discussions. ATTENDANCE ALONE IS INSUFFICIENT. If you are a shy person and plan to use this as an excuse to avoid participation, you should seriously consider enrolling in another course. Daily work is a critical component of the class, and it is weighted accordingly.

If you must miss class due to illness or emergency, you are required to contact another student to get the assignment for the next class period so you are prepared to be a full participant.

To this end, a list of students’ e-mail addresses will be distributed at the beginning of the semester so that everyone has contacts for missed assignments.
## PRELIMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE
### Spring, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Introduction to Course + 20/20 Video</td>
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| 2/8   | “Ad hoc” (Nicholson 1989)  
|       | ”Anyone Here Speak Russian?” (Sherr 2000)  
|       | “Speaking of Cultures” (Moore)  
|       | “Modes of Interpreting” (NAJIT Position Paper: [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)) |
| 2/13  | Forward, Preface and Introduction (Moore)  
|       | Court Interpreters Act of 1978  
|       | “Twenty-Five Year Retrospective” (Nicholson 2005) |
| 2/15  | **Guest Speaker:** Julia Graff, Esq., Staff Attorney, ACLU of Delaware  
|       | **Title:** ”Due Process Rights and Interpretation” |
| 2/20  | Court Interpreter Amendments Act of 1988 + Interim Regulations  
|       | “Federal Certification Program” (van der Heide 2003)  
|       | National Center for State Courts (NCSC):  
|       | ”The NCSC and the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification Program” (Herman and Hewitt 2001); “The Road Ahead for the State Court Consortium” (Feuerle 2006) + Consortium Update |
| 2/22  | No class. Away at conference. |
| 2/27  | Continuation of 2/20 assignment |
3/1

- "Court Interpreting: View from the Bench" (Grabau 1996)

- "Administrative Directive No. 107" (DE Supreme Court 1996)

- "Application: Presiding Over Cases Involving Immigrants" (Moore)

- "Appendix 1: Summary of Survey Results" (Moore)

3/6

Ethics:

- "Interpreters in Court Proceedings" (Moore)

- Appendix 3: Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters (Moore)

- "Professional Ethics for Court and Community Interpreters" (Nicholson 1994)

- View Court Interpreting video

3/8

- "Middle Easterners in American Courts" and "The Shari'a: Islamic Law" (Moore)

Guest Speaker: Shahida Dar
Title: Arab Perspectives on the US Judicial System

3/13

Linguistic Challenges of Court Interpreting:

- "The Treatment of Register Variation in Court Interpreting" (Hale 1997)

- "Behind the Language Barrier, or You Say You Were Eating an Orange?" (Hewitt and Lee 1996)

- "Direct Speech" (NAJIT Position Paper)

3/15

Guest Speakers: Kim Pudans-Smith (ASL Instructor: Towson State Univ.) and Mary Beth Tkach (Interpretation/ASL Program Coordinator at DelTech) Title: "Interpreting for Deaf Americans in the Courts"

Background reading: "Court Interpreting for Deaf Persons: Culture, Communication and the Courts" (Richardson 1996)
3/20
- Team Interpreting
- Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness

Reminder: Midterm Critiques due IN CLASS on 3/20

3/22
Guest Speaker: Ms. Kristina Foehrkolb, Certified Russian Interpreter
Title: "Russian Perspectives on the American Courts"
Background reading: "The Russian Federation" (Moore)

3/27-29
SPRING BREAK!

4/3
Interpreting at the Nuremberg Trials:
- Peter Less interview (Gesse article)
- Siegfried Ramler video

4/5
Guest Speaker: Robert Joe Lee, Chief, Court Interpreting, Legal Translating and Bilingual Services Unit, Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts, Trenton
Title: "Current Issues and Challenges in the New Jersey Courts"

4/10
- Interpreting at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Court (ICC)

4/12
- "Mexican Immigrants in Courts" (Moore)

Guest Speaker: Maria Pérez-Chambers, Federally- and Delaware-Certified Court Interpreter
Title: "The World of the Court Interpreter"

4/17
- "Interpreter Issues on Appeal" (Benmaman 2000) + NSN additional research

4/24-4/26 - “Prof for a Day” Presentations (4)

5/1-3 - “Prof for a Day” Presentations (4)

5/8 - “Prof for a Day” Presentations (2)

5/10 - Denmark and Japan: "Court Interpretation in Denmark" (Nicholson 1997); Daily Yomiuri (1998) and Yomiuri Shimbun (2002) articles

5/15 - Court Interpretation in the New Millennium
- Semester Wrap-up
- Course Evaluations

Possible additional topic: "Law and Legal Culture in China" (Moore)

Guest Speaker: Mr. Ping Xu, Former Interpreter for the Supreme Court of China, Shanghai

Title: "Chinese Perspectives on the American Courts and Court Interpreting in China"