

Comparative Literature

College of Letters and Science (<http://ls.berkeley.edu>)

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(<http://complit.berkeley.edu>)

Overview

The Department of Comparative Literature is a vibrant place for the research and study of literatures and cultures in an interdisciplinary framework, from a transnational and cross-cultural perspective.

We have particular strengths in Latin American literatures, French and German, Hebrew and Yiddish studies, classics, critical theory, East Asian literatures and arts, performance studies, postcolonial theory, film and media, poetry and poetics, English and American literatures, Early Modern and Renaissance studies and Slavic literatures and cultures. Though undergraduates often read in translation, we focus on close readings as well as critical study of works in context.

Major Requirements

Comparative Literature majors are trained in the cross-cultural and critical reading of literatures and cultures. With a grounding in the theory and history of literature and in the close analysis of texts and cultural discourses, Comparative Literature students come to engage in original research projects that cross disciplinary and national boundaries.

The junior course (CL 100) introduces students to a variety of literary texts and critical and theoretical approaches. The senior course (CL 190) takes up a specific literary context and leads to an independent project involving several literary traditions. For honors students, the senior thesis writing seminar (CL 170) provides support for a more extended independent research project in a topic developed by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor. Comparative Literature students must gain at least third-year level proficiency in a language other than English in order to begin to read works in the original language by the end of their studies.

Upper Division Requirements

A minimum of 30 approved upper division units in literature, including:

- A section of CL 100, a section of CL 190, and one Comparative Literature period course (the 151-155 series).
- At least four courses in the "major" literature, totaling not fewer than 12 units, with readings in the original language (this could include English).
- At least two courses in the "minor" literature totaling not fewer than 6 units, with readings in the original language and selected to fit the student's period of primary interest (e.g. classical, medieval, early modern, modern); and
- At least one upper division course in a classical literature, where works are read in translation or in the original from Greek, Latin, Classical Arabic, Biblical Hebrew, Sanskrit, or Classical Chinese or Japanese.

Honors Requirements

Students who have attained junior standing may be admitted to the honors program if they:

1. Have accumulated at least an overall 3.3 grade point average (GPA) and at least a 3.55 GPA in the major, and at the time of graduation have accumulated at least a 3.65 GPA in the major and a 3.4 average in all work completed at the University.
2. Have completed at least eight upper division units in literature, including Comparative Literature 100 or the equivalent.
3. Are prepared to do upper division work in one vernacular foreign literature or one classical literature.

In addition to the requirements for the regular program outlined above, candidates for the BA with honors in Comparative Literature must demonstrate, through either examination or coursework, a sense of the historical development of their principal literature, and earn a grade of B or higher for an honors thesis in Comparative Literature H195. Students interested in the honors program are urged to consult an adviser in the Department of Comparative Literature at their earliest opportunity.

Program for Study Abroad

While progressing toward the undergraduate degree in comparative literature, you may have the opportunity to earn credit while studying abroad. Comparative literature majors and minors are encouraged to participate in the Berkeley Programs for Study Abroad (EAP).

For information about these programs, contact an adviser in the Berkeley Programs for Study Abroad Office, 160 Stephens Hall #2302, Berkeley, CA 94720-2302, or phone (510) 642-1356. Information is also available online at the Study Abroad website. (<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu>)

The Graduate Program

Students are admitted for post-baccalaureate work leading to the PhD degree. This degree prepares students for teaching and research in classical and modern languages and literatures and is especially designed to encourage interdisciplinary research involving the study of literary and theoretical documents in several languages. The program is designed to provide students with the maximum of flexibility compatible with a rigorous course of study. The program emphasizes comprehensive historical coverage of one literature, with students designing an individual program of study that involves two additional literatures. Further information concerning the program should be sought from the office of graduate studies in the Department of Comparative Literature.

Undergraduate Preparation

Students interested in the graduate program in comparative literature at Berkeley are advised that strong undergraduate preparation in at least two foreign languages will speed up their work at the graduate level.

Requirements for the PhD Degree

A minimum of 10 graduate courses is required for the PhD degree, counted cumulatively from the beginning of graduate study at Berkeley. (Students entering with MA's from other institutions will be able to count up to two MA courses toward the 10-course requirement.) Students must demonstrate competence in three languages other than English. Courses include Approaches to Comparative Literature, as well as graduate-level courses in the major and each of two minor literatures. These are intended to help prepare students for the PhD written and oral qualifying examinations, which examine the three literatures in a comparative

context and are based on reading lists and a statement of interests drawn up by the student in consultation with an adviser. Students are expected to complete these examinations no later than the fourth year of study and to devote the following three years to the development of a prospectus and the completion of a doctoral dissertation. Dissertation committees are ordinarily composed of members of the Department of Comparative Literature and other related departments.

COM LIT H1A English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 4 Units

Department: Comparative Literature

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of discussion per week, and individual conferences.

Prerequisites: (a) UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam, (b) a 3.5 grade point average in high school English, (c) a reading knowledge of an ancient or modern foreign language, and (d) permission of the instructor. Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. Limited to 10 qualified freshmen and/or sophomores who meet for round-table discussions and attend weekly tutorial sessions. Individual assignments provide each student with the opportunity to exploit his or her linguistic and literary training. H1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and H1B satisfies the second half. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

COM LIT H1B English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 4 Units

Department: Comparative Literature

Course level: Undergraduate

Terms course may be offered: Fall and spring

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 3 hours of discussion per week, and individual conferences.

Prerequisites: (a) UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam, (b) a 3.5 grade point average in high school English, (c) a reading knowledge of an ancient or modern foreign language, and (d) permission of the instructor. Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. Limited to 10 qualified freshmen and/or sophomores who meet for round-table discussions and attend weekly tutorial sessions. Individual assignments provide each student with the opportunity to exploit his or her linguistic and literary training. H1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and H1B satisfies the second half. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

COM LIT N1A English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 3 Units

Department: Comparative Literature

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 4 hours of lecture and individual conferences per week for 8 weeks. 6 hours of lecture/discussion per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: A passing grade in Subject A examination or course. 1A is prerequisite to 1B.

Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

COM LIT N1B English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 3 Units

Department: Comparative Literature

Course level: Undergraduate

Term course may be offered: Summer

Grading: Letter grade.

Hours and format: 4 hours of lecture and individual conferences per week for 8 weeks. 6 hours of lecture/discussion per week for 6 weeks.

Prerequisites: A passing grade in Subject A examination or course. 1A is prerequisite to 1B. A passing grade in Subject A examination or course. 1A is prerequisite to 1B. to 1B.