



C LIT 511 A: Workshop in Literary Translation

TTh 12:30-2:20

MGH 085

SLN 22036

Prof. Cynthia Steele

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Are you an aspiring literary translator or would you like to try your hand at it for the first time? If you are fluent in English and another language, this graduate workshop may be for you. We will read texts by Umberto Eco, Robert Bly and others reflecting on the practice of translation, including such questions as translatability, fidelity, and the charged politics of translation. Each of you will translate several short poems and pieces of fiction that have not yet been published in English. You will work with groups of other graduate students to discuss the reasons for your translation choices and what other options might be available to you. When possible, we will try to pair you with students working with the same language or group of languages. Each of you will turn in a final portfolio of your translations, including translator's introductions and a list of journals where you will send them for publication. You will each give an oral presentation about a major translator in your language pair or different versions of the same literary text into English. We will welcome guest speakers to the workshop, including the editors of AmazonCrossing, the largest publisher of fiction in translation in the country. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Texts: Umberto Eco, *Mouse or Rat? Translation as Negotiation*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2013. Kindle Edition, \$6. ASIN: B00RTY9FBU; Gill Paul, ed. *Translation in Practice*. Champaign: Dalkey Archive Press, 2009, PDF posted to Canvas; essays posted to Canvas.