

FREN 403 Advanced Translation

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1 + 2/3 2008

30 points

STAFF

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CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Classes will meet for 1½ - 2 hours weekly. Announcements concerning assignments and other course matters will be made from time to time in class. Additional information will be posted on the Honours notice board opposite the lifts on the 5th floor of the Von Zedlitz building or on Blackboard.

Staff are pleased to be consulted during their office hours, which will be posted on office doors, and may vary from week to week.

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The course aims to help students develop skills in translation (French-English and English-French) through study of the theory and practice of translation. Translation is not only potentially of practical value, but also offers ways of understanding how the French language works and how it relates to English.

By the end of the course students should have:

- ◆ understood the main practical problems of translation, and learned appropriate strategies for handling them
- ◆ achieved a high standard of accuracy and speed in translating French texts of different registers and genres into English
- ◆ reached a good level of competence and speed in translating certain types of English into French.

COURSE CONTENT

The course begins with an introduction to theoretical and practical aspects of translation (5 classes in Trimester 1), to provide a cognitive context for practical work. The rest of the course is devoted to class exercises, home assignments (some not graded) and class tests, allowing intensive practice in translation. This year, the French - English classes will be in weeks 7-14 inclusive (7 classes and a class test), and the English - French classes (8 classes and a class test) will take place after the mid-year break (weeks 15-23).

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Translation Theory

The introductory section (weeks 1-6) on translation theory deals with a number of texts and articles, and presents some of the practical problems faced by the translator. Particular attention will be given to translation of culturally-coded messages (eg. metaphor, historical and social context) as well as the question of register. Practical exercises will include the description of suitable strategies.

Practical Section

In the practical part of the course, English is assumed to be students' "language of first use". Hence the practice of French-English translation skills (*version*) is expected to lead to translation work of high quality. Texts of various registers and a range of genres (from poems to journalism) are chosen for translation, and students are expected to master the skills appropriate for each register and genre.

On the other hand, translation from English to French (*thème*) provides a background in comparative stylistics and also helps develop French language skills. Here students will be expected to achieve correct and accurate translations of a range of types of prose.

COURSE TEXTS

- ◆ Booklet: **FREN 403: Theory of Translation** (available from programme \$tba)
 - Texts for translation will be distributed in class.
 - A list of supplementary reading is appended to this outline.

ASSESSMENT

(a) Term Work	50%
10% Theory:	
2 practical exercises (each 4%)	8%
Final Combined Test component	2%
25% French-English:	
Best 3 homework <i>versions</i> (each 5%)	15%
Version Test	5%
Final Combined Test component	5%
15% English-French:	
Best 3 homework <i>thèmes</i> (each 3%)	9%
Thème Test	3%
Final Combined Test component	3%
(b) Final Examination (3 Hours):	50%
Theory	10%
French-English	25%
English-French	15%

NB: Dates of tests are found in the calendar below. Assignment due dates will be advised in the second week of classes. Students enrolled in the course are expected to be available during the final examination period 17 October – 8 November 2008.

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RELATION OF OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT

- ◆ Assessment in the **theory** part of the course consists of practical exercises intended to test students' ability to discuss appropriate strategies for handling difficulties in translation.
- ◆ Assessment in **practical** work is designed to test students' skills both in conditions allowing careful preparation and research (homework assignments) and in conditions requiring fast and accurate work (tests or exam).
- ◆ **Homework assignments** are a regular activity (almost weekly) for a large part of the year, since the preparation, correction and discussion of them in class play a major part in the development and practice of translation skills during the year. Only a certain number of these exercises will count for assessment (the best 3 out of 6 in *Version* and best 3 out of 6 in *Thème*).
- ◆ There is a test towards the end of each practical section (in French - English and English - French respectively) to get students used to deploying translation skills quickly and accurately. At the end of classes there is a final test combining fast translation work (F-E and E-F) and discussion of translation strategies: this test is of the same length (3 hours), structure and difficulty as the Final Exam, so it also serves as a "rehearsal" of exam conditions.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

Faculty guidelines suggest you should expect to devote around 12 hours a week to this course (including the class).

MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To fulfil the minimum requirements for this course, students must have completed all the work counted for assessment, and attended 80% of all classes (although full attendance is expected).

ILLNESS AND OTHER PROBLEMS AFFECTING YOUR WORK

It is important to inform your instructors of any problem affecting your work. If you miss any test or assignment date through illness, you must make this up by equivalent work. Please discuss these questions with your instructors.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University supports disabled students in their studies. The SAELC coordinator for students with disabilities is Richard Millington vZ 613 (tel 463 5976). You are welcome to discuss your needs with him or with any of our staff.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course all students will be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

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GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Week 1	Introduction to theory and practice of translation (JA)
Weeks 2 - 6	Translation theory (JA)
Weeks 7 - 14	Practical translation exercises: French - English (<i>Version</i>) (JA)
Weeks 15 - 23	Practical translation exercises: English-French (<i>Thème</i>) (NG)
Week 24	Final Combined Test (3 hours): Theory/E-F/F-E

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Date (Week of)	Programme
1	24 Feb	JA Introduction to Theory
2	03 Mar	JA Theory 2
3	10 Mar	JA Theory 3
4	17 Mar	JA Theory 4 (Theory Exercise A due 26 March)
5	24 Mar	JA Theory 5
6	31 Mar	JA Theory Ex B (done in class)
7	7 Apr	JA French – English 1
MID TERM BREAK		
8	28 Apr	JA French – English 2 (Version 1 due)
9	05 May	JA French – English 3 (Version 2 due)
10	12 May	JA French – English 4 (Version 3 due)
11	19 May	JA French – English 5 (Version 4 due)
12	26 May	JA French – English 6 (Version 5 due)
MID-YEAR BREAK		
13	07 Jul	JA French – English 7 (Version Test, in class time)
14	14 Jul	JA French – English 8 (Version 6 due)
15	21 Jul	NG English – French 1
16	28 Jul	NG English – French 2 (Thème 1 due)
17	04 Aug	NG English – French 3 (Thème 2 due)
18	11 Aug	NG English – French 4 (Thème 3 due)
MID TERM BREAK		
19	01 Sep	NG English – French 5 (Thème 4 due)
20	08 Sep	NG English – French 6 (Thème 5 due)
21	15 Sep	NG English – French 7 (Thème 6 due)
22	22 Sep	NG English – French 8 (Thème Test, in class time)
23	29 Sept	NG English – French 9
24	06 Oct	NG / JA FINAL TEST (Théorie/Thème/Version)

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FURTHER READING ON TRANSLATION

While the emphasis in the course is primarily on the practical realities of translation, you may gain many useful insights from the following texts, available in the French Student Library (VZ 6th floor) or the University Library.

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| Baker, Mona: | <i>In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation</i> (1992)
P 306 B168 I |
| Bassnett, Susan: | <i>Translation Studies</i> (1991)
P 306 B321 T |
| Hervey, Sandor &
Ian Higgins: | <i>Thinking Translation: A Course in Translation Method</i> (1992)
PC 2498 S579 T |
| Ladmiral, Jean-René: | <i>Traduire: théorèmes pour la traduction</i>
P 306 L 155 T |
| Tymoczko, Maria &
Edwin Gentzler | <i>Translation and Power</i> (2002)
P306 T772 2ed |
| Venuti, Lawrence | <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i> (2004)
PS306 T772 2ed |
| Vinay, J.P. &
J. Darbelnet: | <i>Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais</i>
(available in French Library, VZ 506) |

