

A THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA.
Honors College



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HNRS 400:

The Multilingual Subject

Monday and Wednesday, 4pm-5:15pm

Prof. David Gramling (dgl@email)

Department of German Studies

What does it mean to live in more than one language? Is “being multilingual” a personal talent, a burden of circumstance, a political necessity, a source of pleasure and knowledge, or a curse of history? In this interdisciplinary honors seminar, we will work with a range of philosophical, literary, historical, cognitive-scientific, and filmic texts in order to gain a richer understanding of the human condition in multiple-language settings and situations. We will seek to discover how competence in more than one language has enriched intellectual traditions, given rise to new aesthetic forms, and changed the course of history. Considering how many University of Arizona students engage in spontaneous translation and “code-switching” on a daily basis, the goal of this course is to provide you with a conceptual vocabulary through which to identify and analyze the many benefits—and dilemmas—of living in multiple languages. **Readings to include:** M. M. Bakhtin, J. Derrida, W. Benjamin, P. Bourdieu, E. Canetti, G. Lewis, J. Diaz, E. Apter, F. Kafka, R. Rodriguez, I. E. Zohar, R. Schwartz, H. Bhabha,