Course description
In terms of both idiom, volume and time span, Buddhist texts are arguably the most widely translated texts in the world. This process of ongoing transfer and reformulation spans from the Middle Indic languages in the early centuries BCE to the 'classical' Buddhist languages such as Sanskrit, Tibetan and Chinese, including most 'big' East, South, Southeast Asian and European tongues and many less well-known languages such as Mon, Newar or Tocharian. It is in these shifts that both the continuities and the discontinuities of Buddhism have been reinscribed into its very textual fabric. In that sense, Buddhism has been forever both lost and found, and in fact may have never existed anywhere else than, in translation. We will try to understand why, how and at what cost these efforts were made, identify the linguistics and the logistics, the conflicts and the hermeneutics involved and ask what happened to Buddhism in the process. This course will take a peep into the Buddhist translator's workshop and confront the insights gained there with new theories that have emerged out of the current theoretical interest in translation.

Requirements
This course will be conducted as a seminar. In order to be graded, students must prepare the reading assignments in due time, attend classes regularly, participate actively in the sessions, prepare one extensively annotated translation and submit one essay.

In-class participation
The weekly reading assignments consist of book sections or articles covering a specific topic that must be read ahead of the session in which this topic will be discussed. Please check the Course Calendar below to find out which book or articles should be prepared for each session. In addition to a constant participation in in-class discussions, each student should prepare a minimum of 3 questions or critical remarks relating to the material read for each session. Students will be expected to independently raise these questions or make these remarks and react to comments made by other members of the class. The instructor will take notes on the quality of these oral contributions.
Annotated translation
The first written assignment consists in the translation of a short passage of a Buddhist text in an Asian language of the student’s choice into English. The specific passage and its length should be chosen in consultation with the instructor the latest by midterm. The translation must be completed by the last session. The translation should contain the original text and be done in a double format: (1) a literal translation followed by (2) a polished, literary translation. The translation should be accompanied by (1) footnotes explaining your choices regarding those words and passages where alternative translations would have been possible, (2) an accompanying text in which the student explains how the style of his or her literary translation is justified by and is representative of his or her reading of the passage as a whole and, more generally, which approach to translation the student has chosen and how that too may be reflected in the final product. The last session will be dedicated to the oral presentation by each student of the annotated translation and the accompanying methodological reflections.

Essay
For the final take home-essay (15-20 pages) students should choose one from among various topics which should be proposed, discussed and specified in coordination with the course instructor around mid-term. Students may suggest a theme according to their individual interests. This could be a particular text they have found challenging, a question which has come up in one of the readings, presentations, talks or discussions, or a topic you would like to explore more in detail. The research essay has to be turned in one week after the final day of class as a printout. Possible extensions to the deadline should be discussed with the course instructor well in advance. It is advisable to have at least one meeting with the course instructor to discuss the bibliography, the outline of your essay, your work in progress or receive feedback on a draft. However, keep in mind the deadline, so that you are able to incorporate advice in time. The course instructor will be glad to offer assistance in deciding on the relevant topic, material or method and discuss your thoughts and writing.

It is crucial for written assignments that everything you produce has been either formulated by yourself or marked and referenced as a quotation if you use materials you have taken from a source. As UofT has adopted a firm stance on the issue of plagiarism, please be aware that, if detected, the course instructor has the duty to report them to university authorities.

There will be no exams, quizzes or tests.

Evaluation
1. regular attendance and the active and informed participation in class before drop date: 15%
2. regular attendance and the active and informed participation in class after drop date: 5%
3. annotated translation and presentation: 30%
4. one final research essay of 15-20 pages: 50%

Course grading scheme
Undergraduate
A+ 90-100%    B+ 77-79%    C+ 67-69%    D+ 57-59%
A  85-89%     B  73-76%    C  63-66%    D  53-56%
A- 80-84%     B- 70-72%    C- 60-62%    D- 50-52%
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Graduate

Interaction with the course instructor
Address all your requests and queries about the course to the course instructor. Use your utoronto.ca mail address. The mail header should identify the course so that your mail can be quickly identified. Though incoming mails are viewed on a daily basis and though the course instructor will try to address your issues as swiftly as possible, it may take up to three days for the instructor to reply to your mail, so do wait for that period before reacting and do mail in time if you have any urgent requests. Prearrange meetings by email so that they can be scheduled upon request.
B. Schedule and topics

I. Jan 6, 2014: Introduction


Required readings for all:

Additional required readings for graduate students:

Recommended readings:

III. Jan. 20, 2014: Into Chinese

Required readings for all:

Additional required readings for graduate students:

Recommended readings:

**IV. Jan. 27, 2014: Into Tibetan**

**Required readings for all:**

**Additional required readings for graduate students:**

**Recommended reading:**

**V. Feb. 3, 2014: Into Pāli**

**Required readings for all:**

**Additional required readings for graduate students:**

**Recommended readings:**

**VI. Feb. 10, 2014: Into Sanskrit**

**Required readings for all:**

**Additional required readings for graduate students:**

**Recommended readings:**

**VII. Feb. 24, 2014. Comparative Asian translation**

**Required readings for all:**

**Additional required readings for graduate students:**
Recommended readings:

VIII. Mar. 3, 2014: Classical translation theories

Required readings for all:

Additional required readings for graduate students:

Recommended readings:

IX. Mar. 10, 2014: Postmodernist translation theories

Required readings for all:

Additional required readings for graduate students:

Recommended readings:
**X. Mar. 17, 2014: Into English**

**Required readings for all:**


**Additional required readings for graduate students:**


**Recommended readings:**


**XI. Mar. 24, 2014: Translation practiced**

**Required readings for all:**


**Recommended readings:**


**XII. Mar. 31, 2014: Translations discussed**

In-class presentation and discussion of completed student translations.