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CRWR 595.03: Poetry - Contemporary Literary Traditions

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CRWR 595, Contemporary Literary Translation, 3 credits, Spring 2022

Course Information

- Day/time: Thursday, 3:00-5:50pm
- Location: LA 308 (as Covid permits)

Contact Information

- Instructor: Keetje Kuipers
- Office: LA 127
- Office hours: Wednesdays, 10am – 2pm
- Email: keetje.kuipers@umontana.edu

Course Description

As poet and translator Marci Vogel notes, “Poetry has been said to be what is lost in translation, but what do we gain by the translation of poems into other languages? If translation is what gets *carried across*, how might the language of poetry bridge the gap between shores?” These questions will be at the heart of our work as we consider the tradition of literary translation alongside its practice in contemporary international poetry today.

Required Texts/Readings

Into English, edited by Martha Collins and Kevin Prufer

This Little Art, by Kate Briggs

The World’s Lightest Motorcycle, written by Yi Won, translated by E.J. Koh and Marci Calabretta-Cancio-Bellow

Reenactments, by Hai-Dang Phan

Another Life, by Daniel Lipara, translated by Robin Myers

a substantial into/out of English dictionary in the language of your chosen translation project

Course Requirements

Class Format and Procedures

We will explore a range of contemporary (read: written by living poets) international poetry through the critical lenses of translatability, fidelity, and the politics of translation. We will join the American Literary Translators’ Association (student membership price is \$30), and meet over Zoom with at least three working translators of contemporary international poetry to discuss how they approach their work.

Annotation

The best way to absorb what you read is to be in dialogue with the text. This can be accomplished through annotation of your reading: Whether reading a poem or a craft essay, you should be notating those parts of the text that speak to you. As you read poetry in particular, try to think about it in light of two things: First, the particular elements of poetry we're focusing on in the course at the time, and second, what it offers you as a model (to imitate or avoid) in your own writing. Discover a passion and follow it up.

Translation Project

Over the course of the semester, each student will create a portfolio of their own translations. These translations will be of poems by one contemporary poet writing today in a language other than English. At the end of the semester, this portfolio will be finalized and turned in accompanied by a critical introduction.

Attendance and Participation

Absences must be discussed with me prior to class. Unexpected absences will result in one-half letter-grade reduction per class. More than 2 unexpected absences may result in you being asked to drop the class. As always in a graduate class, you are expected to contribute significantly to the discussion at every meeting, whether you are leading the discussion or not.

Grading

A small craft seminar such as this is predicated upon every member's keen interest and avid engagement. Excellent attendance, active participation, and fulfillment of all assignments—reading, written, and oral—are required. If you must miss a class, please inform me as soon as possible. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for turning in assignments by the time of our class meeting (or arranging for an extension) and for accessing missed materials in time to participate fully in the next class. Late work will receive no credit unless an extension has been arranged in advance. If an assignment is not turned in through the proper forum (for instance, emailed to me rather than turned in through Moodle), it will not be accepted.

Other Information

Special Accommodations

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Covid Procedures

A plethora of information can be found here:

<https://www.umt.edu/provost/initiatives/instructional-resources/default.php>