

Comparative Literature

The Department of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, offers opportunities for graduate study in a wide variety of literary traditions with emphasis on historical coverage, on issues of influence and reception, and on critical and theoretical approaches ranging from textual criticism to cultural studies. Comparative Literature faculty hold joint appointments with many different language and literature departments on the campus, and Comparative Literature graduate students enroll in a diverse selection of classes offered by those departments, in addition to Comparative Literature seminars.

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.

Because of the size and diversity of its faculty, the importance of its general library, its several special collections, and its other research facilities, Berkeley offers superior opportunities for graduate study in nearly all areas of Comparative Literature. Specifically, the Department of Comparative Literature offers organized programs leading to specialization in all areas of Western literature from the earliest Mediterranean texts to the twentieth century, as well as in major areas of East-West, Latin American and African studies, and it is equipped to devise individual degree programs in some special areas in which regular course instruction is not normally listed. The fact that graduates of this Department are currently teaching at the university level such widely different literatures as English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Latin, Italian, Russian, Greek, Sanskrit, Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic, along with film, gender, and ethnic studies, illustrates the wealth of choices facing entering students.

Admission to the University

Uniform minimum requirements for admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A minimum grade-point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant comes from a country or political entity (e.g. Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, 230 on the computer-based test, 90 on the iBT test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants who already hold a graduate degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees as evidence of broad research training, not as vocational training certificates; therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to take up new subject matter on a serious level without undertaking a graduate program, unless the fields are completely dissimilar.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.
2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may only apply to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Any applicant who was previously registered at Berkeley as a graduate student, no matter how briefly, must apply for readmission, not admission, even if the new application is to a different program.

Required documents for admissions applications

1. **Transcripts:** Upload unofficial transcripts with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcripts of all college-level work will be required **if admitted**. Official transcripts must be in sealed envelopes as issued by the school(s) you have attended. Request a current transcript from every post-secondary school that you have attended, including community colleges, summer sessions, and extension programs. If you have attended Berkeley, upload unofficial transcript with the application for the departmental initial review. Official transcript with evidence of degree conferral **will not** be required if admitted.
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants can request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, not the Graduate Division.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants from countries in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This requirement applies to applicants from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, and most European countries. However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a U.S. university

may submit an official transcript from the U.S. university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement: 1) courses in English as a Second Language, 2) courses conducted in a language other than English, 3) courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and 4) courses of a non-academic nature. If applicants have previously been denied admission to Berkeley on the basis of their English language proficiency, they must submit new test scores that meet the current minimum from one of the standardized tests.

Admission to the Program

Students should have done advanced work in at least one language other than English and, ideally, have begun the study of a second language as well. They should be able to demonstrate the skills of close rhetorical analysis of literary texts through the submission of a writing sample, usually a college-level essay.

Normative Time Requirements

Normative Time to Advancement: 8 semesters

Normative in Candidacy: 6 semesters

Total Normative Time: 14 semesters

Time to Advancement

Curriculum

COM LIT 200	Approaches to Comparative Literature	4
Literature, Major Emphasis: Four courses		
Literature, First Minor Emphasis: One course		
Literature, Second Minor Emphasis: One course		
Comparative Literature, Graduate Electives: Three courses		

Foreign Language(s)

Doctoral students are expected to work in three literatures. They are expected to demonstrate competence in at least three languages other than English. We recommend that you choose a third language according to your research interests. You may wish to learn the language of the scholarship in your field, to gain historical knowledge of your primary language, to strengthen your profile as a comparatist, to gain exposure to a culturally remote body of literature, or to broaden the cultural range of your literary knowledge.

Permission to Proceed Review

Permission to proceed to the PhD program in Comparative Literature is granted by the Second Year Review Committee at the end of the semester in which the student has the second year review.

No later than the fourth semester after entrance into the PhD program, all students will be reviewed by a committee identified by them and approved by the Vice-Chair in charge of graduate studies and consisting of three faculty members, two of whom should be members of the Department. The committee should include the student's advisor, although the Vice-Chair may approve a substitute in cases where the student's own advisor is unavailable due to sabbatical leave or other circumstances.

The review is designed to be diagnostic in nature; it should assess the student's progress toward the degree and assist students in planning their course of study toward the PhD.

Based on these materials and an oral interview with the student, the committee will assess the work done toward coverage in the major literature, recommend further course work, assess language preparation and the student's overall preparation to date. This report constitutes a binding recommendation concerning future course work and advancement toward the degree.

QE

Students should plan to take their QE no later than their eighth semester in the program. This is the Graduate Division's deadline for normative time to candidacy, a milestone having direct bearing on students' eligibility for the Dissertation Completion Fellowship (see below).

Preparation for the PhD qualifying examination is intended to encourage students to pursue advanced, independent, and intellectually mature work. The PhD QE constitutes the last review of students' academic progress before the writing of the dissertation. The examination consists of two written sections and an oral section.

