JAPN 4123/6123 Syllabus

Technical and Business Translation in Japanese, 3 credits

JAPN 4123: Technical and Business Translation in Japanese

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: MW 11:00-1:00

Description

Welcome to our advanced-level Japanese course at Georgia Tech, designed for both undergraduate and graduate students passionate about bridging languages and cultures through translation. This course delves into the intricate art and science of translating and localizing diverse Japanese and English texts. Our source materials (ST) span a wide range, from traditional

texts to digital content in movies, TV shows, anime, websites, and software, ensuring a rich and varied learning experience.

Engage with a mix of technical, business, and creative documents, providing a well-rounded perspective on translation challenges. This course is not just about converting words; it is about conveying meanings, emotions, and cultural nuances. Prepare for engaging mini-translation assignments and two major projects - a mid-term and a final - where you will display your translation prowess and analyze the nuances between the ST and the target texts (TT).

A unique feature of this course is the exploration of AI-generated translation. We will critically examine its capabilities, discussing where it excels and where human intuition remains irreplaceable. Your active participation is key, both in class and on our Canvas forums. Share your insights, debate viewpoints, and learn collaboratively through class interaction and exchange. The instruction is conducted mostly in Japanese mixed with some English to supplement your understanding, immersing you in the language and culture you are mastering. Join us on this exciting journey to become skilled translators in this interconnected world.

Course Materials

All materials are provided on Canvas.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

1. Utilize Translation Theory Metalanguage: Effectively employ metalanguage in both English and Japanese to discuss and analyze various aspects of translation and localization.

2. Critique AI-Generated Translations: Conduct a critical evaluation of AI-generated target texts (TTs), identifying and assessing the strengths and weaknesses of this technology.

3. Identify Translation Challenges: Recognize and understand the complexities in source texts (STs) that present significant challenges for translation and localization.

4. Showcase Cultural and Linguistic Competence: Demonstrate a deep understanding of language and cultural differences by producing accurately translated and localized versions of the challenging source texts identified.

5. Evaluate Personal Translation Work: Apply the criteria used in the critical analysis of machine translation (MT) to assess your own translated/localized texts, recognizing both the strengths and limitations encountered in your translation/localization process.

Course Requirements & Grading Distribution

Assignment	Weight (Percentage)
Active Class Participation	13%
Homework	25%
Vocabulary Tests in Context	12%
Mid-Term Project (Paper + Presentation)	25%
Final Project (Paper + Presentations)	25%
	100%

Description of Graded Components

Additional requirements for graduate students are highlighted in yellow marker below.

Class/Discussion Board Participation (13%)

Before each class, important concepts and key phrases will be posted in both languages on Canvas. When the instructor leads class discussion, it will be conducted primarily in Japanese. Students will be invited to join the discussion in Japanese initially, but, if necessary, English can be added to clarify the points being made. All students are expected to contribute at least once during each class period. Part of the class discussion will be held by a discussion forum tool on Canvas. The discussion forum is a place where students will pose questions/post comments and receive feedback from others inside and outside of the class. Your instructor will review your level of contribution to the discussion and may occasionally post responses. Graduate students will be asked to take turns as moderators of text chat and produce a weekly summary of text chat.

Homework (25%)

Each homework assignment consisting of mini-translation exercises will be posted on Canvas. The ST for these assignments will include short film clips, news, technical/business documents, anime, manga, etc. Some of these will be dubbing exercises. You must work on the homework independently first. You will then be asked to share part of your solution on Canvas discussion forum to give/receive feedback to/from others. You may revise your solution and submit the final version before the deadline. Graduate students will be asked to take turns as moderators of the group forum.

Vocabulary Tests in Context (12%)

New vocabulary (both Japanese and English) will be introduced each week. Some of these are metalanguage (words to discuss language and translation issues). Others are important words that appear in ST/TT. Before coming to each class, you must study these new words and phrases and take a short vocabulary quiz. These are the words you need to use to participate in class discussion and on the discussion board on Canvas.

