

FREN 4400 French Linguistics & Translation  
University of North Texas  
Fall 2013

**Lawrence Williams**

Associate Professor of French  
lawrence.williams@unt.edu  
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures  
Office: LANG 405F  
Department Phone: 565-2404



**Course content and goals**

This course offers students opportunities to explore and expand cultural and linguistic skills and knowledge as a part of the French major, minor, or certificate program French for the Professions. This course satisfies the **Capstone** requirement of the University Core Curriculum (see below). A transfer of learning from other courses (French as well as other subjects) in order to make interdisciplinary connections is expected and encouraged. At the same time, students will have many opportunities to compare the linguistic systems of English and French and the cultural aspects of language that are deeply embedded in written, electronic, visual, and oral types of texts.

**Learning objectives**

Students will learn strategies for efficient and effective use of dictionaries and other available resources in order to engage in the type of imaginative problem-solving that is required when translating meaning from one language to another. Students will also learn commonly used techniques for identifying and dealing with cultural and linguistic aspects of language that cannot be conveyed through direct, literal translation. Throughout the semester, students will have ample opportunities to build their knowledge base of English and French grammar and vocabulary as well as cultural and social issues that affect many different francophone communities across North America, Europe, and Africa.

**Required Textbook**

Paperback version of *Translation, Linguistics, Culture: A French-English Handbook* by Nigel Armstrong. Published in 2005 by Multilingual Matters.  
ISBN-10: 1853598054; ISBN-13: 978-1853598050

Multilingual Matters



UNT Bookstore



## Disability Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

Students must follow the Procedure for Requesting Special Accommodation, as indicated in the UNT Policy Manual. "Within the first week of class, qualified students must notify the instructor or academic unit liaison for disability accommodation that options to standard methods of educational access will be needed" ([Volume 3, 18.1.14, part II, section B](#)).



## University Policies and Resources

Conduct & Rights



Succeed at UNT



## Course Grade

Your final grade will be based on the items listed below:

Homework/Quizzes:	40%
In-Class Presentation	10%
Translation Projects (3)	30%
Final Exam:	20%

## Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
0-59.9	F

Homework and quizzes will be given either as a traditional homework assignment, a Blackboard assignment, or an in-class assignment.

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. They will include one or more of the following types of exercises: 1) translation of lexical items, idiomatic expressions, and/or sentences; 2) translation of cultural aspects of English/French; 3) short answers to questions about translation procedures and processes; or 4) grammatical analysis of excerpts of French texts.

You are allowed to miss only 1 quiz. If you miss 1 quiz, your highest grade from the Quiz category will count twice. No make-ups will be given for any quizzes.

The oral presentation will be given during a regular class period (weeks 14 and 15 of the semester). Specific instructions will be provided in class and made available in Blackboard.

Information on specific translation projects will be provided in class. Although collaborative work can be beneficial, students are advised to work on this project individually.

**If you use an online translation site, any translation software, and/or an online (including social media) resource, make sure to document and explain any such aid/tool that you used.**

**In this course, the use of all resources is encouraged; however, you must give credit to and acknowledge such resources.**

The **Final Exam** will consist of one or more of the following types of tasks: 1) structural analysis of a French text; 2) translation of selected lexical items, phrases, idiomatic expressions, and cultural aspects/elements; 3) translation of a text including commentary; and 4) essays on relevant topics.

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1

Introduction to the course

Diagnostic translation test

Overview of dictionaries (quality, type, use)

Overview of Web-based machine translation and other translation software

Terminology for linguistic/grammatical analysis

### Week 2

Parts of speech vs. grammatical functions

Grammatical analysis: traditional grammar vs. « la grammaire nouvelle »

Reading: Armstrong, chapters 1 & 2

### Week 3

Translation issues at the word level (morphology, lexicon, collocations)

Reading: Armstrong, chapters 3 & 4

Translation exercises

### Week 4

Translation issues at the syntactic level

Reading: Armstrong, chapter 5

Translation exercises

Translation Project 1 due

### Week 5

Review of « la grammaire nouvelle »

Problematizing transitivity

Translation exercises

### Week 6

Close analysis of verbs (categories, types; comparisons between English and French)

Translation types and procedures

Reading: Armstrong, chapter 6

**Week 7**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (thematic focus: food/agriculture)

**Week 8**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (thematic focus: travel/geography)  
Translation Project 2 due

**Week 9**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (thematic focus: science/technology)

**Week 10**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (thematic focus: nature/wildlife)  
Reading: Armstrong, chapter 7

**Week 11**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (thematic focus: environmental/ecological issues)

**Week 12**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (textual focus: advertisements/corporate slogans)  
Translation Project 3 due

**Week 13**

Linguistic analysis and problem-solving  
Translation exercises (textual focus: advertisements/corporate slogans)

**Week 14**

In-class presentations

**Week 15**

In-class presentations

Consult the official Web site of the Office of the Registrar for the date and time of the final exam.