FREN 420
Modern Languages

COURSE NAME/NUMBER
FACULTY/DEPARTMENT
UFV CREDITS

French Translation and Comparative Stylistics

COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Taught entirely in French, this course provides students with the basic tools of comparative stylistics and translation, such as transposition, translation units, modulation, and expansion, and improves their understanding of the nuances of French syntax, grammar, vocabulary, and register. Students will closely examine translations of excerpts of different well-known texts, and will work on actual translations from French to English and English to French.

PREREQUISITES:
FREN 319 and two other 300-level FREN courses.

COREQUISITES:
None

PRE or COREQUISITES:
None

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):
(a) Replaces:
(b) Cross-listed with:
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

SERVICE COURSE TO:
(department/program)

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: 60

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:

LENGTH OF COURSE: 

HOURS PER DAY:

OTHER:

Maximum enrolment: 26

Expected frequency of course offerings: Once per year

(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)

WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)

TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:

Course designer(s): Betty-Joan Traverse
Department Head: Betty-Joan Traverse
Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC) 
Curriculum Committee chair: Tetsuomi Anzai
Dean/Associate VP: Jacqueline Nolte
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval

Date approved: August 2012
Date of meeting: November 23, 2012
Date approved: December 2012
Date approved: December 2012
Date of meeting: February 1, 2013
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Divide a text into translation units in both English and French.
- Understand the concepts of modulation, transposition, syntactic and lexical gallicisms, and anglicisms, and identify these by comparing translations.
- Identify differences in registers and context in a variety of documents.
- Use technological tools available to translators and terminologists.
- Identify common difficulties and pitfalls in interlinguistic transfer.
- Translate non-technical texts of moderate difficulty from English to French and French to English.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
Primary format of instruction is lecture; course will also involve discussion, student presentation, paired work on translation exercises, and an on-line component. Participation in class is compulsory.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

- Examination(s)
- Portfolio assessment
- Interview(s)

Other (specify):

PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:
Students will need a good unilingual French dictionary and a bilingual French-English dictionary. Pocket dictionaries are inadequate.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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## Course Content:

(Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French 420 Weekly Content</th>
<th>Theory</th>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Blackboard</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>Basic Notions: Differences between French and English; Translation tools (dictionaries; on-line terminology banks, etc.); Introduction to translation methodology and cognitive processes</td>
<td>Unilingual and bilingual dictionary exercises; examples of erroneous and unintentionally humorous translations on labels, ads, instructions, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td>What is a translation unit?</td>
<td>Identifying translation units</td>
<td>Collaborative work on translation of a given text</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
<td>Direct translations: <em>emprunts</em> / loanwords; <em>calques</em> / loan translations</td>
<td>Identifying loanwords and loan translations;</td>
<td>Comparing Frédéric Beigbeder’s “Windows on the World” and its translation</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td>Lexical and structural anglicisms and gallicisms; “faux amis”</td>
<td>Identifying anglicisms and gallicisms and correcting them; identifying “faux amis” and finding the correct translation; Individual translation to hand in</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Indirect translations: What is transposition?</td>
<td>Transposition exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Indirect translations: What is modulation?</td>
<td>Modulation exercises</td>
<td>Collaborative work on translating a text, using transposition and modulation techniques</td>
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<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>Indirect translations: What is equivalency</td>
<td>Equivalency exercises</td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>French – English: Reduction</td>
<td>Translating a text from French – English; reducing the number of words Individual translation to hand in</td>
<td>Collaborative translation; reducing the English text</td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>English – French: Expansion</td>
<td>Translating a text from English – French; expanding the number of words</td>
<td>Comparison of Charles Baudelaire's translation of Edgar Allan Poe's &quot;Le Chat Noir&quot;</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Translation challenges: Aesthetic</td>
<td>Comparing a translation of Cyrano de Bergerac with the original French text; Individual translation to hand in</td>
<td>Collaborative work on translating Pauline Johnson’s &quot;Legends of Vancouver&quot;</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Translation challenges: Register</td>
<td>Exercise on translating a text in the appropriate sociolinguistic register</td>
<td>Collaborative work on a translation in a familiar register</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Translation challenges: non-standard works – jargon, dialects, sociolects</td>
<td>Identifying non-standard works; Comparing an excerpt of a Michel Tremblay play and its translation</td>
<td>Collaborative work on a translation from <em>joual</em> (Quebec dialect)</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Translation challenges: puns; film subtitles</td>
<td>Study of translated puns; movie sub-titles; critique and suggested improvements</td>
<td>Collaborative work in translating puns and subtitles</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Review for final exam; Final translation to hand in</td>
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**Mid-term exam**