

Comparative Literature

Overview

Literature is a cultural site where the present is negotiated, the past is excavated, and the future is envisioned. In a globalized world where the circulation of blogs, legal documents, political manifestos, manuscripts, online journals, and images constantly shape and reshape human experience, understanding texts is utterly essential.

Comparative Literature provides students with tools for analyzing texts, writing, editing, translating, and thinking across disciplinary and national boundaries. Our graduates engage a variety of literary traditions and historical periods, from Latin American concrete poetry to the discourses of political and race theory to Yiddish experimental fiction. The department offers rigorous training in the following areas of strength of our internationally recognized faculty: French, German, Italian, Hebrew Studies, Classics, Critical Theory, East Asian Literatures and Arts, Performance Studies, Film and Media, Poetry and Poetics, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Postcolonial Theory, English and American Literatures, Early Modern and Renaissance Studies, and Slavic Literatures and Cultures.

All members of the department are deeply invested in the academic development of our students and value you as an integral part of the Comparative Literature community at UC Berkeley. The department aims to develop your creative and intellectual interests and talents. Students receive the opportunity to pursue rigorous research in a variety of fields according to their interests; engage in team-based projects; participate in discussions about political, aesthetic, and social issues; and develop a nuanced cross-cultural understanding of historical and social processes. All of our students work closely with cutting-edge scholars in their fields in small seminars, with extensive individualized work. Our students form a well-integrated community, and have access to all of the resources of all other Berkeley campus departments and faculty: in fact, our program requires that students take seminars in other departments for interdisciplinary training. We have one of the most successful placement records for our graduates of any program in the country, and of any Berkeley graduate program. Our doctoral graduates are prominent comparative literature and national literature faculty across the country and the world.

Our students benefit from training in comparative literature and go on to work in a variety of professions, including journalism, media, publishing, translation, theater, and politics; as well as taking many roles in the legal, corporate, social, medical, and arts sectors. Additionally, we prepare our students to enter top graduate programs in the U.S. and abroad.

"That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you are not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong." —F. Scott Fitzgerald

Undergraduate Program

Comparative Literature (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/comparative-literature/>): BA

Graduate Program

Comparative Literature (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/comparative-literature/>): PhD

Comparative Literature

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

Terms offered: Fall 2007, Fall 2005, Fall 2004

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.

Rules & Requirements

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

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

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

Terms offered: Spring 2008, Spring 2007, Spring 2006

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.

Rules & Requirements

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

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

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

Terms offered: Summer 2011 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2005 10 Week Session, Summer 2004 10 Week Session

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

Rules & Requirements

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

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

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

Terms offered: Summer 2011 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2010 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2009 Second 6 Week Session
Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.

Rules & Requirements

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

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT R1A English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. 1A or equivalent is prerequisite to 1B

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for COM LIT R1A after completing COM LIT N1A, COLWRIT R1A, COM LIT S1A, COLWRIT 1A, COLWRIT R4A, COM LIT 1AC, COM LIT H1A, COM LIT 1A, or XCOMLIT R1A. A deficient grade in COM LIT R1A may be removed by taking XCOMLIT R1A, or XCOMLIT R1A.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

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

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 1A

COM LIT R1B English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 Second 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

Expository writing based on analysis of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or UC Analytical Writing Placement Exam. 1A or equivalent is prerequisite to 1B

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for COM LIT R1B after completing COM LIT N1B, COM LIT S1B, COM LIT H1B, or COM LIT 1B.

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

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

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 1B

COM LIT R2A English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and French Literature 5 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2001, Fall 2000, Fall 1999

Expository writing done in connection with the reading of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature and the study of selected French texts read in the original. Course will prepare students for more advanced work in French. R2A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R2B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Three years of high school French or two years with a B plus average

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 2A

COM LIT R2B English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and French Literature 5 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2008, Spring 2007, Spring 2006

Expository writing done in connection with the reading of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature and the study of selected French texts read in the original. Course will prepare students for more advanced work in French. R2A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R2B satisfies the second half.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Three years of high school French or two years with a B plus average

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: 2B

COM LIT R3A English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and Hispanic Literature 5 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Expository writing done in connection with the reading of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature and the study of selected Spanish texts read in the original. Course will help prepare students for more advanced work in Spanish. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition Requirement.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Three years of high school Spanish or two years with a B + average

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT R3B English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and Hispanic Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Expository writing done in connection with the reading of selected masterpieces of ancient and modern literature and the study of selected Spanish texts read in the original. Course will help prepare students for more advanced work in Spanish. Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition Requirement. This course is in-person.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Three years of high school Spanish or two years with a B plus average

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Alternative to final exam.

