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Professor McLaughlin  
French 48

### **French 48 Questionnaire**

1 What year are you in and what are your (intended) major(s) and, if relevant, minor(s)?

It is my fifth year of school at Berkeley, and I am a mathematics major and I am a Science, Technology, and Society (STS) minor. I have one more class to take in mathematics.

2 Why are you taking this course?

I've tried to learn different languages growing up like Spanish and Korean so I've thought a lot about translation since trying to learn a language through something like google translate will sound a lot less natural than learning a language around people who speak the language. Online translation does not actually translate the source into "equivalent" text, then just take the dictionary translation of each word and then put them in a string of words. I want to understand the deeper subtleties of translation and how to do it better in a more holistic way?

3 What languages do you know and in what contexts do you use them?

I know english and I use that for mostly everything. I read it, speak it, and sing it. I know Spanish and I will use it in contexts where I need to speak Spanish or listen to a popular song in Spanish but I don't need to speak Spanish on a regular basis. When something is in a different language I'm not afraid to figure out how to translate and I don't let myself be ignorant of things in other languages around me.

4 Have you ever done any translation or taken a course in translation?

I was going to translate this really ancient Fortran77 code into modern python code but it got way too cumbersome and I stopped. I am currently trying to translate famous mathematician Charles Hermite's paper that proves the transcendence of the mathematical constant  $e$  into english so english speakers can read a translation of the proof. It is originally written in French and I've noticed subtleties in the way the French is written that I want to attribute the Hermite's own personality but I'm unsure of how to incorporate that into a final translation to make it really clear.

5 Is there anything else you'd like me to know about yourself and your interests?

I'm very excited to take this course and I believe translation is an interesting study.

