

FREN 4400 French Linguistics & Translation
University of North Texas
Fall 2015

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Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

Office: LANG 405F

Office hours: MW, 12:00 pm-12:50 pm and by appointment

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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. 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

You 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. You 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, you will have ample opportunities to build your 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 makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323).

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 Presentations (2)	10% (5 % each)
Exams (2)	30%
Final Exam	20%

Important note regarding attendance:

- If you have 4-6 unexcused absences, your course grade will be reduced by up to 10 percentage points.
- If you have 7 or more unexcused absences, your course grade will be reduced by up to 20 percentage points.

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.

Translation projects will be the most common type of homework. Although collaborative work can be beneficial, students are advised to work on homework projects individually.

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 culture, language, and translation; and 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 presentations will be given during regularly scheduled class periods during Weeks 6-9 (Presentation 1) and Weeks 11-14 (Presentation 2). The exact schedule will be determined by the instructor. Specific instructions will be provided in class and made available in Blackboard.

The **exams** 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; 4) essays on relevant topics; 5) cultural and linguistic terms and phenomena. The exams will be given on **Friday, September 25, 2015** and **Friday, October 30, 2015**.

Reading Day is the Friday of the week immediately preceding final exams. No classes are held on this day.

The Office of the Registrar has scheduled the **final exam** for this class on **Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm.** <http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

Students who have as many as three final exams scheduled on one day may appeal to their academic dean to reschedule one exam during the final exam period.