



AIX CENTER OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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FRE 470

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## SYLLABUS

### TRANSLATION & PUBLISHING: WORKSHOP

**Prerequisite : 4 or 5 semesters in French and/or sufficient score on the ACM/IAU French placement test. At least, one semester in translation or a portfolio of former translation(s) (from English into French or from French into English). Instructor's approval required.**

#### I DESCRIPTION DU COURS / COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide **advanced instruction and supervised practice in translation (from French into English) and in editing work**. During the course, students will be working directly with a major French publisher, translating promotional materials (used by French publishers to promote books to booksellers) and original French texts that haven't been translated into English. Several genres will be encountered, including novels, short stories, essays.

The course includes both **supervised practice** of translation and familiarization with the publishing industry. At the end of this course, the students will have a professional translation portfolio.

The course consist of 1h30 of in class interactions and 1h30 dedicated to homeworks and researches.

#### II NIVEAU REQUIS / REQUIRED LEVEL

Students must have a good knowledge of French language and of their own language. They must master both languages' specificities (vocabulary, grammar, idioms).

These skills adhere to the European Language Portfolio of level B2 of the CECRL (Cadre Européen Commun de Référence des Langues) of the Council of Europe.

### III LES BUTS/ AIMS

The aim of the course is to provide students with training in the theory and practice of translating. At the end of the semester, the students who have done all the assignments and attended class every week will reach the beginning of **level C1** of the CECRL.

- 1) Students will learn how to translate literary texts and professional documents used in the french publishing industry while bearing in mind problems linked both to meaning and form, in order to develop a global vision of the translation process.
- 2) Students will improve their linguistic skills through the discovery of translation, and publishing tools.
- 3) Students will develop critical reading skills, both in English and French that they will use during discussion in class.
- 4) Students will be able to have a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the French and the English languages.

### IV ACQUIS D'APPRENTISSAGE / LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the semester, students will be able to :

- 1) Translate French literary texts and professional documents into English.
- 2) Choose between several possible translations and explain their choices.
- 3) Compare English and French formulations.
- 4) Translate a text taking into account contextual elements.
- 5) Go beyond the literal meaning of a text to respect its spirit.
- 6) Identify the different language registers.
- 7) Come up with the right word.
- 8) Enrich their vocabulary.
- 9) Revise and reinforce their grammatical structure in both English and French language.

10) Become familiar with editorial jargon in both English and French language.

11) Understand how a foreign rights assignment works.

#### V. TEXTES UTILISÉS / PRIMARY TEXTS

Original “advance information sheets” provided by great French publishers (such as Albin Michel).

Original French book excerpts (already published by great French publishers) that will be sent, once translated, to foreign English-speaking publishers.

#### VI. ÉVALUATION / EVALUATION AND GRADING

70% Homework and in-class participation

- In-class participation: 30%
- Homework: 40%

**30% exams**

**Final: 30%**

- a) A first draft of each translation must be completed and ready before class. This first draft is not graded, but failure to submit a complete first draft by the due date will have a negative effect on the homework average. Translation due dates will be posted on Teams.
- b) The translation assignments will be graded, using the following rubrics:
  - Grammar, syntax, and vocabulary : 12 points
  - Style, register, creativity: 8 pointsTotal: 20 points

*Equivalence regarding grading:*

A = 17/20   A- = 16/20   B+ = 15/20   B = 14/20   B- = 13/20   C+ = 12/20   C = 11/20   C- = 10/20  
D+ = 09/20   D = 08/20   D- = 07/20   F = 06/20

#### VII. ASSIDUITE ET PARTICIPATION / ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

One of the primary requirements this semester is that **you attend each and every class**. This is not a lecture class, and its success depends very much on your coming to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Participation will be part of your final grade.

**The grade will be reduced by half a letter after two unjustified absences.** For example, if your average grade is 16 (A-) but you have one unexcused absence, your final grade will be 15 (B+). The followings are considered **as** excused absences: absences linked to IAU excursions; sickness (a medical certificate is required); emergencies.

When you return to class after an absence, even an excused **one** due to an IAU field trip or sickness, **you are required to make up for the missed lesson and all homework must be done.** Ask another student for worksheets and notes **before** the next class.

#### VIII. PLAGIAT / PLAGIARISM

Your academic honesty is required and **plagiarism is not tolerated in our institution.**

If compositions are copies of internet websites or written by anyone other than the student, the grade will be **F**.

**Cheating** is also a form of plagiarism. During a test or an exam, do not use your phone, textbooks, or notebooks, and do not look at your classmate's paper.

It is also expected that, for group work, the efforts presented in class reflect the contributions of every member of the group.

#### VII. REUSSITE / ACHIEVEMENT

**Your cell phone must be turned off.**

**Carefully prepare your material and your homework for each class.** If you come to class without your material and without having done your homework, you waste your classmates' and professor's time, as well as your own. You must have read and worked on the material to be prepared in advance for class!

**Participate regularly in class activities with respect and consideration for all:** take advantage of chances to talk, repeat the answers to yourself when others are talking, listen to your fellow students, and play an active role. It is vital to have a classroom atmosphere of **mutual** respect and consideration. Treat others as you would like to be treated.

**Do not be afraid to make mistakes:** error is the site of learning. You cannot learn another language without making mistakes and learning from them. Please, don't limit your participation, speaking out and use the language even with mistakes, and you will get a higher participation grade.

**The class will be in French.** Even if you don't understand everything the professor says, you will be able to get the main ideas by paying attention to everything that happens (gestures, mimes, writing, repetition, explanations...). Do not be frustrated if you don't understand every word. Using all the available information to figure out what is being said is how one learns to understand a second language. Thus we practice this skill in class a lot, and your comprehension will improve over time.

Finally, please, **enjoy and take advantage of this learning period.** You are going to live in another country, another culture, surrounded by new people, immersed in another language. Make sure to learn all you can, to be curious, courageous, and to make the most of this amazing experience. Find aspects of the course that motivate you. Be open to new ideas and approaches. If you come to class well-prepared and with a good attitude, you will do well in the class.

#### IX. CALENDRIER / CALENDAR:

The French publisher will provide the professors with new advance information sheets each week that will be studied in class. Every class will start with a recap of the previous session,

and with students' questions. Each text will be presented and studied in class, which is an important part of the translating process.

***Prior to each translation practicum***, there will be class discussion about the main characteristics of the text and its translation but also about the publishing industry. The translation of the excerpt *must be completed at home and ready **before** we begin correcting the translation in class*. Any delay is likely to enable collective correction in class, discussion of students' various solutions to the passage, and the creation of a collective translation of the text. Due dates will be specified in class and posted on Teams.\*