COM LIT 20 Episodes in Literary Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

An introductory level exploration of a specific author, work, theme or literary movement in an international context. Emphasis on the ways in which literature has played (and continues to play) a crucial role in the relationship between different cultures, traditions, and languages. Readings and topics to vary from semester to semester.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Completion of a 1A course or its equivalent is recommended but not required

Repeat rules: 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/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 20A Episodes in Literary Cultures: Literature and Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literature and philosophy. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and literary and philosophical analysis with focus on selected literary, philosophical, critical, and theoretical texts from antiquity to the present. Readings in English.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Zhang, Kaufman, Francois, McGlazer

COM LIT 20B Episodes in Literary Cultures: Literature and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019

An introductory level exploration of the study of social and cultural issues in relation to literature. Examining some of the conceptual and thematic places where literature and social sciences topics (race, gender, social and class structure, law) cross over into each others' domains, we will ask what it means to read literary texts along with social sciences methodologies. The focus will be on reading of fiction and alongside methodological texts of the social sciences (linguistics, sociology, law, anthropology, social and cultural theories of gender and ethnicity). Readings and topics to vary from semester to semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Lucey

COM LIT 20C Episodes in Literary Cultures: Literature and History 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An introductory level exploration of the study of literature and history. Examining the literature and historical events of a chosen period (ancient, medieval, renaissance and early modern, modern, contemporary), we will engage in readings of literature, art, and critical texts in order better to understand the imaginative and real worlds of other times and places. Readings and topics to vary from semester to semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Largier, Bezner, Hampton, Ram, Britto

COM LIT 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to fifteen freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final Exam To be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

COM LIT 39H Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2011

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small-seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester. Enrollment limits are set by the faculty, but the suggested limit is 25.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

COM LIT N40 Women and Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2002 10 Week Session, Summer 2001 10 Week Session, Summer 1999 10 Week Session

A study of women as portrayed in literature, and of women writers. Selected readings on a topic which varies from summer to summer, detailed consideration of both literary techniques and the problems of women.

Rules & Requirements

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

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 41A Introduction to Literary Forms: Forms of the Epic 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Spring 2008, Fall 2006

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 41C Introduction to Literary Forms: Forms of the Novel 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Spring 2011, Summer 2010 Second 6 Week Session

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 41D Introduction to Literary Forms: Forms of the Drama 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2009, Spring 2007

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 41E Introduction to Literary Forms: Forms of the Cinema 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT N41A Introduction to Literary Forms: The Epic 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT N41B Introduction to Literary Forms: The Lyric 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT N41C Introduction to Literary Forms: The Novel 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2003 10 Week Session, Summer 1998 10 Week Session

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT N41D Introduction to Literary Forms: The Drama 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Comparative study of masterpieces of world literature.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT 50 Creative Writing in Comparative Literature 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

A creative writing workshop for students who wish to study the theory and practice of writing as they work in a variety of forms and media.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Comparative Literature 50 after completing S50 or S50X.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 60AC Topics in the Literature of American Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Study of the ethnic diversity of American literature. Topics will vary from semester to semester, but may include such themes as Cultures of the City, Gender, Race, Ethnicity in U.S. Literature, Race and Identity. Students should consult the department's course bulletin well before the beginning of the semester for details.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT N60AC Topics in the Literature of American Cultures 3 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018

Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2017 Second 6 Week Session

Study of the ethnic diversity of American literature. Topics will vary from summer to summer but may include such themes as gender, race, ethnicity, marriage, sexuality, identity, and the supernatural. Students should check the department's bulletin boards for summer course listings and further details.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

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

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT W60AC Topics in the Literature of American Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

Study of the ethnic diversity of American literature. Topics will vary from semester to semester, but may include such themes as Cultures of the City, Gender, Race, Ethnicity in U.S. Literature, Race and Identity. Students should consult the department's course bulletin well before the beginning of the semester for details.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 1 hour of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Palau

COM LIT 80AC Out of Place in America 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022

COMPLIT 80AC: Out of Place in America, is a literature-based course that maps histories and ongoing practices of exclusion, displacement, and surveillance in the United States as narrated in works by Native American, African American, Latinx and Asian American writers.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Piatote

COM LIT 98 Directed Group Study for Freshmen and Sophomores 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2014

Group study in a field that may not coincide with that of any regular course and must be specific enough to enable students to write essays based upon their studies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Lower division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Summer:

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

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

COM LIT 98BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate.

