

LLT 1213: World Masterpieces 2—Dr. Jaussen

As a second-year core curriculum course, World Masterpieces 2 is an appropriate place to introduce early scholarly methods: independent research, creative thinking, methodological awareness, and metadescription. To supplement the course outcome of developing cross-cultural literacy, students are given the creative/scholarly task of translating a contemporary poem from a language they have studied into their native language. They then write a 3-4 page essay in which they describe and contextualize the original poem and explain their translation choices.

To prepare them for this assignment, students are required to read two essays on translation theory by contemporary translators. A library guide developed specifically for this assignment offers a number of databases and anthologies where they then locate biographical articles on contemporary poets and texts in original languages. Having identified a poet and poem, they then complete a rough draft translation, which they share with peers in class for feedback. Incorporating this feedback into their final translation, they then write the 3-4 page essay that contextualizes, describes, and explains their poem and translation.

As an early course-based research intervention, this assignment requires students to investigate independently, reflect on translation as a scholarly method, give an account of their own practice as it reflects those methods, and produce original textual artifacts. Of equal importance, it allows them to draw on their own cultural interests and backgrounds, demonstrating that scholarly work does not require them to leave their personal