

Toronto School of Theology
Graduate Language Program

FRENCH FOR READING KNOWLEDGE 2015

TST Building - 47 Queens Park Crescent East (St. George Campus)

Class time: *Tuesdays and Thursdays 5pm – 7:30pm*

Instructor: Rob Inch

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Course Description:

This course is designed for advanced degree (graduate) students who require the ability to read or translate French texts for theological, biblical, pastoral, historical or religious studies. The course teaches the fundamentals of grammar, syntax and vocabulary in order to develop comprehension and translation skills. The course does not teach writing or speaking skills.

No previous language preparation is required, and the course is conducted in English. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to read, understand and translate texts of moderate difficulty with the use of a dictionary.

Each class will cover approximately one chapter of the course textbook, with extra time accorded to longer, denser chapters. The trick of this course is to balance the needs of beginners in French with those of students reviewing their knowledge. Naturally, a certain tension arises between the two groups that requires some patience on both sides. The main textbook uses a word-for-word translation method that is faithful to the literal sense of the French until the reader has enough of a feel to relax a bit.

The course is a non-credit course, whose successful completion with a min. 70% average fulfills TST's admission or program language competency requirements. TST students will have the successful completion of the course recorded on their ROSI transcripts. Non-TST students will find this course useful in preparing for departmental language examinations.

Course Materials and Textbooks:

Collins-Robert French-English English-French Dictionary (any recent edition; but not pocket-size).

Ritch, K. Janet. *Reading French: A Guide for Students of Religion and Theology*. Toronto: Clement Publishing, 2nd ed. 2012.

It is important to buy or borrow a good dictionary, right away, in order to become accustomed to using it from the beginning of the course. To this end, I would recommend either the *Collins-Robert Dictionary*, which gives synonymous in French for the various usages, or the *Harrap's Standard French and English Dictionary*. The latter often includes the theological vocabulary that the former omits. Both are available in the reference section of most libraries on the U. of T. campus. Smaller pocket-size dictionaries do not offer the full semantic range for any given word which you will require.