



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 (32 for Honors) in Comparative Literature, plus 9 credits in literature in a single foreign language for a total of 39 credits (41 for Honors).

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

The 30 credits (32 for Honors) *in* the Department must include:

- 24 credits at the intermediate and advanced levels (300 level and higher)
- 6 credits (2 classes) from the 200 level sequence (CL 201, 202, 203 or 205);
or, for Honors in the major:
- 8 credits (2 classes) from the 200 level Honors sequence (CL 287, 288, or 289);
- 2 courses in criticism or theory (CL 310, 371, or 475);
- The Comparative Literature Proseminar (CL 690, typically offered every other spring 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 681-682, for a total of 6 credits) is *required* for Honors majors; the Senior Thesis (CL 691-692, for a total of 6 credits) is strongly recommended (though not required) for non-honors majors. The thesis can be started or completed during a summer semester if a faculty director is willing.

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.

HONORS in the MAJOR

Comparative Literature offers honors students three small, introductory courses on a regular basis: CL 287, CL 288, and CL 289. These classes, limited to 20 students, satisfy the Communication B requirement and serve both as an excellent introduction to the discipline and as a lively and stimulating forum for students to discuss literary and cultural texts and their contexts.

After taking introductory courses, Honors students may continue to take CL courses for Honors credit by consulting with professors at the beginning of the semester and arranging to do extra reading and/or extra writing. (Any course above 299 in the Department is eligible for honors credit with the permission of the departmental honors adviser and in consultation with the instructor of the course.)

Honors in the Major in Comparative Literature requires a total of 41 credits with an average GPA in the major of 3.5. (Please see "Requirements for the Major.")

On occasion, students who are not yet enrolled in the honors program may wish to take CL 287, 288, or 289. Please speak with the course instructor about permission to enroll.

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 & 940 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 mnlayoun@wisc.edu (262-9767) 938 Van Hise 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 (263-3851) 950 Van Hise Hall

Areas: Classical and Early Modern Poetry, Byzantine Poetry, Drama, The Cretan Renaissance, Literature and Religion.

Languages: Ancient, Medieval and Modern Greek; Latin; Spanish; Italian.

Max Statkiewicz mstatkiewicz@wisc.edu (262-7862) 958 Van Hise 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.

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.

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)

Carole Newlands - cnewlands@wisc.edu (265-5910) 908 Van Hise Hall

Areas: Latin literature, Medieval Studies, comparative literature

Languages: Latin and Greek

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 & postclassical).

Languages: Ancient Greek, Latin, French, German, Biblical Hebrew

Irene Santos irsantos@wisc.edu (262-8913) 942 Van Hise 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

Moneera Al-Ghadeer	malghadeer@wisc.edu	262-5758	African Languages & Literatures / 1468 Van Hise Hall
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	hescbeub@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 (3 cr.)
- 202 Introduction to Modern & Contemporary Literatures (3 cr.)
- 203 Introduction to Cross-Cultural Literary Forms (3 cr.)
- 205 Introduction to the Comparative Study of Race & Ethnicity, in and beyond the U.S. (3 cr.)
- 236 Bascom Course (3 cr.)
- 287 Introduction to Masterpieces of Literature I for Honors (4 cr.)
- 288 Introduction to Masterpieces of Literature II for Honors (4 cr.)
- 289 Introduction to Literary Forms for Honors (4 cr.)
- 310 Introduction to Critical Reading and Theory (3-4 cr.)
- 341 Women and Literature (3-4 cr.)
- 351 Lyric (3-4 cr.)
- 352 Epic (3-4 cr.)
- 353 Drama (3-4 cr.)
- 354 Novel and Short Story (3-4 cr.)
- 358 Problems in genre and mode (3-4 cr.)
- 368 Literature and ideas (3-4 cr.)
- 371 Literary criticism (3-4 cr.)
- 372 Literary movements and trends (3-4 cr.)
- 374 Bilateral literary relations (3-4 cr.)
- 375 Literature and related disciplines (3-4 cr.)
- 377 Literary periods (3-4 cr.)
- 378 Literary backgrounds (3-4 cr.)
- 379 Literature and ethnic experience (3-4 cr.)
- 466 Literature and the other arts (3-4 cr.)
- 473 Thematics (3-4 cr.)
- 475 Poetics and literary theory (3-4 cr.)
- 681- 82 Senior honors thesis (2-3 cr.)
- 690 Proseminar on comparative research topics (3 cr.)
- 691- 92 Senior thesis (2-3 cr.)
- 699 Directed study (1-6 cr.)