Midterm Project (25%)

One of the main topics covered in this course will be the validity of widely used MT (AI-based machine translation) that incorporates large language models (LLM). Identify a particular ST that is challenging to MT. ST can be from any genre of your choice, not just limited to business/technical documents. In Midterm Project:

- Undergraduate students are required to write a 6-to-7-page project paper including references (The main body of draft must be double spaced, 11.5-point fonts) in the mixture of English and Japanese (at least 50%). Your project must review at least two research articles regarding the performance issues of MT, conduct an exploratory study that compares the performance of MT with that of a professional human translator, and critically analyze the results in terms of the translation theories and concepts introduced up to that point with a conclusion that can be drawn from the study. 4123 students are also expected to make a 6-minute presentation (+ 1 minute Q&A) to highlight your findings in English or Japanese (at least 50% in Japanese---not counting the part where you quote ST/TT).

- Graduate students are required to write a 7-to-8-page project paper in Japanese including references (The main body of your draft must be double-spaced, 11.5-point fonts) that reviews at least three research articles on the same topic as described above --- at least one of these research articles must be written in Japanese. Graduate students are also expected to make a 6-minute presentation (+ 1 minute Q&A) to highlight your findings mostly in Japanese (not counting the part where you quote ST/TT.

- The presentation will be recorded for grading purposes.

Final Project (25%)

The final project will be your own production of a J-to-E or E-to-J translation/localization. Students are expected to select a ST that has never been translated/localized before within the areas of technical and business-oriented materials that pose challenges to both human translators as well as MT. (If the selected ST has been previously translated/localized, you need to provide a sufficient rationale for redoing the work---Why is it important to redo it? In this case, your critical analysis of TT must include additional comparisons between your work and the previous work up to two additional pages.)

"Technical and business-oriented materials" are defined broadly and can include Websites, software localizations as well as advertisements on goods and services that can be seen on TV/Websites or other media. Before you launch your final project, students must receive approval from the instructor on the selection of STs. If a ST is in the visual forms (images and

videos, etc.), students are encouraged (but not required) to produce a separate TT embedded in the original ST in the form of captions, subtitles, or voice substitutions.

- Undergraduate students are required to write a 6-to-7-page project paper including references (The main body of your draft must be double-spaced, 11.5-point fonts) in the mixture of English and Japanese. Students are also expected to make a 6-minute presentation (+ 1 minute Q&A) to highlight your findings in English or Japanese (at least 50% in Japanese---not counting the part where you quote ST/TT).
- Graduate students are required to write a 7 to 8 page of project paper in Japanese including references (The main body of your draft must be double-spaced, 11.5-point fonts). Students are also expected to make a 6-minute presentation (+ 1 minute Q&A) to highlight your findings mostly in Japanese (not counting the part where you quote ST/TT.
- The presentation will be recorded for grading purposes.

The Final Project should include these components:

- Background (What is the genre of your ST? Why is it important and/or challenging to translate/localize your ST? Have there been any previous attempts to translate/localize it? If so, why is it important to do it again?)
- A side-by-side comparison table showing ST and TT. (Please line up sentence-by-sentence if possible.)
- Critical reflections (Your thoughts, analysis, message to the class, etc. What are the implications of your translation/localization outcomes? Which part of the translation/localization was challenging and why---linguistically, culturally, or other reasons? What does this reveal about intercultural communication through translation/localization?)

Timeline (See the course portal for the exact deadlines):

- **MM/DD** Upload Final Project Topic on Canvas
- **MM/DD** Upload Script Draft 1 on Canvas
- **MM/DD** Upload your Script Draft 2 on Canvas
- **MM/DD** Upload Final Project Presentation on Canvas

Evaluation of Presentations and Drafts (for Mid-term and Final)

The presentations will be evaluated on the following criteria:

A) **Background** (Did the student describe significance of translating the chosen ST clearly and in an organized fashion?)

