

French-English (Thème)

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As an introduction to journalism and thème, this course focuses on press articles dealing with current events and on the linguistic issues raised by their translation. The aim is not only to keep up with current affairs and to improve your English, but also to gain an understanding of key translation problems and to develop some of the skills required to solve them. Your progress will be assessed twice every semester with the translation of articles which, although they inevitably contain an element of surprise, will somehow be related to what we discussed in class.

Assessment

1. Translate an excerpt from a press article (~ 100 words) and define vocabulary words - Week 5, 40% of overall mark
2. Translate a press article (~ 200 words) - Week 12, 60% of overall mark

Criteria

Points	→	Mistake
10	(om) <i>Omission</i>	You forgot to translate something
10	(ns) <i>Non-sens</i>	What you wrote does not make sense in English
6-10	(cs) <i>Contresens</i>	You completely transformed the meaning of the text
2-4	(ap) <i>Approximation</i>	You changed the meaning of the text
6	(cal) <i>Calque</i>	You copied a French structure that cannot be used
2-6	(st) <i>Style</i>	You modified the style or register of the text
6	(gr) <i>Grammaire</i>	You made a grammar mistake
2	(orth) <i>Orthographe</i>	You made a mistake in spelling or punctuation
-2	(+) <i>Bonus</i>	You found a creative solution to a problem of translation
-6	(++)	Better than (+)

Learning goals

Reading skills (French)	→ Be able to grasp <u>nuances</u> of style and meaning in a press article Be able to understand <u>technical terms</u> about current events Be able to grasp <u>cultural references</u> in the press
Writing skills (English)	Be capable of following the <u>conventions</u> of newspaper writing Be capable of using the right <u>spelling and punctuation</u> Be able to use the proper <u>vocabulary and grammar</u>
Translation skills (English to French)	Be capable of translating the <u>meaning and ideas</u> of the source text Be capable of translating the <u>style and register</u> of the source text Be capable of using <u>translation aids</u> efficiently
Critical skills (English)	Be able to <u>describe</u> a problem of translation Be capable of <u>explaining</u> a choice of translation Be able to weigh the <u>pros and cons</u> of a choice of translation

Each week you will be expected to translate French articles or to do translation exercises. Any student wishing improve their marks, to learn more or to pursue further studies in translation will find a wealth of resources online and in the library. For the purposes of this class, a good starting point is to read the English-language press.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction/ Faux amis

Week 2 – Press vocabulary

Week 3 – Informative vs. opinion articles

Week 4 – **Review for CC1**

Fall break

Week 5 – **Contrôle continu 1**

Week 6- Quality vs. popular press articles

Week 7 – Feedback on CC1

Week 8 – Punctuation/common mistakes workshop

Week 9 – Imparfait and passé composé

Week 10- Continued practice

Week 11- Review for CC2

Winter holiday break

Week 12 - **Contrôle continu 2**