

FREN 3250 ADVANCED FRENCH TRANSLATION



Tour de Babel (Pierre Bruegel)

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Course Description

This course is designed as an initiation into translation from English to French and French to English with **the ultimate goal of enhancing students' ability to express themselves in authentic-sounding French.**

Specific characteristics include: offering ample practice translating; opportunities to develop and refine language skills in French (vocabulary, style, sociolinguistic register, idiomatic expression); promoting awareness of structural and conceptual differences between French and English and greater cross-cultural understanding.

To this end, students will actively engage in the following activities:

- learn about translation processes (reading excerpts from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (by J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet).
- translate a variety of documents drawn from different contexts (newspaper and magazine articles, advertising, literary texts, television news, films) in addition to doing focused exercises from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais*;
- critique their own and classmates' work.
- analyze and discuss difficulties of translation.
- compare French and American modes of thought and expression.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

○ Contribution to class work (20%)

Most activities in class will be based on the correction and discussion of texts translated at home. Students are expected to be prepared and ready to work with fellow students. Some

translation work (i.e. selected sentences, short texts or audiovisual material for subtitling) will be done collaboratively without prior preparation.

- **Individual translations (30%)**

There will be four translations (2 towards English, 2 towards French) that will be graded individually.

- **Group translations (20%)**

Students will collaborate on four translations outside of class and submit a final group version to be evaluated. The final project, based on audiovisual material, will entail generating subtitles in English for a French broadcast.

- **Exams (30%)** [subject to change]

Midterm: The test will include both a review of exercises previously done (short sentences to translate) and new material to test your understanding of fundamental notions in comparative stylistics.

Final: At-home translation project (TBD).

Course Policies: Students are expected to attend classes and complete assignments on time. If unable to do so, they need to contact the professor.

The entire course content is available on Canvas. Students will have access to a variety of textual and audiovisual materials for translation, excerpts from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (by J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet), as well as additional useful readings and resources.

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As the course instructor, my goal is to provide optimal conditions for learning and assure that everyone has the opportunity to broaden their understanding of translation processes and develop their language skills in a positive collaborative space. Students' responsibility is to do the best they can to succeed. Everyone is strongly encouraged to seek help (academic or otherwise) whenever needed. My office hours also give everyone the opportunity to receive more personal attention and additional practice in French.