

FREN 403 Advanced Translation

School of Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1 + 2/3 2009

30 points

STAFF

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TRIMESTER DATES

Trimester 1:	2 March – 9 April and 27 April – 5 June 2009
Trimester 2:	13 July – 21 August and 7 September – 16 October 2009
Examination period:	27 October – 14 November 2009

COURSE DELIVERY

Classes will meet for 1½ - 2 hours weekly. In the first trimester this will be Wednesday 10am – 12 noon in VZ 510. A change may be made in Trimester 2 to accommodate the change of staff. Announcements concerning assignments and other course matters will be made from time to time in class. Additional information will be announced in class and/or posted on the Honours notice board opposite the lifts on the 5th floor of the Von Zedlitz building or on Blackboard.

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

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. Further extension work may be suggested depending on class interest.

COURSE AIMS AND LEARNING 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 (6 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).

Translation Theory

The introductory section 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.

Opportunities for 'real-world' translation experience may be taken up as they arise.

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).

ASSESSMENT

Tasks are designed to develop translation skills progressively through the course. As best practice requires professional translators to work almost exclusively towards their first language, more weight is allocated to the French-English exercises to reflect this.

Assessment in the course is as follows:

(a) Assignments and Tests:	50%
2 theory exercises (each 4%)	8%
French-English translations Best 3 (each 5%)	15%
English-French translations Best 3 (each 3%)	9%

French-English test	5%
English-French test	3%
Final combined test	10%
Theory	2%
French-English	5%
English-French	3%
(b) Final Examination: (3 Hours, dictionary permitted)	50%
Theory	10%
French-English	25%
English-French	15%

***NB: Dates of tests and assignments 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 19 October – 14 November 2009.***

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*).
- ◆ The two tests (French-English and English-French) are designed to develop students' skills in translating quickly and accurately. At the end of the course 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.

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 SLC 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 SLC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course students may 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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

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

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

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	02 Mar	JA	Introduction to Theory
2	09 Mar	JA	Theory 2
3	16 Mar	JA	Theory 3
4	23 Mar	JA	Theory 4 (Theory Ex A due 27 March)
5	30 Mar	JA	Theory 5
6	06 Apr	JA	Theory Ex B (done in class)
MID TERM BREAK			
7	27 Apr	JA	French – English 1
8	04 May	JA	French – English 2 (Version 1 due)
9	11 May	JA	French – English 3 (Version 2 due)
10	18 May	JA	French – English 4 (Version 3 due)
11	25 May	JA	French – English 5 (Version 4 due)
12	01 Jun	JA	French – English 6 (Version 5 due)
MID-YEAR BREAK			
13	13 Jul	JA	French – English 7 (Version Test, in class time)
14	20 Jul	JA	French – English 8 (Version 6 due)
15	27 Jul	NG	English – French 1
16	03 Aug	NG	English – French 2 (Thème 1 due)
17	10 Aug	NG	English – French 3 (Thème 2 due)
18	17 Aug	NG	English – French 4 (Thème 3 due)
MID TERM BREAK			
19	07 Sep	NG	English – French 5 (Thème 4 due)
20	14 Sep	NG	English – French 6 (Thème 5 due)
21	21 Sep	NG	English – French 7 (Thème 6 due)
22	28 Sep	NG	English – French 8 (Thème Test, in class time)
23	05 Oct	NG	English – French 9
24	12 Oct	NG / JA	FINAL TEST (Théorie/Thème/Version)

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 (1992) | <i>In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation</i>
P 306 B168 I |
| Bassnett, Susan (1991) | <i>Translation Studies</i>
P 306 B321 T |
| Hervey, Sandor &
Ian Higgins (1992) | <i>Thinking Translation: A Course in Translation Method</i>
PC 2498 S579 T |
| Ladmiral, Jean-René (1979) | <i>Traduire: théorèmes pour la traduction</i>
P 306 L 155 T |
| Tymoczko, Maria &
Edwin Gentzler (2002) | <i>Translation and Power</i>
P306 T772 2ed |
| Venuti, Lawrence (2004) | <i>The Translation Studies Reader</i>
PS306 T772 2ed |
| Vinay, J.P. &
J. Darbelnet (1990) | <i>Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais</i>
(available in French Library, VZ 506) |

