Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, Ph.D.

Graduate study in the Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies (CLFS) emphasizes the active research into and theorizing of the comparative, the literary, the folkloric, and the cultural in a global context. CLFS faculty and students investigate cultures within, across, and beyond linguistic, regional, and national boundaries. The comparative and pluri-lingual nature of CLFS at UW-Madison enables the careful and informed study of new and evolving theories and cultural methodologies as well as of prior, present, and emerging cultural and literary practices and phenomena.

CLFS students study problems and create public projects exploring culture, genre, literary and cultural movements, mode, performance, periodization, theory and criticism, tradition, translation, and transmission. They engage problems and questions concerning the interaction and shifting boundaries of ‘elite’ and ‘folk’ literatures and other forms of creative expression and their transformation in their interaction; folklore and literature with other arts or other disciplines; and the relationships between creative expression and economic, sociopolitical, traditional, and other historical structures and issues, including ideological and value formations.

In addition to professional research and communication in the academic fields of comparative literature and folklore studies, CLFS is committed to public humanities projects that place professional expertise in the service of communities and publics.

Graduate study leads to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in CLFS and must be in either a comparative literature named option or a folklore studies named option.

The department also offers doctoral minors in comparative literature and in folklore to interested Ph.D. candidates in other degree programs.

At the beginning of study in the minor program, all students seeking a comparative literature or folklore doctoral minor should contact the CLFS director of graduate studies concerning coursework for the minor. Completion of the minor will be certified by either the director of graduate studies or the department chair.

Funding

Prospective students should see the program website for funding information.

Requirements

Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

Doctoral Degrees

Ph.D., with available named options in Comparative Literature, and Folklore Studies

Minimum Graduate Degree Credit Requirement

51 credits

Minimum Graduate Residence Credit Requirement

32 credits

Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement

Successful completion of the Ph.D. requires 51 credit hours of coursework. This requirement includes that at least 50 percent of these credit hours must be received in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

Prior Coursework Requirements: Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions, provided this coursework relates directly to the student’s CLFS graduate studies. Successful completion of the Second Year exam. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree may not be used to satisfy the CLFS degree requirements.

To apply credit for prior graduate coursework toward requirements the student should furnish the student’s advisor and the director of graduate study with a transcript of the coursework and copies of work done in courses and syllabi, if available. This task should be completed in anticipation of the Second Year exam. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to the doctoral degree may not be used to satisfy the CLFS degree requirements.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW-Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW-Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

Prior Coursework Requirements: UW-Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 9 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison Special student. Successful completion of the preliminary examinations; successful completion of the dissertation; successful completion of the oral dissertation defense.

Credits Per Term Allowed

15 credits

Program-Specific Courses Required

All M.A. requirements; COMP LIT 822 Seminar-Translation; at least two other graduate seminars in comparative literature and folklore studies; the requirements for a Ph.D. option; demonstration of proficiency in a third language by passing an intermediate literature course with a grade of AB or better; successful completion of the Ph.D. preliminary examinations; successful completion of the dissertation; successful completion of the oral dissertation defense.
DOCTORAL MINOR/BREADTH REQUIREMENTS
All doctoral students are required to complete a 12-credit minor. Students may pursue a concentrated minor including the Option A or a distributed minor (Option B). Students in either of the named options in the CLFS Ph.D. program may pursue minors in their department so long as they do not have the same name as their named option.

OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT
3.5 GPA required

OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS
None.

PROBATION POLICY
The status of a student can be one of three options:
1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
Every graduate student is required to have an advisor. An advisor is a faculty member from the major department responsible for providing advice regarding graduate studies. The advisor also serves as the dissertation advisor. An advisor is assigned to incoming student but can be changed. Students can be suspended from the Graduate School if they do not have an advisor.

ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS
Comprehensive Examinations
The comprehensive examinations, or "prelims," consist of three written examinations based on reading lists that have been approved by the advisor and the reading committees followed by an oral defense.

Dissertation
The dissertation is a written, substantial, and original contribution to knowledge guided by a dissertation committee consisting of the student's advisor and two members of the faculty of the department. The student will submit to the dissertation committee for approval a written proposal that will include a bibliography of primary and secondary source materials.

Upon completion of the dissertation, the student will be examined in an oral defense of the dissertation and related areas by members of the dissertation committee in concert with two additional members, at least one of which must be from a related discipline outside of the department.

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Comprehensive examinations must be taken only on completion of the requisite minimum degree credits.

Within six weeks of successful completion of the comprehensive examination, candidates must submit a working draft of a dissertation proposal their dissertation committee members.
LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

• Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge, and practice in comparative humanities.
• Formulates ideas, concepts, designs, and/or techniques beyond the current boundaries of knowledge in comparative humanities.
• Creates research, scholarship, or performance that makes a substantive contribution.
• Demonstrates breadth within their learning experiences.
• Advances contributions in comparative humanities to society.
• Communicates complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

• Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Dharwadker, Gilmore (also Landscape Architecture), Layoun, Livorni (chair, also French and Italian), Rosenblum (also Jewish Studies); Associate Professors Livanos, Statkiewicz; Assistant Professors Fielder, Grunewald, Neyrat, Wells. Affiliate Faculty: Adler (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Casid (Art History), Garlough (also Gender and Women’s Studies), Goodkin (French and Italian), Guyer (English), Kern (Asian Languages and Cultures), Longinovic (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Valentine (Linguistics); Associate Professors Kapust (Political Science).

International Affiliate Faculty: Ramalho de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra, Portugal). See also Faculty (http://clfs.wisc.edu/people/faculty) on the department website.