



## Four Year Report (2022)

### Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures Undergraduate Programs (reviewed 2017/18)

#### A. Summary of Review

This review was conducted under the terms and conditions of the IQAP approved by Senate on May 25, 2016.

1. The academic programs offered by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures which were examined as part of the review were:
  - BA (Honours) in French Studies
  - BA (Honours)/BEd in French Studies
  - BA (Pass) in French Studies
  - Minor in French Studies
  - BA (Honours) Combined in Hispanic and Latin American Studies
  - BA (Pass) Combined in Hispanic and Latin American Studies
  - Minor in Hispanic and Latin American Studies
  - BA (Honours) Combined in Italian Studies
  - BA (Pass) in Italian
  - Minor in Italian Studies
  - BA (Honours) Combined in Studies in Comparative Literature and Cultures
  - Minor in German Studies
2. The Review Committee consisted of two external reviewers: Monica Stellin (Wilfred Laurier University) and Alexie Tcheuyap (University of Toronto) and an internal reviewer, June Corman (Brock University).
3. The site visit occurred on November 8-10, 2017.
4. The Final Assessment Report was approved by Senate on November 14, 2018.

5. The reviewers assigned the programs the following outcome categories:

Program (s)	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Good Quality with Concerns	Non-Viable
BA (Honours) in French Studies		X		
BA (Honours)/BEd in French Studies		X		
BA (Pass) in French Studies		X		
Minor in French Studies		X		
BA (Honours) Combined in Hispanic and Latin American Studies			X	
BA (Pass) Combined in Hispanic and Latin American Studies			X	
Minor in Hispanic and Latin American Studies		X		
BA (Honours) Combined in Italian Studies			X	
BA (Pass) in Italian			X	
Minor in Italian Studies		X		
BA (Honours) Combined in Studies in Comparative Literature and Cultures				X
Minor in German Studies		X		

6. The next review of the undergraduate programs in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures will be in 2025/26.

## B. Recommendations

### Recommendation #1. Immediate Reform

...it is the opinion of the Review Committee that the Department must act immediately to renew, restructure and/or reconsider its programs, both individually and as a whole.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. Recommendations #1-4 deal with curriculum review with Recommendation 3 providing suggestions on how to begin this process. Changes to the programs must be reflective of the resources (human, financial and physical) which are presently available to the Department.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Implementation of hybrid courses	Y1	delayed
Action #2 Focus on Experiential component in course outlines & course delivery	Y1, 2, 3	Y3
Action #3 Implementation of Internship & Community Outreach Courses	Y1	Y1

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Individual programs have integrated experiential opportunities for students in many of their course offerings. Programs will continue to pursue the development and integration of additional courses whenever required. All three major programs have internship and/or community outreach courses (French Studies introduced FREN 4P05 in 2018-19; Hispanic and Latin American Studies and Italian Studies already had such courses). As for hybrid teaching, individual instructors have been considering the viability of converting some courses to a hybrid delivery. Curricular discussion involving all programs in MLLC did not happen due to the impossibility of striking a Curriculum Committee since the unit was waiting for the Climate Review Report which was conducted over the period 2018-2021. A Curriculum Committee was struck in December 2021, and its work started in January 2022. Curricular discussion on the topic of hybrid courses must occur, and guidance from the University Senate Committees as post-pandemic plan discussions happen will be essential.

**Recommendation #2. Curriculum Committee**

The Reviewers recommend the Creation of a Curriculum Committee to plan and coordinate the proposed changes to the Department programs.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and encourages the Department to begin this process as soon as possible, utilizing the curriculum maps developed for the Self Study as a starting point. See also the response to Recommendation #1.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Consultations on how to strike a Curriculum Committee	Y1, 2, 3	Y4
Action #2 Creation of a Curriculum Committee	Y4	Y4

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Due to the Department's inability to meet and the ongoing Climate Review, programs have moved forward on their own. A facilitator assigned to the Department in August 2021 supported dialogue throughout the Fall 2021. A Curriculum Committee was struck in December 2021 and Terms of Reference were integrated into the MLLC's Rules of Procedure. The Curriculum Committee's work started in January 2022. It is the Department's hope that a more comprehensive approach can be taken to address curricular matters. The Curriculum Committee opted for a staged approach to address various curricular issues, as described in the Terms of Reference.