B) **Research** [for Mid-term presentation] (Did the presenter conduct thorough research into their topic by reading a variety of materials? Did they summarize these clearly and in an organized fashion?)

C) **Reflection** (Did the student not only summarize their findings/work, but also analyze what they discovered, clarify the significance, and explore what this means about translation/localization?)

D) **Japanese Grammar and Vocabulary** (Was the presentation grammatically accurate? Were the word choices appropriate? Did the student sufficiently clarify terms that the audience might not know?)

E) **Quality of ST-TT Comparison** (Did the presenter make effort for the audience to understand the translation outcomes?)

F) **Presentation Style** (Was the presentation sufficiently fluent and practiced? Did the presenter keep the audience's attention?)

G) **Q & A** (Was the presenter able to answer questions clearly with examples if necessary?)

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Extra Credit:

As an extra credit (up to 3%), students can submit a separate summary or an extract of your mid-term or final project paper that can be adapted and showcased as the "Final Student Projects" in GT MediaSpace (https://mediaspace.gatech.edu/). In some cases, this may require a permission from the copyright owner of the ST.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Course Modality

- This is an in-person class. There will be no recordings of individual class lectures. Your presentations will be recorded for grading purposes.
- Papers, projects, tests, homework, and other assignments must be submitted in an electronic form unless instructed otherwise.

Additional information is available in the Student Guidebook.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on

Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code / or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Use of generative AI-based translation/MT translation

In the mid-term project, you are required to use generative AI-based/MT translation for critical analysis purposes. Please indicate clearly which part of your project work was the work of AI. In the final project, you are not required to use generative AI-based MT translation, but if you do use it for critical analysis purposes, please also indicate which part of your project work was the work of AI.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance and/or Participation

Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to participate in class activities. If students engage in activities that indicate their **inattention or non-participation** in the classroom activities (e.g., falling asleep, text-messaging, doing homework, reading irrelevant materials, etc.), they will receive **a score of 7 or below**. Students **are not allowed to use their computers or cellphones** in class unless otherwise requested to do so by the instructor. Failure to comply with this will result in lowering their participation and performance grades. Students **are allowed to miss a class** without penalty up to **two** times.

At the same time, the GT' rules and regulations (http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/) will be honored, which allow the absences due to the participations in institute activities, attendance in funerals, participation in particular religious observation, jury duties, etc.

Students who miss class due to illness or emergency should notify the instructor when they can and then should file an IAA form with the Registrar's Office. The instructor will be notified by e-mail if the absence is approved.

Daily participation grades can be accessed through Canvas's Gradebook weekly.

Collaboration & Group Work

Students should complete all homework assignments and projects individually unless otherwise instructed by the instructor.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement: At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/ for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Please bring your computer fully charged to class on tests days as all exams will be taken on Canvas. Computers will be allowed to reference articles during discussion if students prefer not to print. Laptops must be closed during screenings.

Campus Resources

Georgia Tech offers many resources for students in need including counseling services, personalized research assistance, tutoring, and academic support. Please check out http://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/documents/campus_resources_students.pdf for more details, and feel free to ask me if you need any assistance in finding these resources.

Weekly Course Outline

Week 1	L1 Interference
Week 2	What is good translation? Role of translators
Week 3	Overview of AI-based translation
Week 4	Critique of AI-based translation
Week 5	Critique of AI-based translation-Continued
Week 6	Mid-term project presentations
Week 7	Mid-term project presentations
Week 8	Theories of Translation
Week 9	Theories of Translation-Continued

Week 10	Theories of Translation-Continued
Week 11	Spring Break
Week 12	Translation of Scientific-Technical J.
Week 13	Translation of Scientific-Technical J.-Continued
Week 14	Translation of Business J.
Week 15	Translation of Business J.-Continued

Final Exam week: Final Project Presentations