

Comparative Literature Minor

Coordinators: Compte, Hustis, Landreau, Peterson, Steinberg

The minor in Comparative Literature offers students a unique opportunity to study literature across cultural and linguistic boundaries. The discipline of comparative literature traditionally focuses on literary phenomena that traverse national and linguistic frontiers, such as broad literary periods or trends, genres and stylistic conventions, reception, literary influence, theories of literature and aesthetics, and intertextuality. Through the systematic comparison of literary works from more than one culture or era, students of comparative literature come to a clearer understanding of what literature is—its forms and traditions—as well as its relation to adjacent fields such as art, history, language, and philosophy.

In consultation with an adviser, students who minor in Comparative Literature are expected to design an intellectually coherent program of study which focuses on the literature of at least two distinct cultures (e.g., French and African literature of the French colonial period, classical literature and the Renaissance, or Latin-American and U.S. literature of the twentieth century). While courses in fulfillment of this requirement may be drawn from a wide range of disciplines, including English, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Classical Studies, African-American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and the Honors Program, the goal of the minor is to enable students to put the literatures of different cultures and eras in dialogue. This cultural and literary juxtaposition will culminate in a required capstone independent study designed by the student, approved by an adviser of the Comparative Literature Program, and supervised by a faculty member of the student's choice.

Students interested in a minor in Comparative Literature should consult with one of the advisers in the program as early as possible to plan their program of study.

No more than 6 credits earned toward the student's primary major may be counted toward the minor in Comparative Literature.

Requirements for the Minor

- 1) Two semesters of intermediate (200-level or above) foreign language study. Native or advanced speakers of a foreign language may be exempted from this requirement upon recommendation from the Modern Languages Department.
- 2) CPLT 499/Capstone Independent Study in Comparative Literature
- 3) Two courses to be chosen from among the following:
 - AFAM 202/Global Perspectives: African Diaspora, Arts and Culture
 - CLAS 250/Introduction to Greek Mythology
 - ENGL 217/World Literature I
 - ENGL 218/World Literature II
 - ENGL 220/World Drama
 - FREN 240/Introduction to Literature in French
 - HIST 242/Literary Images of Middle Eastern Culture
 - HONR 200/Human Love in Philosophy and Literature
 - HONR 210/Women in Art and Literature
 - HONR 260/Crime and Punishment in Literature
 - ITAL 240/Introduction to Literature in Italian
 - PHIL 201/Ancient Philosophy
 - PHIL 205/Modern Philosophy
 - SPAN 241/Introduction to Literature in Spanish I
 - SPAN 242/Introduction to Literature in Spanish II
- 4) Three elective courses, in consultation with an adviser in the Comparative Literature program.

COURSES (updated 11/6/03)

CMP 231/Perspectives on World Literature to 1800 4 cr.

(3 class hours)

(every semester)

same as LIT 231

replaces ENGL 217

Perspectives on the World: Literature, Western

Introduces students to selected literary traditions before 1800. The course will put readings into literary and historical context by focusing on a pivotal literary moment or text, selected by the instructor and analogous in function to the stationary foot of a geometric compass. Around this stationary foot or pivotal moment, the course will explore literary and historical relations – the textual “ancestors” and “progeny” that influenced or rewrote the pivotal text of the course, as well as the surrounding philological, social, and political contexts of the selected literary moment. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures or traditions, at least one of which must be non-English-speaking.

CMP 232/Perspectives on World Literature Since 1800

4 cr.

(every semester)

same as LIT 232

replaces ENGL 218

Perspectives on the World: Literature, Western

Introduces students to selected literary traditions since 1800. The course will put readings into literary and historical context by focusing on a pivotal literary moment or text, selected by the instructor and analogous in function to the stationary foot of a geometric compass. Around this stationary foot or pivotal moment, the course will explore literary and historical relations – the textual “ancestors” and “progeny” that influenced or rewrote the pivotal text of the course, as well as the surrounding philological, social, and political contexts of the selected literary moment. The course will also draw upon at least two distinct cultures or traditions, at least one of which must be non-English-speaking.