**Recommendation #3. Curricular Changes**

It is recommended that the Department, or Departmental Curriculum Committee, once created, discuss the following changes, applicable to each of its programs or courses as appropriate to their individual characteristics, based on the requirements and courses listed in a new Curriculum:

- Introduction of placements test for the French BA and BA-Ed.
- Changes to course descriptions and outlines: elimination of traditional categorization and periodization, introduction of areas or themes;
- Introduction of more courses in language pedagogy, children's literature, cultural studies, cinema, arts and culture; creation of courses in contemporary literature, digital humanities;
- Update the Undergraduate Calendar to reflect the courses taught in recent academic years;
- Check the consistency of course descriptions across language programs;
- Offer a wider variety of formats with more online, blended, experiential and community outreach courses.
- Based on the Self-Study Report data, students have shown interest in programs that are geared

towards the acquisition of professional linguistic skills, such as the French BA-B.Ed. It is recommended that, in reforming its programs, the Department consider diversifying its degrees, giving each of them specific objectives, by offering Majors or Minors either in ‘Studies’, which include courses taught in English or cross- listed, or in a ‘Language’, the latter oriented more towards language learning or acquiring linguistic skills --also in specific fields or with specific purposes. The Department has already introduced courses aiming towards the students’ professionalization. Introductory courses to benefit language skills for tourism in the Niagara region, social and health workers and business, make the programs even more attractive.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. See also the response to Recommendations #1 and 2.

#### Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Creation of a placement test in French	Y1	delayed
Action #2 Review course calendar, course descriptions and outlines	Y1	delayed
Action #3 Hiring BUFA instructor (Business French & Translation)	Y1	Y2
Action #4 Cross-listing MLLC courses	Y1, 2, 3	Y3

#### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

While French Studies welcomes the idea of a placement test, the department does not have the necessary resources and faculty to create and implement such a test. A BUFA instructor (Limited term appointment in Business French and Translation) was hired in 2018; this LTA was converted to tenure track in 2021. As a result, a certificate in Business French and Translation was introduced. Several HLAS, ITAL, MLLC, and SPAN courses were cross-listed with CLAS, IASC, LING, MARS, STAC, VISA, WGST; and MLLC will continue to explore other cross-listing options. Individual instructors also looked into diversifying degrees. As a result, Italian Studies and Hispanic and Latin American Studies included a concentration and a minor in Romance

Linguistics. Discussion about the possibility of a position in Francophone Indigenous Literature occurred in 2021 and has departmental support. As for reviewing the course calendar and course descriptions, this action has not taken place due to the inability of all programs to meet and the fact that the Climate Review Report was not available. This task was undertaken at the program level with each program reviewing its course offerings; with the creation of a Curriculum Committee at the end of 2021 and the curricular work starting in January 2022, the Department hopes that a more comprehensive approach can be taken to ensure consistency (within the program course calendars) in the near future.

#### Recommendation #4. Fourth Hour of Oral Practice

This Review Committee recommends the curricular addition of a fourth in-class conversation hour a week in those courses and levels that can benefit from it, to provide more exposure and promote oral discussion and interaction in smaller groups.

#### ARC Disposition of the Recommendation

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

#### Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
R Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Reintroduction of a 4 <sup>th</sup> hour in Language Courses	Y1, 2	Y2

#### Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:

A fourth hour for oral practice was added to most language courses in MLLC, including FREN1F90 and FREN2F00 in 2019-20. Due to pandemic disruptions in 2020-21, the fourth-hour oral practice was suspended, but it was reintroduced in 2021-22. Students have the opportunity to engage in authentic use of the target language. The only courses that do not have a fourth hour remain FREN1F00, FREN1F50 and ITAL1F00. Though MLLC will continue to explore ways of implementing the oral component in these courses, the pedagogical objectives may not make it possible to include a fourth hour.

**Recommendation #5 More Cultural Exposure *in Loco***

The Department should arrange for MLLC students to benefit from similar opportunities to practice the language orally and be exposed to cultural experiences on campus and locally.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and recognizes that it reflects current practice for the Department.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving: Department  
 Responsible for resources: Department  
 Responsible for implementation: Department  
 Timeline: Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Invitation of more guest speakers in classrooms	Y1, 2, 2	Y3
Action #2 Implementation of Internship & Community Outreach Courses in preparation for Canada Games 2021	Y1, 2, 3	Y3
Action #3 Encouraging students' participation in community events for more linguistic & cultural exposure	Y1, 2,3	Y3
Action #4 Reintroduction of a 4 <sup>th</sup> hour in Language Courses	Y1, 2	Y2

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Instructors continue to invite guest speakers into their classes based on specialization and course material. The Department will continue to support the presence of guest speakers. The Canada Games, to be hosted in the summer of 2022, has already provided, and will provide, MLLC students with opportunities for community outreach and placement as well as experiential learning. Two MLLC faculty, members of the Canada Games committee, identified courses whose contents and practicum could be Canada Games-centered, before, during, and after the Games. CPI Canada Games Grants were received for ITAL/CANA2P98 (2019-20) and FREN4V21 (2020-21). Regarding the fourth hour of oral practice, see Recommendation #4 above. Moreover, MLLC will continue to explore ways of integrating oral components in its language courses and courses taught in the target language, keeping in mind that all three major programs have experiential

learning courses. Since 2021, French Studies has been running a series on the topic “Why choose French Studies?”, a discussion by faculty of first experiences studying French literature and linguistics as undergrads and their reasons for continuing to study French literature and culture. French Studies intends to maintain this as a regular event for students.

