BRLN 90000 Theological Language (French)

Instructor: Bob Bernard

Prerequisites: None

Description of Content: This course is a five-week introduction to Theological French. The short-term purposes of this course are to give you enough background in French to give you an opportunity to translate a French text in your field of study, and to help you prepare for the translation of a French text that will be administered by Brite Divinity School after the completion of this course. Its long-term purpose is to encourage you to use French in your doctoral work and your career after completing your studies at Brite. Materials covered in the course will include reading theological texts and learning vocabulary related to theological French.

Class Procedures: In addition to practice in French provided by the text for this course, there will also be translation of assigned texts in French, with discussion of grammatical, lexical, and theological issues raised by those texts. In the last week, you will work on an article in French in your area of concentration (specified on your biographical information sheet).

Requirements: Since the immediate goal is qualifying in French, I will not have graded exercises for this course. There will be a “quiz” at the last day of class for the first three weeks to help summarize grammar and give some practice in translation and analysis of texts.

At the end of the fourth week of this course, you will take an assessment of your ability in French, which will have two main components:

--An objective portion, in which you will be asked multiple-choice questions about selected passages in French, and

--Two brief translation passages, which will be the same for each person taking this class.

This assessment will be given on the last two days of the fourth week. On the first day of the assessment, you will receive the objective portion; on the second day, you will have two translations. You will be allowed the use of a dictionary, but not a grammar, during this exercise. The assessment will be designed so that you should have it completed within two to three hours for each day.

--During the fifth week, you will be free to translate a text in French in your field of study. We will not meet as a class; I will be available to answer any questions that you have about your text. The translation will be due on the Friday of the fifth week, at noon.

Texts:

Grading Procedures:
The course is on an audit basis. You will receive a grade of ‘audit’ primarily on the basis of the assessment in the fourth week, and your translation done during the fifth week. The assessment will be weighted as follows: Objective portion of the assessment 30%; and translation portion of assessment 30% (each passage will be worth 15%). Your assessment will be returned to you once it has been reviewed.

Your translation done during the fifth week will be weighted at 40%.