

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE, BACHELOR OF ARTS

College of Letters & Science

Comparative Literature is a dynamic major whose own self-definition is constantly shifting. Once mostly limited to the study of western European literature and its Greco-Roman classical past, today Comparative Literature has become a global interdisciplinary study of literature in original languages and other media (including cinema, television, fine arts, and opera, for example). Thus, we can define Comparative Literature as the study of literature and culture across national boundaries and throughout historical time.

The Program

Both the major and the minor programs in Comparative Literature allow students to combine courses in one or more national literature departments with courses in Comparative Literature. The introductory course sequence (COM 001-COM 004) provides both an overview of ancient to contemporary literature and film and offers intensive practice in analytical thought. In addition, any one of the courses in the sequence satisfies the university composition requirement. All readings in undergraduate Comparative Literature courses are in English, but majors take upper division courses in at least one foreign literature in the original language.

Students majoring in Comparative Literature choose a first and second literature of concentration, one of which may be English. After the introductory sequence, each student's major course work is divided between courses in the two literatures of concentration and Comparative Literature courses. These Comparative Literature courses encourage students to take a broad view of a historical period, a theme, a genre, or a literary movement. The wide variety of options in the program permits great flexibility and encourages interdisciplinary connections among literature and philosophy, psychology, history, and the arts. Each student's plan of study must be approved by the major advisor at the beginning and end of each calendar year.

Advising

All Comparative Literature majors and minors must consult with their advisor, individually, at least once at the beginning and once at the end of each academic year.

Major Advisor

Consult the Department office.

Career Alternatives

A Comparative Literature major offers an excellent enhancement to pre-professional training, preparing students for graduate study in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and other science fields as well as law and business, besides of course journalism and publishing, teaching, or graduate study in literature.

Honors & Honors Program

Students, who meet the grade point requirement for graduation with honors and complete the requirements established by the College of Letters and Science, may be recommended by the department for graduation with high honors or highest honors on the basis of an evaluation of their academic achievements in the major and in the honors

project in particular. Entrance into the honors program requires that a student have completed at least 135 units with a minimum grade point average of 3.500 in courses counted toward the major.

Candidates must write a senior thesis under the direction of a faculty member approved by the major advisor. For this purpose, in addition to fulfilling all other major requirements, honors candidates must enroll in 6 units of COM 194H during the first two quarters of the senior year.

Teaching Credential Subject Representative

See the Teaching Credential/M.A. Program (<https://education.ucdavis.edu/teaching-credentialma/>).

Education Abroad Options

The department of Comparative Literature encourages students to study abroad, in the Summer Abroad program, the Quarter Abroad Program, or the Education Abroad Program. With the approval of a major advisor, applicable courses taken abroad may be accepted in the major or minor programs.

Graduate Study

The Comparative Literature Program offers the Ph.D. degree with a strong emphasis on individual research under the supervision of a faculty member. Candidates for the Ph.D., in addition to research of a comparative nature, study three literatures (one of which may be English and/or American) in the original languages, acquiring an extensive knowledge of the overall development of one. Students may choose to focus on a special topic instead of on a third literary tradition.

Within this framework, each student's program will be tailored to individual interests, and may center on a major historical period, such as the Renaissance or the modern age; a genre, such as lyric poetry, epic, drama, or the novel; or any other special emphasis approved by the Graduate Advisor.

Preparation

For admission to the Ph.D. Program candidates should have an undergraduate major in literature and reading ability in three foreign languages. The Group requires three letters of recommendation and a sample of recent written work, and it is recommended that students submit their GRE scores.

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Comparative Literature Bachelor of Arts is 56.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
COM 001	Major Works of the Ancient World	4
or COM 002	Major Works of the Medieval & Early Modern World	
COM 003	Major Works of the Modern World	4
or COM 004	Major Works of the Contemporary World	
Two other lower division courses in Comparative Literature; selected from COM 001-COM 053C excluding the COM 010 series; cannot include the two required courses in the COM 001-COM 004 series:		8
COM 005	Fairy Tales, Fables, & Parables	

COM 006	Myths & Legends	
COM 007	Literature of Fantasy & the Supernatural	
or COM 007V	Literature of Fantasy & the Supernatural	
COM 008	Utopias & Their Transformations	
COM 009	The Short Story & Novella	
COM/GER 011	Travel & the Modern World	
COM 012	Introduction to Women Writers	
COM 013	Dramatic Literature	
COM 014	Introduction to Poetry	
COM 020	Humans & the Natural World	
COM 022	Literature of the Abnormal Psyche	
COM 024	Animals in Literature	
COM 025	Ethnic Minority Writers in World Literature	
COM 053A	Literature of East Asia	
COM 053B	Literature of South Asia	
COM 053C	Literatures of the Islamic World	
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		16
Depth Subject Matter		
COM 195	Senior Seminar in Comparative Literature (to be taken in the spring quarter before graduation.)	4
Choose from any number of COM 100-COM 180 upper division courses, five courses can be selected from COM or other humanities departments in consultation with the major advisor; excludes COM 098, COM 099, COM 198, COM 199.		36
COM 100	World Cinema	
COM 110	Hong Kong Cinema	
COM 112	Japanese Cinema	
COM 120	Writing Nature: 1750 to the Present	
COM 135	Women Writers	
COM 138	Gender & Interpretation in the Renaissance	
COM 139	Shakespeare & the Classical World	
COM 140	Thematic & Structural Study of Literature	
COM 141/CRI 101	Introduction to Critical Theoretical Approaches to Literature & Culture (recommended for the junior year.)	
COM 142	Critical Reading & Analysis	
COM 144	The Grotesque	
COM 145	Representations of the City	
COM 146	Myth in Literature	
COM 147	Modern Jewish Writers	
COM 148	Mystical Literatures of South Asia & the Middle East	
COM 151	Colonial & Postcolonial Experience in Literature	
COM 152	Literature of the Americas	
or COM 152S	Literature of the Americas (Taught in Latin America)	
COM 153	The Forms of Asian Literature	
COM 154	African Literature	
COM 155	Classical Literatures of the Islamic World 600-1900	
COM 156	The Ramayana	
COM 157	War & Peace in Literature	

COM 158	The Detective Story as Literature	
COM 159	Women in Literature	
COM 160A	The Modern Novel	
COM 160B	The Modern Drama	
COM 161A	Tragedy	
COM 161B	Comedy	
COM 162	Writing Love & War in South Asia	
COM 163	Biography & Autobiography	
COM 164A	The European Middle Ages	
COM 164B	The Renaissance	
COM 164C	Baroque & Neoclassicism	
COM 164D	The Enlightenment	
COM 165	Caribbean Literatures	
or COM 165S	Caribbean Literatures	
COM 166	Literatures of the Modern Middle East	
COM 166A	The Epic	
COM 166B	The Novel	
COM 167	Comparative Study of Major Authors	
COM 168A	Romanticism	
COM 168B	Realism & Naturalism	
COM 169	The Avant-Garde	
COM 170	The Contemporary Novel	
COM 171	Partition Literature: South Asia	
COM 172	A Story for a Life: The Arabian Nights	
COM 173	Sakuntala: The Story of a Ring	
COM 175	Shahnameh: The Persian Book of Kings	
COM 180	Selected Topics in Comparative Literature	
or COM 180S	Selected Topics in Comparative Literature	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		40
Total Units		56