Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, B.A.

Overview

The Department of Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies offers a major in comparative literature and a certificate in folklore.

Comparative literature is the study of literatures in their original languages from a transnational, cross-cultural perspective. The program welcomes students with a diverse range of backgrounds and interests, and with literary reading competence in a language in addition to English. Literary fluency in a language other than English is the basis for work in the comparative literature major.

Comparative literature students and majors study texts from a range of historical periods, geographical and cultural areas, and literary and artistic movements. They learn to critically pose and respond to fundamental questions about the place of literature in society and in cultural and historical traditions.

Majors are introduced to specific modes of literary analysis as well as to general concepts of “literariness.” They explore the interaction of literature with other arts and disciplines as well as with the political, social, and intellectual contexts of literature. In this way, students acquire important intellectual skills in critical comparative reading, thinking, and writing.

The small size of most comparative literature classes allows ample opportunity for the discussion and exchange that are essential to the development of such skills. Comparative literature classes also offer challenging research and writing projects that can be carried out individually and in small groups.

A major in comparative literature is valuable preparation for a career in a wide range of fields that demand careful analysis, clear writing, the presentation of logical arguments, and the critical assessment of the written and oral opinions of others—law, business, communications, politics and diplomacy, journalism, technical writing, or publishing. It is ideal for students interested in teaching at the secondary level or in pursuing graduate degrees.

To declare the major in comparative literature, students must have sophomore standing, have taken at least one 200-level course in the department, have a minimum 3.0 GPA, and have established the foundations of literary fluency in a language other than English.

Prospective majors are strongly encouraged to meet with the director of undergraduate studies to discuss the requirements in advance of declaring the major. Declared majors are strongly encouraged to meet with the director of undergraduate studies in planning their courses each semester. Juniors should arrange a meeting early in the spring semester to assess whether they will have met all requirements for graduation.

Folklore is a multidisciplinary field of study concerned with the documentation and analysis of verbal, customary, musical, material, and performance traditions, primarily as they are practiced within cultures, but also as they are revived, modified, even invented by artists, educators, entrepreneurs, activists, communities, and states. The program offers courses on folklore forms, practitioners, performances, theory, methods, and public presentation, with an emphasis on cross-cultural and interdisciplinary approaches. Students interested in folklore as an area of concentration typically major in an arts, humanities, or social science discipline. No formal undergraduate major is offered in folklore, but by planning a course of study with the undergraduate advisor, a student may design an individual major with a folklore concentration. Undergraduate students may also earn a certificate in folklore.

Additional Program Information

Courses in comparative literature fall into four general classes:

Introductory courses (201–299) are based entirely on English-language texts or English translations of foreign language texts. These courses are open to first-year students and restricted to undergraduates.

General courses (300–400) are open to undergraduates. The course texts are in English, but majors and other students who are able to do so are expected to work with one foreign literature in the original language.

More specialized courses (400–699) are open to both undergraduate and (with the exception of the proseminar, COMP LIT 690) graduate students. Texts used in these courses typically require the knowledge of at least one foreign language.

Graduate courses (700–999) involve increasing use of foreign literatures both in the classroom and in individual work.

How to Get In

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Students interested in comparative literature and folklore studies should contact the department via email at complit@lss.wisc.edu or by calling 608-262-3059 to schedule an appointment with the undergraduate advisor. Students can also go to 2402 Sterling Hall at 475 North Charter Street to get general information about the major.

Requirements

University General Education Requirements

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as
needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

### Requirements Detail

#### General Education

- **Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts:** 6 credits
- **Breadth—Natural Science:** 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- **Breadth—Social Studies:** 3 credits
- **Communication Part A & Part B:**
- **Ethnic Studies:**
- **Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B:**

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

### COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

#### BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

#### BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

#### Requirements Detail

##### Mathematics

Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements Quantitative Reasoning a (QR A) and Quantitative Reasoning b (QR B) coursework. Please note that some majors may require students to complete additional math coursework beyond the B.A. mathematics requirement.