Course may be repeated for credit.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Kaufman

COM LIT 100 Introduction to Comparative Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literature and culture. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and analysis with focus on selected literary, critical, and theoretical texts from antiquity to the present. Readings in English.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 100A Introduction to Comparative Literature: Literature and Philosophy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literatures of the world in international and cross-cultural perspective along with philosophical texts and approaches. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and analysis with focus on issues of philosophy and ethics along with selected literary, critical, and theoretical texts. Readings in English.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Zhang, Butler, Francois, Volpp

COM LIT 100B Introduction to Comparative Literature: Society and Culture 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literatures of the world in international and cross-cultural perspective. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and analysis with focus on contemporary social and cultural issues in at least one foreign culture along with selected literary, critical, and theoretical texts. Readings in English.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Kurke

COM LIT 100C Introduction to Comparative Literature: Literary and Cultural History 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literature and historical study. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and analysis with focus on selected literary, critical, and theoretical texts from antiquity to the present. Readings in English.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Kahn, Bezner, Ram, Largier

COM LIT 100D Introduction to Comparative Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021

An introduction to problems of the comparative study of literatures of the world in international and cross-cultural perspective. Emphasis on principles of comparative methods and analysis with focus on contemporary social and cultural issues in at least one foreign culture along with selected literary, critical, and theoretical texts. Readings in English.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructors: Britto, Spackman, Sas, Kronfeld

COM LIT 120 The Biblical Tradition in Western Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2013, Spring 2011, Fall 2008

Examination of selected aspects of the Biblical tradition and their relevance to the study of later literature.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 151 The Ancient Mediterranean World 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2019

The literature of Greece, Rome, the Biblical lands, and other ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean basin.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or consent of instructor. Graduate students who wish to take this course are required to go back to the original Hebrew, Greek, or Latin texts

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 152 The Middle Ages 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

The literature of the Middle Ages.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or consent of instructor. Graduate students wishing to enroll must know at least one foreign language relevant to the materials studied

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 153 The Renaissance 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

European literature of the Renaissance.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or permission of the instructor. Graduate students wishing to enroll must know at least one foreign language relevant to the materials studied

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 154 Eighteenth- and 19th-Century Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023

Literature of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or consent of instructor. Graduate students wishing to enroll must know at least one foreign language relevant to the materials studied

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 155 The Modern Period 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Literature of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing or permission of the instructor. Graduate students wishing to enroll must know at least one foreign language relevant to the materials studied

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5-8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 156 Fiction and Culture of the Americas 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

Comparative study of American, Native-American, Spanish-American, Caribbean, and Brazilian literature and culture. Readings chosen to illustrate diverse attitudes of Americans toward their culture, politics, and environment.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 156AC On line: Fiction and Culture of the Americas 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

Study of the ethnic diversity of American literature. Topics will vary from semester to semester, but may include such themes as Cultures of the City, Gender, Race, Ethnicity in U.S. Literature, Race and Identity. Students should consult the department's course bulletin well before the beginning of the semester for details.

Rules & Requirements

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Summer: 8 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 1 hour of web-based discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: McEnaney

COM LIT 160AC Topics in Literatures of American Cultures - Poetry 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021

The course takes account—indeed, it focuses on—the modern American lyric poetry, approached both aesthetically and politically, of African American, indigenous peoples of the United States, Asian Americans, and Chicanos/Latinos, as well as European Americans. The course also presents substantial critical materials—philosophy, criticism, historiography, some sociology—by authors from those groups, writings that are about, or in crucial relation to, the poetry that will be the course's primary focus.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Kaufman

COM LIT 165 Myth and Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Study of the earliest myth texts and of the progressive growth of literature out of myth to the present day. Myth and oral composition. Emphasis on the meanings of myth as reflected in varying idioms.

Hours & Format

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

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT 170 Special Topics in Comparative Literature 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

An independent studies course designed to fulfill a need intrinsic to the undergraduate major's program which cannot otherwise be satisfied because it involves either a literature not covered in regularly scheduled course offerings or a special methodological framework or bias of selection.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT 171 Topics in Modern Greek Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

This course frames methodologically selected topics in Modern Greek Literature and places them in their historical, social or cultural context.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kotzamanidou

COM LIT 190 Senior Seminar in Comparative Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Seminar-style treatment of a major topic in Comparative Literature.

Substantial paper required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Senior standing; 100 and one course from the 151-160 series (the latter may be taken concurrently)

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

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

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

COM LIT H195 Honors Course 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Preparation and writing of an honors thesis under the supervision of a member of the faculty.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Honors standing, 8 units in upper division literature courses, including 100 or the equivalent, and knowledge of a vernacular language or a classical language

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

COM LIT 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2016, Spring 2015

Group study in a field that may not coincide with that of any regular course and must be specific enough to enable students to write essays based upon their studies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

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

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of directed group study per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

COM LIT 198BC Berkeley Connect 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Berkeley Connect is a mentoring program, offered through various academic departments, that helps students build intellectual community. Over the course of a semester, enrolled students participate in regular small-group discussions facilitated by a graduate student mentor (following a faculty-directed curriculum), meet with their graduate student mentor for one-on-one academic advising, attend lectures and panel discussions featuring department faculty and alumni, and go on field trips to campus resources. Students are not required to be declared majors in order to participate. Course may be repeated for credit.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Comparative Literature/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

Instructor: Kaufman

COM LIT 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015

Enrollment restrictions apply.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

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/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.