

FRENCH 24/INTEG BI 84: Breaking Language Barriers in the Academy (1 unit)

To be offered every: **Spring**

Course title: **Breaking Language Barriers in the Academy**

Abv Title: **Translating Academic Scholarship**

Unit Value: 1

Instructors

- **Becca Tarvin (office: 3120 VLSB; email: rdtarvin@berkeley.edu)**
- **Mairi McLaughlin (office: Dwinelle 4224; email: mclaughlin@berkeley.edu)**

Instructional Format: Sophomore Seminar

Course Schedule: 1hr per week, Tuesdays 4-5pm in Dwinelle B3

Assessment: P/NP. Required participation in weekly readings and discussions. Required final project to translate three abstracts of scholarly works into another language or into a format for a broad audience.

Target enrollment: 1 section IB, 13 students & 1 section French, 12 students

Classroom: in person, synchronous

Reading Materials: Readings will be made available online.

Prerequisites: Intermediate or Advanced proficiency in a language other than English is strongly recommended

Course description

The creation of knowledge is a universal enterprise that lies at the heart of the Academy. However, there are many barriers to effectively communicating and understanding knowledge. One major hurdle is the ubiquity of English as a central language for publishing and communicating academic research. This is an issue both for aspiring scholars who learn English as a second language while mastering complex topics as well as for members of our communities who would benefit from information that is currently unavailable in their primary language. This class offers an introduction to translation and multilingualism in the academy. It combines short readings and lectures with active hands on translation and multilingual communication experience. During the semester, students will each translate abstracts for three research papers into a second language or into another creative format that communicates the research to a broad audience. Students will present their translated works and their experiences creating them in a final presentation at the end of the semester. Students will leave the class with a better understanding of the relationship between language and the Academy and equipped with tools to help break down language barriers.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Seminar topic	Assignment
January 16 Tarvin & McLaughlin	Introductions and course overview	Complete the survey about your interests and language proficiencies
January 23 McLaughlin	What is translation?	Find and read open-access article
January 30 Tarvin	Student presentations I (English articles)	<i>none</i>
February 6 McLaughlin	Translation strategies	TBD
February 13 McLaughlin	Translation procedures	TBD
February 20 Tarvin	Student presentations II (non-English articles)	Read Steigerwald et al. 2022
February 27 Tarvin	Invited panel on being a multilingual scholar	<i>none</i>

March 5 Tarvin	Machine translation	TBD
March 12 Tarvin & McLaughlin	Project kick-off	Choose 3 open-access articles for your final project
March 19 McLaughlin	Academic translation	Work on final project / presentation
March 26	NO CLASS – spring break	<i>none</i>
April 2	Field trip	Work on final project / presentation
April 9	Presentations	
April 16	Presentations	
April 23	Presentations	

Faculty Biographies

Professor Tarvin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley. She is intrigued by the evolutionary mechanisms underlying adaptation and diversification. Her interests in research are grounded in an appreciation for natural history, especially (but not limited to) frogs. Currently she studies the evolution of chemical defenses in frogs, flies, and nudibranchs. Professor Tarvin is interested in making science more accessible by breaking down language barriers in part because she has been privileged to work alongside many scientists from South America who have faced language-related economic and social barriers during their STEM training. She and her lab believe that translating science into more languages will have a positive impact on science by diversifying STEM professionals and the audiences who can access STEM content. Outside of the lab Professor Tarvin is interested in many sorts of creative projects, from 3D-printing to painting and baking. She also loves to cycle, play soccer, and follow politics.

Mairi McLaughlin is Professor in the Department of French and an Affiliated Member of the Departments of Linguistics and Italian Studies at UC Berkeley. She specializes in French/Romance Linguistics and in Translation Studies. She has published extensively on language contact in French and Romance, on the language of the media, and on journalistic and literary translation. She has a particular interest in the language of the media, especially the role that it plays in language variation and change, the use that is made of reported speech, and the linguistic and textual effects of news translation. She regrets the lack of attention given to translation and translation studies and is passionate about making a place for it in higher education in the United States. Outside work, Professor McLaughlin likes to read, travel, and play tennis. She has a 7 year old daughter and she is enjoying watching her discover the world.