Prospectus

No later than one semester after passing the PhD qualifying examination, students are required to schedule a prospectus meeting with the members of their dissertation committee. At least two weeks before the meeting, the prospectus, which should not exceed 20 pages, must be distributed to the committee. At the meeting, the student and committee will discuss the prospectus, and plan the writing of the dissertation.

Time in Candidacy

Advancement

The student advances to candidacy upon completion of a written qualifying exam and an oral exam.

Prospectus

The student is required to write a dissertation prospectus of approximately fifteen pages, plus bibliography, in the semester after the qualifying exam.

Required Professional Development

Teaching

Most students will teach Reading and Composition courses for the department as part of their professional development. Opportunities for teaching foreign languages are also available in other departments. Students are required to take a pedagogy course in the first semester of teaching.

Comparative Literature

COM LIT 200 Approaches to Comparative Literature 4 Units
Lectures on literary theory, on the study of criticism, and on the methods of comparative literary theory.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to graduate standing in Comparative Literature

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 201 Proseminar 1 Unit

This course is designed to give all new graduate students a broad view of the department's faculty, the courses they teach, and their fields of research. In addition, it will introduce students to some practical aspects of the graduate career, issues that pertain to specific fields of research, and questions currently being debated across the profession. The readings for the course will consist of copies of materials by the department's faculty.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Required for all first year graduate students

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

COM LIT 202B Approaches to Genre: Lyric Poetry 4 Units

Application of the methods of Comparative Literature to the study of genres.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to graduate standing in Comparative Literature: advanced undergraduates may be admitted with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 202C Approaches to Genre: The Novel 4 Units

Application of the methods of Comparative Literature to the study of genres.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Admission to graduate standing in Comparative Literature: advanced undergraduates may be admitted with the consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 210 Studies in Ancient Literature 4 Units

Comparative investigation of a topic in ancient literature between the eighth century B.C.E. and the fourth century C.E. with some attention to subsequent developments.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in ancient Greek or Latin and familiarity with at least one modern foreign language

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 212 Studies in Medieval Literature 4 Units

Comparative investigation of a topic in literature and culture between the fifth and the fourteenth centuries.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two medieval languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 215 Studies in Renaissance Literature 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in Western literature in the Renaissance period.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT C221 Aesthetics as Critique 4 Units
A close reading and discussion of the major texts of modern aesthetics, from the 18th century to the present, with emphasis on the Continental tradition of Kant, Adorno, and Derrida.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: RHETOR C221

COM LIT 223 Studies in the 19th Century 4 Units
Comparative investigation of major themes in nineteenth-century literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 225 Studies in Symbolist and Modern Literature 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in literature and culture of the modern period.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 227 Studies in Contemporary Literature 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in contemporary literature and culture.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 232 Studies in Near Eastern-Western Literary Relations 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a literary topic requiring the study of both Near Eastern and Western documents.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in a Near Eastern or a European language. Undergraduates may be admitted with consent of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 240 Studies in the Relations Between Literature and the Other Arts 4 Units
Comparative study of the historical and systematic relations between literature and other arts such as the visual arts, music, and film.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 250 Studies in Literary Theory 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in the theory of literature.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 254 Studies in East-West Literary Relations 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a literary topic requiring the study of both East Asian and Western documents.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages, one of which must be an East Asian language

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: C254

COM LIT 258 Studies in Philosophy and Literature 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in the relationship between philosophy and literature.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 260 Problems in Literary Translation 4 Units
Theory and practice of translation. Students will complete a project in literary translation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages or permission of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 265 Gender, Sexuality, and Culture 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic related to the study of gender and/or sexuality in literature and culture.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 266 Nationalism, Colonialism, and Culture 4 Units
Comparative investigation of a topic in ideology, politics, and identity and its relation to the formation of national, colonial, and/or post-colonial literatures and cultures.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Preparation in two foreign languages

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 298 Special Study 1 - 4 Units
Primarily for students engaged in preliminary exploration of a restricted field, involving the writing of a report. May not be substituted for available seminars.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT N298 Special Study 2 - 4 Units
Primarily for students engaged in preliminary exploration of a restricted field, involving the writing of a report. May not be substituted for available seminars.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

COM LIT 299 Directed Research 1 - 12 Units
Writing of the doctoral dissertation.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of the Qualifying Examination

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

COM LIT 300 Supervised Teaching in Comparative Literature 1 - 4 Units
Course credit for experience gained in academic teaching through employment as a graduate student instructor.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as a graduate student instructor in the department. Consent of graduate advisor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week
8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

COM LIT 375 Methods of Teaching Literature and English Composition-Comparative Literature 2 Units

Discussion of the theory and practice of teaching composition at the college level in a department of comparative literature.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Appointment as a graduate student instructor or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Formerly known as: Comparative Literature 360S

COM LIT 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units
Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the Graduate Adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residence requirements for the master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

COM LIT 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Individual study in consultation with the Graduate Adviser intended to provide opportunity for qualified students to prepare themselves for the various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used for unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Satisfactory completion of the Master's examination

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.