THE MAJOR in COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

This is an introduction to the major for students who are contemplating or who have already declared a major in Comparative Literature—or for those who simply want to learn more about the undergraduate program in Comparative Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Comparative Literature is the cross-cultural study of literatures in their original languages. We welcome students with a wide variety of backgrounds, a diversity of interests, and with literary reading competence in another language in addition to English.

As a Comparative Literature major, you will have the opportunity to study texts from various historical periods, geographical, and cultural areas, and literary and artistic movements and to develop the ability to pose and to begin to respond to fundamental questions about the place of the literary text in literary, cultural, and social traditions. Majors are introduced to specific modes of literary analysis as well as to general concepts of "literariness." And they pursue questions of the interaction of literature with other arts (e.g., painting, cinema, music) and disciplines (e.g., philosophy, psychology, history) as well as the political, social, and intellectual contexts of literature. Students in Comparative Literature learn, as well, the history of literary criticism and important issues in literary and cultural theory.

Comparative Literature majors develop important skills in critical reading, thinking, writing, and speaking, fostered by the small size of most of our classes which allow ample opportunity for the discussion and exchange. Comparative Literature courses also offer challenging individual and small group research and writing projects.

The Comparative Literature major is invaluable preparation for a career in a range of fields that require critical comparative thought, clear writing, the presentation of logical arguments, and the critical assessment of written and oral opinions -- whether in law, business, communications, politics and diplomacy, journalism, technical writing, publishing. The major in Comparative Literature is also ideal for students interested in teaching at the secondary level or in pursuing a graduate degree.

To Declare the Major

To declare the major in Comparative Literature, students must have sophomore standing, have taken at least one 200-level course in the department, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Prospective majors should meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in advance of declaring the major in order to discuss the requirements.

In addition, declared majors are strongly encouraged to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in planning their courses each semester. Seniors must arrange a meeting early in the fall semester to assess whether they will have met all requirements for graduation. Please obtain and bring with you a current degree summary from the Registrar's Office before meeting with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.
REQUIREMENTS for the MAJOR

The major requires a total of 30 credits in Comparative Literature, plus 9 credits in literature in a single foreign language for a total of 39 credits.

Literary fluency in a language other than English is the basis for comparative literary work.

The 30 credits in the Department must include:

- 6 credits (2 classes) from the 200 level sequence (CL 201, 202, 203 or 205);
- 24 credits at the intermediate and advanced levels (300 level and higher)

Courses in the major must also include:

- 2 courses in criticism or theory (CL 310, 371, or 475);
- The Comparative Literature Proseminar (CL 690, typically offered every other spring semester); or CL702 (offered every other fall semester);
- 9 credits of literature in a single foreign language with a grade of B or better. Independent study or literature in translation courses will not count toward this requirement.

The Senior Honors Thesis (CL 691-692, for a total of 6 credits) is strongly recommended (though not required)

*Introduction to Comparative Literature (CL 310) is strongly advised as a bridge between the 200- and the 300- and 400-level courses.*

Work in the major must show a degree of continuity. The exact configuration of courses in the major will be determined individually for each student in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Majors are strongly encouraged to maintain an average GPA of 3.25 in the major.

All students are required to fulfill the L&S requirement of at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major completed in residence. Any course in the department numbered 300 or above will count toward this requirement.

HONORS in the MAJOR

The Department of Comparative Literature encourages students to consider graduating with Honors in the Major. Honors in the Comparative Literature Major provides students with an opportunity not only to deepen their understanding of questions of comparative literatures and cultures but also to develop and practice their skills in critical comparative reading, thinking, and writing.

Honors in the Comparative Literature Major requires a total of 39 credits with an average GPA in the major of 3.5.

In addition to the general requirements for the major, students who wish to qualify for Honors in the Comparative Literature Major must take 9 credits of Comparative Literature at the 300 level or above for honors credit.

Honors in the Comparative Literature Major also requires the Senior Honors Thesis (Comp Lit 681-682) for a total of 6 credits.

The remaining 24 credits are distributed as stipulated for all undergraduate Comparative Literature majors.

Study Abroad

Many students in Comparative Literature take advantage of study abroad programs offered by the University of Wisconsin or by other American or international universities. Study abroad programs are an excellent way to become proficient in your chosen language as well as to fulfill the literature in a foreign literature requirement for the major. C.L. credit in the major for other classes taken abroad, however, are sometimes more difficult to acquire. And the maximum number of courses accepted
by the Department is two. Therefore, it is best to consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies both before and after your study abroad program.

Before you go abroad, check with the Director of Undergraduate Studies about whether the courses you are planning to take might count toward CL credit in the major. Be sure to save any course materials that vouch for their comparative content (course descriptions, syllabi, exams, research papers). And, when you return, see the Director of Undergraduate Studies as soon as possible so that s/he can formally review the courses for credit.

THE SENIOR THESIS / HONORS THESIS

An Honors Thesis is required for students graduating with Honors in the Major; a Senior Thesis is strongly recommended for any student considering graduate school in literature, comparative literature, or a related discipline. Normally, the student will decide on a faculty advisor by the end of his/her junior year and, in consultation with that advisor, on an area of concentration for a thesis. Although arrangements involving the summer semester may be possible, the thesis is generally begun in the fall semester and completed in the spring, for a maximum of six credits.

Students who write theses are eligible to compete for a number of prizes offered by the university, such as the University Bookstore Award. Please check with the Director of Undergraduate Studies or your individual advisor regarding the details and deadlines.

THE MARIA TAI WOLFF AWARD

Each spring, the Department of Comparative Literature offers the Maria Tai Wolff Award for an Outstanding Undergraduate Essay in Comparative Literature. Early in the spring semester, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will notify majors of the details and deadline for the essay competition. The winner is announced at the annual end-of-the-year departmental party.

