

## SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

### FRENCH PROGRAMME FREN 403 ADVANCED TRANSACTION

**TRIMESTER 1 + 2 2010**  
**1 March to 13 November 2010**

#### Trimester dates

<b>Trimester 1:</b>	Teaching dates:	1 March – 4 June 2010
	Mid-trimester break:	5 April – 18 April 2010
<b>Trimester 2:</b>	Teaching dates:	12 July – 15 October 2010
	Mid-trimester break:	23 August – 5 September 2010
Study week:	18 October – 22 October	
Exam period:	22 October – 13 November	

All students enrolled in this course are expected to be available during the examination period.

#### Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

#### Names and contact details

Dr Jean Anderson	Course Coordinator Email: <a href="mailto:jean.anderson@vuw.ac.nz">jean.anderson@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: posted on door	Office: VZ 513 Phone: 463-5797
Nadia Gueury	Email: <a href="mailto:nadia.gueury@vuw.ac.nz">nadia.gueury@vuw.ac.nz</a> Office hours: posted on door	Office: VZ 716 Phone: 463-6456
Administrator:	Alison Dixie Email: <a href="mailto:alison.dixie@vuw.ac.nz">alison.dixie@vuw.ac.nz</a>	Office: VZ 610 Phone: 463 5318
Disability Liaison Person: Maori & Pacific Islands Students Liaison:	Richard Millington Email: <a href="mailto:richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz">richard.millington@vuw.ac.nz</a>	Office: VZ 613 Phone: 463 5976

## Class times and locations

Classes will meet for 1½– 2 hours weekly. In the first trimester this will be Wednesday 9.30am – 11am in VZ 510. A change may be made in Trimester 2 to accommodate the change of staff.

## Communication of additional information

Additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on the FREN 403 notice board, VZ Level 5 next to VZ 510, and on Blackboard.

## 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.

## 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.

### Expected workload

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

### Course materials

There are no required texts for this course.

### Assessment requirements

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:

<b>(a) Assignments and Tests:</b>	<b>50%</b>
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>(b) Final Examination: (3 Hours, dictionary permitted)</b>	<b>50%</b>
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.**

### 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 5 in *Version* and best 3 out of 4 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.

### Penalties

Students are expected to respect the dates for handing in assignments and sitting tests. **Extensions** for assignments should be requested from the instructor as early as possible ***before the deadline***. Late work may be accepted for course requirements but may not be marked. Students who did not apply for an extension before the deadline may be assigned a zero mark.

Alternative arrangements for tests may be agreed by the Course Coordinator on presentation of a medical certificate or some other appropriate document(s) or in some cases by prior agreement. Such arrangements should be made **as soon as possible, *at the latest the day after the test***.

### Mandatory 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).

### Class representative

The Course Coordinator will facilitate the election of a class representative during the first week of classes. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with teaching staff on behalf of students; his/her name and contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and students in the class.

### 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

Copying work from another student or any other text or part of a text without proper acknowledgement is not permissible. While students are encouraged to work together in study groups and re-use vocabulary and idiomatic phrases from French authentic texts, all assignments and tests must entirely be the student's own work. It is not acceptable to re-use whole clauses or sentences and students must work **entirely** on their own. In case of difficulties, students should consult the course coordinator. **Copying and plagiarism will result in a mark of zero for the whole exercise and may lead to disciplinary action for the student(s) involved.**

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 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>

The AVC (Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>

## 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

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b> (Week of)	<b>Programme</b>	
1	01 Mar	JA	Introduction to Theory
2	08 Mar	JA	Theory 2
3	15 Mar	JA	Theory 3
4	22 Mar	JA	Theory 4 ( <b>Theory Ex A due 26 March</b> )
5	29 Mar	JA	Theory 5

### MID TRIMESTER BREAK

6	19 Apr	JA	<b>Theory Ex B (done in class)</b>
7	26 Apr	JA	French – English 1
8	03 May	JA	French – English 2 ( <b>Version 1 due</b> )
9	10 May	JA	French – English 3 ( <b>Version 2 due</b> )
10	17 May	JA	French – English 4 ( <b>Version 3 due</b> )
11	24 May	JA	French – English 5 ( <b>Version 4 due</b> )
12	31 May	JA	French – English 6 ( <b>Version 5 due</b> )

### MID-YEAR BREAK

13	12 Jul	JA	French – English 7 ( <b>Version Test, in class time</b> )
14	19 Jul	JA	French – English 8
15	26 Jul	NG	English – French 1
16	02 Aug	NG	English – French 2 ( <b>Thème 1 due</b> )
17	09 Aug	NG	English – French 3
18	16 Aug	NG	English – French 4 ( <b>Thème 2 due</b> )

### MID TRIMESTER BREAK

19	06 Sep	NG	English – French 5 ( <b>Thème 3 due</b> )
20	13 Sep	NG	English – French 6
21	20 Sep	NG	English – French 7 ( <b>Thème 4 due</b> )
22	27 Sep	NG	English – French 8 ( <b>Thème Test, in class time</b> )
23	04 Oct	NG	English – French 9
24	11 Oct	NG / JA	<b>FINAL TEST</b>

## 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 level 6) or the University Library.

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