

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

**FRENCH PROGRAMME
FREN 403 ADVANCED TRANSATION**

TRIMESTER 1 and 2 2012
5 March to 17 November 2012

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 5 March to 19 October 2012

Mid-trimester breaks: 6-22 April and 27 August to 9 September 2012

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal 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

Contact details of French Programme staff involved in this course are as follows:

**Course Coordinator
and Lecturer:**

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Reception Hours: 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Maori
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Class times and locations

The course is made up of one two-hour seminar-style class per week.
Wednesday 11.00am – 12.50am in vZ515

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on the FREN noticeboard, vZ Level 5 next to vZ510, and/or on Blackboard.

Course prescription

Introduction to translation methodology, practical exercises in translation, principally from French to English with some exercises from English to French.

Course content

The course begins with an introduction to theoretical and practical aspects of translation (5 classes), 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, with an emphasis on literary translation.

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 (e.g. 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
- ◆ gained some degree of understanding of comparative stylistics (English – French).

Expected workload

The University Assessment Handbook suggests you should expect to devote 12 hours a week to this course (including contact hours).

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:

ASSIGNMENTS & TESTS	50%
2 theory exercises (each 3%)	6%
French-English translations - Best 5/11 (each 4%)	20%
English-French translations - Best 2/4 (each 4.5%)	9%
French-English test	5%
Final combined test	10%
FINAL EXAMINATION	50%

NB: *Dates of tests and assignments are found in the calendar below.*

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 (see above).
- ◆ Tests 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

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is Victoria's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language learning and teaching.

At the LLC you can practise and extend your language learning. You can:

- select the materials or activities that you find interesting
- study with resources that match your language level and learning style
- find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages

Access a variety of multimedia language resources at the LLC: everything from print, audio materials, foreign language TV and DVDs to language-learning software.

The LLC provides access to your digital course material on a server, and instructions are given during LLC orientations. The Blackboard site for most language courses has an LLC content-page for your reference, with web links, LLC Guides, resource lists, etc.

Drop by the centre to find out more, or visit the website. LLC, Level 0 von Zedlitz Building, www.victoria.ac.nz/llc/

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>

Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

Course programme

WEEK 1	
7 March	Introduction to theory and practice of translation
WEEK 2	
14 March	Translation theory
WEEK 3	
21 March	Translation theory
WEEK 4	
28 March	Translation theory
WEEK 5	
4 April	Translation theory THEORY EXERCISE 1 DUE
Mid-trimester break 6-22 April	
WEEK 6	
25 April	ANZAC Day

WEEK 7	
2 May	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 8	
9 May	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 9	
16 May	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 10	
23 May	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 11	
30 May	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 12	
6 June	Practical translation exercises French – English
Mid-year study/examination period and break 11 June-15 July	
WEEK 13	
18 July	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 14	
25 July	Practical translation exercises English – French THEORY EXERCISE 2 DUE
WEEK 15	
1 August	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 16	
8 August	Practical translation exercises English – French
WEEK 17	
15 August	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 18	
22 August	Practical translation exercises English – French
Mid-trimester break 27 August – 9 Sept	
WEEK 19	
12 Sept	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 20	
19 Sept	FRENCH-ENGLISH TEST IN CLASS
WEEK 21	
26 Sept	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 22	
3 Oct	Practical translation exercises English – French
WEEK 23	
10 Oct	Practical translation exercises in class
WEEK 24	
17 Oct	Final TEST : Théorie - Version – Thème

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 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> |