### **Recommendation #6. Collaboration with Linguistics**

It is to the benefit of all Department’s programs to create more collaborations also with the Department of Linguistics, especially in the areas of psychology of language, sociolinguistics, literacy in childhood and youth, child language acquisition, language learning, and materials and curriculum design.

#### **ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the Recommendation to investigate collaborations with Linguistics to be accepted.

#### **Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Year Action Started</b>	<b>Year Action Completed</b>
Action #1 MLLC-LING Cross-listing	Y2	Y3
Action #2 MLLC-STAC Cross-listing	Y1	Y1
Action #3 Exploring more options for potential co-degrees with other Departments (CLAS, TOUR, Science, etc.)	Y2	Y3

#### **Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Several Studies in Arts and Culture courses were cross-listed with MLLC in 2018-19 (effective 2019-20) so that MLLC students may use them in all three major programs to complete degree requirements. These courses are 2P93, 2P94, 3P01, 3P14, 3P96, 3P99, 4P01, 4P72. MLLC 4Q80 was cross-listed with Linguistics (effective 2020-21). A Concentration and Minor in Italian Language and Romance Linguistics and a Minor and Concentration in Spanish Language and Romance Linguistics were introduced in 2020-21 so that, with support of Linguistics, students may take courses from their course bank to complete their degree requirements. MLLC will continue to explore other cross-listing options and other co-degree options.

**Recommendation #7. Revision of Staffing Practices**

Courses at all levels should be taught by all full-time faculty members. Tenured faculty should participate also in the teaching of lower level courses.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted. The Committee strongly encourages the Department to work towards full-time faculty teaching at all course levels, utilizing the resources presently available and in concert with the curriculum changes suggested in Recommendations #1-4.

**Implementation Plan (2<sup>nd</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2019/20

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Consultation within Unit on deployment of BUFA instructors at all levels	Y1	Ongoing
Action #2 Consultation within Unit on deployment of BUFA coordinators for multi section courses	Y1	Ongoing
Action #3 Consultation within Unit on deployment of BUFA Supervisors for courses taught by PTIs	Y1	Ongoing

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

Due to its shortage of tenured faculty, MLLC continues to rely heavily on part-time instructors. Therefore, having full-time faculty teaching at all course levels continues to be challenging, especially in programs with fewer BUFA members. MLLC consulted on how to implement curriculum changes suggested in Recommendations #1-4. However, striking a comprehensive Curriculum Committee was impossible prior to the release of the Climate Review Report and the invitation of a facilitator in MLLC.

**Recommendation #8. BA SCLA- to be discontinued and replaced**

Since the program was introduced a number of years ago [2010] with no results, the Review Committee recommends that the Hons. B.A. in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Cultures be discontinued. The Reviewers also recommend it to be replaced with a new Departmental program based on a sense of collegiality and collaboration, which could be in Studies in Languages (Literatures and Cultures), Intercultural Studies, European Studies, Romance Languages, or similar.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation. The Request for Program Discontinuation should be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Application to discontinue SCLC Program	Y1	Y1
Action #2 Converting SCLC courses into MLLC courses	Y1	Y1
Action #3 Cross-listing MLLC courses	Y1, 3	Y3

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

The proposed discontinuation of the Hons. B.A. in Studies in Comparative Literatures and Cultures was completed, and SCLC courses were converted into MLLC courses - all changes effective 2019-20. Eight Studies in Arts and Culture were cross-listed with MLLC (effective 2019-20; see Recommendation #6 for details) and MLLC 4Q80 was cross-listed with Linguistics (effective 2020-21). The evaluation and potential redesign of the MLLC course bank could only be conducted once the Climate Review Report (see Recommendation #9) was made available and a comprehensive Curriculum Committee be struck. It is the Department's hope that, now that a Curriculum Committee has been struck, discussion regarding the MLLC course bank will proceed, followed by the exploration of other cross-listings and co-degree options.