FACULTY MEMBERS & AREAS of SPECIALIZATION

Adler, Hans hadler@wisc.edu  (262-9863)  870 Van Hise Hall
Areas: Literature; aesthetics; literature and philosophy; literature, culture, and social history; literary theory; semiotics; 18th-21st-century German and French literature.
Languages: German, French, Latin.

Mary Layoun mmlayoun@wisc.edu  (262-9767)  2412 Sterling Hall
Areas: "east"/"west" relations; politics & culture; the "post-colonial," visual culture; the modern novel; narrative; rhetoric; gender studies.
Languages: Arabic, Greek (classical and modern), Japanese (classical and modern), French.

Chris Livanos clivanos@wisc.edu  2314 Sterling Hall
Languages: Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek; Latin; Spanish; Italian.

Ralph Grunewald grunewald@wisc.edu  (262-1158)  2408 Sterling Hall
Areas: Law and Literature, hermeneutics, narrative, criminal justice.
Languages: German and French

Max Statkiewicz mstatkiewicz@wisc.edu  2318 Sterling Hall
Areas: Classics; criticism & theory of literature; continental philosophy; comparative mythology; rhetoric.
Languages: Ancient Greek; Latin; French; German; Polish; Russian; Italian (reading knowledge)

AFFILIATE FACULTY & AREAS of SPECIALIZATION

Jill Casid jhcasid@wisc.edu  265-0136/263-2340 Art History / 240 Elvehjem Bldg, Conrad A
Areas: Visual Culture, early modern to contemporary Europe & the Americas; Colonial Cultural Studies & Postcolonial Theory; Media & Technology Studies; Gender Studies & Queer Theory.
Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, German.
Tom DuBois  tadubois@wisc.edu  Scandinavian Studies & Folklore 1406 Sterling Hall
Areas:  His research focuses on folklore (especially folk belief) and identify in the Nordic region, particularly in connection with Finnish, Sámi, and Swedish cultures.  He also has strong interests in the Baltic region and the broader cultural context of Northern Europe.

Richard Goodkin  rgoodkin@wisc.edu  262-0581 French & Italian / 640 Van Hise Hall
Areas:  Comparative Literature.
Languages:  French

Sara Guyer  guyer@wisc.edu  263-3706 English / 7165 H. C. White Hall
Areas:  British and Continental Romanticism, critical theory, philosophy and literature, post-Holocaust writing, the lyric.

Adam Kern  kern@wisc.edu  262-8731 East Asian Languages and Literatures  1108 Van Hise
Areas:  Japanese Literature, Popular Culture and Visual Culture
Languages:  Japanese

Ernesto Livorni  elivorni@wisc.edu  (262-4068)  752 Van Hise Hall
Areas:  Modern and contemporary European & American Literature, especially poetry; modernity & tradition; literature & technology, & the arts, & philosophy, & religion; literary theory & criticism; cultural studies
Languages:  Italian, French, Spanish, Latin (reading knowledge), Classical Greek (reading knowledge)

Toma Longinovic  tlongino@wisc.edu  (262-4311)  Slavic Languages & Literature  1452 Van Hise
Areas:  South Slavic literatures and cultures; Serbo-Croatian language; literary theory; Central and East European literary history; comparative Slavic studies; translation studies; cultural studies.
Languages:  Serbian Croatian

Patricia Rosenmeyer  prosenme@wisc.edu  (262-3508)  966 Van Hise
Areas:  Greek & Roman poetry, the classical tradition & critical theory, lyric poetry (archaic, Hellenistic, Roman, post-classical) & epistolarity (classical & post-classical).
Languages:  Ancient Greek, Latin, French, German, Biblical Hebrew

Irene Santos  irsantos@wisc.edu  (2402 Sterling Hall)
(Visiting International Affiliate: fall semester)
Areas:  Poetry and poetic theory; English & American studies; contemporary Portuguese literature.
Languages:  Portuguese; Spanish, French, and German (reading knowledge).

HONORARY AFFILIATE FACULTY

Rachel Brenner  brenner@wisc.edu  262-6102  Hebrew & Semitic Studies / 1354 Van Hise Hall
Gudrun Bühnemann  gbuhnema@wisc.edu  262-5881  Languages & Cultures of Asia / 1234 Van Hise Hall
Sabine Gross  sgross@wisc.edu  262-2647  German Dept. / 804 Van Hise Hall
Leonard Kaplan  lvkaplan@wisc.edu  262-2245  Law School / 7103 Law Bldg.
Heinz Klug  klug@wisc.edu  262-7370  Law School / 8106 Law Bldg.
Harold Scheub  hescheub@wisc.edu  263-5919  African Languages & Literature / 1408 Van Hise Hall

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES in COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

201  Introduction to Pre-Modern Literatures / Impact on the Modern World
202  Introduction to Modern & Contemporary Literatures
203  Introduction to Cross-Cultural Literary Forms
205  Introduction to the Comparative Study of Race & Ethnicity, in and beyond the U.S.
310  UG Introduction to field & discipline of Comparative Literature
350  Problems in comparative literatures & cultures
358  Problems in Transnational Genre & mode
370 Comparative Problems in Periods & Movements
371 Literary Criticism
466 Literature, Media, the arts
475 Problems in Poetics and Literary theory
500 The Comparative In and Beyond Comparative Literature
681-82 Senior honors thesis
690 Proseminar on comparative research topics
691-92 Senior thesis
699 Directed study (1-6 credits)
702 Graduate introduction to the field & of Comparative Literature
771 Literary Criticism