

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

**2015-2016 FREN 254 A1: INTRODUCTION TO TRANSLATION THEORY AND
PRACTICE: FRENCH-ENGLISH-FRENCH
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Sathya Rao

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Time: MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Place: HC 2 41

Office Hours: TR 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM

or by appointment

Course Website: Moodle

Course Prerequisite: FREN 297 by consent of the department. This course may be used for the MLCS Certificate in Translation Studies.

The Certificate in Translation Studies is available to students with a major or minor in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish and/or Ukrainian only in the Faculties of Arts or Science (Calendar Section 43.1). In all cases, the certificate is granted by the Faculty of Arts at the time a student graduates from his or her degree program (see §§44.8.5 or 44.19.5). Please note that students who lack an appropriate major or minor, or who are matriculated in a Faculty other than Arts or Science, may NOT receive the Certificate in Translation Studies.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to explore linguistic differences and similarities between English and French as a preliminary step to translation practice. Problem-solving approaches will be applied through a variety of collective as well as individual exercises meant to deal practically with translation challenges. The students will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with professional translation tools such as TERMIUM and basic translation studies concepts as well as to translate a wide range of material both ways. The expected learning goals are to improve their knowledge of French as a whole; to enhance their understanding of French-English-French translation problems and strategies; and to gain translation experience. The community activity component of the course will allow students to become familiar with the vibrant Franco-Albertan community.

Texts:

Required

- Most of the course material will be posted on Moodle or distributed to the students
- French-English bilingual dictionary (e.g. *Robert & Collins, Harrap's*)
- French dictionary (e.g., *Larousse, Petit Robert*)
- English dictionary (e.g., *Cambridge, Oxford*)

**Students have the option to purchase either a print or an electronic version.*

Recommended

- French grammar book (*Le Petit Grevisse*)
- English grammar book (e.g. Longman)
- VINAY Jean-Paul & Jean DARBELNET (1994). *Comparative Stylistics of English and French. A Methodology for Translation* (translated by J. C. Sager and M-J. Hamel), Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company (recommended for students with a background in linguistics).
- MORTON, Jacqueline (1997). *English Grammar for Students of French*. The Olivia and Hill Press (4th edition).

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

- **Quiz 1** (15%) October 9
- **Quiz 2** (15%): November 20
- **Translation project** (20%): November 6 or sooner
- **Community event report** (10%): November 20 or sooner
- **In-class cumulative test** (30%): December 4 (part 1) & 7 (part 2)
- **Participation** (10%): to be assessed at the end of the semester

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Translation project: Students will have the opportunity to translate or create video clips on a wide range of translation-related issues.

Community event report: Students will attend one community event among those listed on the Moodle “Activités et ressources en français” website and write a short report. Outstanding

reports will be posted on [the Francopains blog](#). Motivated students will also have the opportunity to present their report on the French radio program “Fourre-Tout” (CJSR).

In-class cumulative test: Cumulative exam on all the material covered throughout the semester.

Participation: Students are expected to attend class as per the “attendance and absence policy” and participate in class discussions and group activities.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that

on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course: Students are allowed to miss three sessions of the lecture without penalty regardless of the reason for their absence **provided they notify the instructor ahead of time, after which two percentage points per absence** will be deducted from the attendance and participation grade. Hence it is recommended not to miss a session unless absolutely necessary.

Missed grade components due to absences may be taken at another time if they are due to illness or domestic affliction. Instructors can no longer request a doctor’s note for absences due to illness, but they may request other adequate documentation at their discretion such as a form from the student’s Faculty or a statutory declaration. In other cases, including domestic affliction or religious conviction, adequate documentation must be provided to substantiate the reason for an absence.

The student must notify their instructor by e-mail within two days following the scheduled date of the term work missed or as soon as the student is able to arrange for an extension or make-up test / assignment. Instructors are not required to grant make-up assignments / tests or extensions for unacceptable reasons that include, but are not limited to, personal events such as vacations, weddings, or travel arrangements. When

the student misses some term work without an acceptable excuse, a final grade will be computed using a raw score of zero for the term work missed.

Policy for Late Assignments:

In this course, **assignments are not accepted late unless an excusable reason is documented** (see section on attendance and missed grade components). Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension.

When any other evaluation has been scheduled, any student who misses class on this day and does not have an excusable reason for the absence will get a zero, even though s/he might have been absent the day it was announced as s/he has the responsibility to enquire about what has been missed.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Very good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for

			subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.