



SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

FRENCH PROGRAMME FREN 403 ADVANCED TRANSLATION

TRIMESTER 1 AND 2 2014

Trimester dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Study week: 20–24 October 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 24 October to 15 November 2014

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

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator and Lecturer:

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School Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/slc

Class times and locations

The course is made up of one two-hour seminar-style class per week.

Mondays 1.10pm - 3.00pm 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.

Prescription

Introduction to translation methodology, practical exercises in translation from French to English and 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.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

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.

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. understood the main practical problems of translation, and learned appropriate strategies for handling them
2. achieved a high standard of accuracy and speed in translating French texts of different registers and genres into English
3. achieved a good standard of grammatical and lexical accuracy in translating English texts into French
4. have gained some degree of understanding of comparative stylistics (English – French).

Teaching format

The course consists of three modules, although there is a close relationship between the content of these and students are expected to make connections between the theoretical readings in the first module and the more practical focus on the translation modules (French to English and English to French). Students will report informally at regular intervals and are expected to share and discuss their translation choices. Classes thus vary between an informal lecture and seminar formats.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. complete all the work counted for assessment, unless otherwise arranged with the course coordinator
2. attend 80% of all classes (although full attendance is expected)

Workload

Time required to prepare readings and exercises for each class and complete the assignments will vary from student to student, depending on their levels of linguistic competence and/or previous experience of translation. However, students should plan to spend approximately 12 hours per week on the course, 10 of these outside class times.

Translation exercises will vary in length and difficulty, in order to develop flexibility in translation skills or to demonstrate particular teaching points, but will aim for 10 hours of work each.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 2 theory exercises (each 3%)	6%	1, 4	31 Mar, 21 July
2 French-English translations - Best 5/10 (each 4%)	20%	1, 2, 4	5, 12, 19, 26 May, 2 June, 14, 28 July, 11 Aug, 8 Sept, 22 Sept
3 English-French translations - Best 2/4 (each 4.5%)	9%	1, 3, 4	21 July, 4, 18 Aug, 29 Sept
4 French-English test	5%	1, 2, 4	15 Sept
5 Final combined test (Week 24)	10%	1, 2, 3, 4	13 Oct
6 Final written examination (3 hours)	50%	1, 2, 3, 4	To be advised

Relation of objectives and 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 **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.

Submission and return of work

Students will hand in their assignments at reception on Level 6, Von Zedlitz building, by 4pm on the Thursday preceding the week in which they will be returned in class. With prior agreement ONLY, students may email assignments.

Each student will be responsible for maintaining a portfolio of marked work for sending to the external assessor for consideration at the end of the course. These portfolios will be collected in Week 22.

Extensions and 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**.

Set texts

Class readings and notes will be available on Blackboard or given out in class.

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. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the [VUWSA website](#).

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Language Learning Centre (LLC)

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

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

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website www.victoria.ac.nz/llc

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Course programme

WEEK 1		
3 March	Introduction to theory and practice of translation	
WEEK 2		
10 March	Translation theory	
WEEK 3		
17 March	Translation theory	
WEEK 4		
24 March	Translation theory	
WEEK 5		
31 March	Translation theory	THEORY EXERCISE 1 DUE
WEEK 6		
7 April	Translation theory and practice (summary)	
WEEK 7		
14 April	Practical translation exercises French – English	
Mid-trimester break 18 April – 4 May		
WEEK 8		
5 May	Practical translation exercises French – English	
WEEK 9		
12 May	Practical translation exercises French – English	
WEEK 10		
19 May	Practical translation exercises French – English	
WEEK 11		
26 May	Practical translation exercises French – English	
WEEK 12		
2 June	Queen's Birthday	
Mid-year study/examination period and break 9 June – 13 July		
WEEK 13		
14 July	Practical translation exercises French – English	
WEEK 14		
21 July	Practical translation exercises English – French	THEORY EXERCISE 2 DUE

WEEK 15	
28 July	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 16	
4 August	Practical translation exercises English – French
WEEK 17	
11 August	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 18	
18 August	Practical translation exercises English – French
Mid-trimester break 25 August – 7 Sept	
WEEK 19	
8 Sept	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 20	
15 Sept	FRENCH-ENGLISH TEST IN CLASS
WEEK 21	
22 Sept	Practical translation exercises French – English
WEEK 22	
29 Sept	Practical translation exercises English – French PORTFOLIOS COLLECTED
WEEK 23	
6 Oct	Practical translation exercises in class
WEEK 24	
13 Oct	Final TEST (3 hours : 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> |