

# ADVANCED FRENCH TRANSLATION



Tour de Babel (Pierre Bruegel)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

FREN 325 is designed as an initiation into translation from English to French and French to English with the ultimate goal of enhancing your ability to express yourself in authentic-sounding French.

### The specific objectives of the course are:

- to give you ample practice translating
- to develop and refine your language skills in French: vocabulary, style, sociolinguistic register, idiomatic expression
- to sensitize you to structural and conceptual differences between French and English
- to increase your cross-cultural understanding

### To attain these objectives, you will:

- read selected excerpts from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (by J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet).
- do systematic exercises drawn from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais*, translate a variety of documents from different contexts (newspaper and magazine articles, advertising, literary texts, television news, films).
- critique your own and your classmates' work.
- analyze and discuss difficulties of translation.
- compare French and American modes of thought and expression.

## WORK AND EXPECTATIONS

### Participation, class work (20%)

Most class work will be based on the correction and discussion of texts translated at home. You are expected to come to class prepared and ready to work with your fellow students. Some translation work, such as selected sentences, short texts or television news excerpts, will be done collaboratively in class without prior preparation. You will be evaluated daily on your preparation and your willingness to participate and collaborate with your classmates. Good class participation promotes a strong team spirit and requires both preparedness and a cooperative attitude when doing small group or pair work.

Attendance: Because of the emphasis on in-class work (translation practice and correction), regular attendance and participation is essential. A total of **three absences** for the semester will be allowed. After three absences, your participation grade will be lowered by one sign.

### Individual translations (30%)

In addition to daily translations which will be discussed in class, you will do four translations (2 towards English, 2 towards French) that will be collected and graded individually. Work to be turned in should be typed (*Word document, double-spaced, 1" margins, Times 12 point font*) and completed by class time on the due date.

**Late work will not be accepted and will earn a 0 (unless an exceptional extension has been granted).**

### Group translations (20%)

You are expected to work collaboratively on four translations outside of class and submit a final group version to be evaluated. The final project will be to translate a short segment from a French film. The work will include generating subtitles in English and commenting on those linguistic and cultural aspects which may present difficulties for an American audience.

### Exams (30%)

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: You will translate two short literary passages from French to English and vice versa (a dictionary is allowed).

## MATERIAL

You will read extended excerpts from *Stylistique comparée du français et de l'anglais* (by J.P. Vinay and J. Darbelnet) available on our course site on Canvas. The book will also be on Reserve at the Van Pelt Library during the semester for your convenience. Workbook exercises and other material will be distributed regularly or made available on Canvas.

Recommended: You will need good dictionaries, (French/English and French only, i.e. *Le Petit Robert*, *Larousse*, *The Oxford-Hachette French Dictionary*), a grammar/reference book (i.e. *Le Bon usage: grammaire française avec des remarques sur la langue française d'aujourd'hui*, Maurice Grevisse) and a notebook in which you will record a personal selection of new vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and stylistically interesting structures.

Grading scale:

97 - 100 A+

94 - 96 A

90 - 93 A-

87 - 89 B+

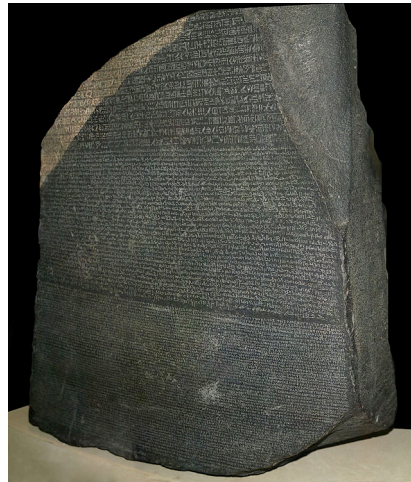
83 - 86 B

80 - 82 B-

77 - 79 C+

73 - 76 C

70 - 72 C-



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