**Recommendation #9. Climate Review**

It is the opinion of the Reviewers that a Climate Review is urgently needed and must be conducted in the Department ASAP.

**ARC Disposition of the Recommendation**

ARC considers the recommendation to be accepted and in the process of implementation.

**Implementation Plan (1<sup>st</sup> Priority)**

Responsible for approving:	Department
Responsible for resources:	Department
Responsible for implementation:	Department
Timeline:	Dean of Humanities to report by the end of academic year 2018/19

Actions Taken	Year Action Started	Year Action Completed
Action #1 Preliminary Assessment of the climate in MLLC	Y1	Y1
Action #2 Climate Review in MLLC	Y1, 2, 3	Y4

**Explanation of Actions Taken, Status and Results:**

The Preliminary Assessment Report was submitted in August 2018, which concluded that a full climate review was necessary. Interviews took place in 2019, and again in 2020. The Climate Review Report was released to the Department in July 2021. A facilitator was assigned and subsequently invited by the Department to support it; facilitation work is ongoing.

**C. Unit Summative Analysis and Evaluation****1. To what extent has the Unit achieved the improvements suggested by the reviewers?**

The Department has achieved a significant number of improvements suggested by the reviewers. However, the Climate Review process and the recent release of the Climate Review Report (July 2021) made it impossible to have a discussion on several curricular issues. It is our hope that, now that a Curriculum Committee has been struck, comprehensive discussion on curricular matters will occur and contribute to a more concerted approach. It should also be noted that some recommendations, such as the implementation of a placement test in French or the deployment of BUFA faculty at all levels of instruction would require hiring additional BUFA faculty.

**2. What overall impact has it had on the Unit's programs?**

The Department believes that the improvements made to its programs contribute to the steady intake of incoming first-year students (Headcount and FTE Reports for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 show an increase of 90 to 126 to 144, respectively). Curricular changes made by individual programs have enriched course offerings, often focusing on experiential learning and professionalization, and creating opportunities for students to interact in the target language and/or to explore topics pertaining to the chosen area of studies and their local communities. Curricular changes have also provided diversified options for students wishing to engage in a specific area of studies as a complement to their main field of studies. New programs include a concentration and a minor in Romance Linguistics in both Italian Studies and Hispanic and Latin American Studies, as well as a certificate in Business French and Translation in French Studies. Cross-listing courses has also led to a healthy dialogue with several other units and programs within the University, including CLAS, IASC, LING, MARS, STAC, VISA and WGST. We are looking forward to exploring further collaboration paths and potential co-degrees with other departments.

**3. Is the Unit adopting a process of continuous quality improvement for its programs?**

Individual programs are all in the process of improving the quality of their course offerings. The Department hopes that the newly struck Curriculum Committee will provide opportunities for a more comprehensive approach and dialogue in the years leading to the next review cycle.

**4. How well do the programs now align with Brock University strategic priorities?**

The University strategic priorities have always been a guiding principle for the Unit. Prior to this review cycle and during it, the Department has been engaged in strengthening and developing experiential opportunities for our students, in all the interconnected components of our course offerings: language, literature, and culture. All three major programs have internship options; professionalization courses, such as language for business and translation, contribute to the renewed appeal of our programs. Over the last few years, the "natural" relationship with the local Francophone/Francophile community in Niagara has flourished, while all programs are looking forward to resuming their existing privileged partnerships with universities abroad, once (post-pandemic) student mobility becomes feasible again. Moreover, individual faculty members in all three major programs have developed and offer courses related to the literary and cultural history of de/colonization. Discussion about the possibility of a specific position in Francophone Indigenous Literature has recently received unanimous departmental support, and a proposal was submitted to the Dean of Humanities, as a response to a faculty-wide call. The Department hopes to further fulfil the University's strategic priorities by obtaining this transformative position to bring new perspectives on literature and culture to our students.

**5. How does this review and its results position the programs as the Unit moves into the next review cycle?**

This review offered opportunities to all MLLC programs to reexamine course offerings and offer new pathways for students, while eliminating the unviable SCLC program. Further discussion at the departmental level is needed in order to propose a more thorough and inclusive approach to curriculum. This work started recently with the creation of a new Curriculum Committee, and it is our hope that we will address topics and areas that were delayed in order to move forward.

**D. ARC Final Summary**

In final summary of the 2017/18 cyclical academic review of the programs offered by the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, ARC will determine the following:

1. Have the Reviewers' Recommendations have been addressed satisfactorily?  
YES
2. Has the Unit established a direction for next steps as it prepares for the next review cycle?  
YES
3. Has the Unit achieved a broad-based, reflective and forward-looking self-assessment?  
YES