##### Foreign Language

- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language

*Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.*

##### L&S Breadth

- **Humanities:** 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- **Social Sciences:** 12 credits
- **Natural Sciences:** 12 credits: must include one 3+ credit course in the biological sciences; must include one 3+ credit course in the physical sciences

### Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

- **108 credits**

### Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

- **60 intermediate or advanced credits**

### Major

Declare and complete at least one (1) major

### Total Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UW-Madison</th>
<th>Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 credits in residence, overall</td>
<td>30 credits in residence after the 90th credit</td>
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</table>

### Minimum

2,000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

### GPAs

2,000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

### NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major requires a total of 30 credits in Comparative Literature (COMP LIT), plus 9 credits in literature in a single foreign language for a total of 39 credits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 201</td>
<td>Introduction to Pre-Modern Literatures/Impact on the Modern World</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 202</td>
<td>Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Literature</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 203</td>
<td>Introduction to Cross-Cultural Literary Forms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 205</td>
<td>Intro to Comparative Study of Race &amp; Ethnicity, In &amp; Beyond the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 310</td>
<td>Introduction to Literary Criticism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 371</td>
<td>Literary Criticism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 475</td>
<td>Poetics and Literary Theory</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 690</td>
<td>Proseminar</td>
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### Foreign Language

9 credits in literature or culture courses in a single foreign language, with a final grade of B or better in each course. Independent study or literature in translation courses will not count toward this requirement.

Select 15 additional credits at the Intermediate or Advanced levels (300 level and above) to reach 39 credit minimum for the Major:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 350</td>
<td>Problems in Comparative Literatures and Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 351</td>
<td>Lyric</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 357</td>
<td>Fantasy and Science Fiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 368</td>
<td>Literature and Ideas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 375</td>
<td>Literature and Related Disciplines</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 379</td>
<td>Literature and Ethnic Experience</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>COMP LIT 358</td>
<td>Problems in Transnational Genre and Mode</td>
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### UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

**Requirements Detail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Degree</th>
<th>To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of Work</td>
<td>Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.</td>
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**RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK**

2.000 GPA in all COMP LIT courses and courses counting toward the major

2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence

15 credits, in COMP LIT, taken on campus

1 COMP LIT 300 through COMP LIT 699, that carry the intermediate or advanced designation, are considered upper level in the major.

**HONORS IN THE MAJOR**

Students may declare Honors in the Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies Major in consultation with the undergraduate advisor in the department.

**HONORS IN THE COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND FOLKLORE STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS**

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies Major students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
- Earn a 3.500 GPA for all COMP LIT courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete 39 credits in COMP LIT, to include:
  - 9 credits of COMP LIT, taken for Honors, at the 300 level or above
  - A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in COMP LIT 681 Senior Honors Thesis and COMP LIT 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits.

**ADVISING AND CAREERS**

Students are encouraged to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with the L&S Career Services office to help students leverage the academic skills learned in the major and liberal arts degree, explore and try out different career paths, participate in internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers).

Letters & Science graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to their success.

**CAREER RESOURCES**

- Why the liberal arts? (http://ls.wisc.edu/about/why-liberal-arts)
- Set up a Career Advising Appointment (http://careers.ls.wisc.edu/Undergraduate-Advising.htm)
- L&S Career Services (http://careers.ls.wisc.edu/students.htm): We launch our students higher, sooner
- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/about/lsci?p=careerinitiative.html)

**PEOPLE**

**FACULTY**

Professors Dharwadker, Dubois (also Scandinavian Studies), Layoun, Livorni (also French and Italian)

Associate Professors Gilmore (also Landscape Architecture), Livanos, Rosenblum (Center for Jewish Studies), Statkiewicz
Assistant Professors Fielder, Grunewald (also Legal Studies), Neyrat, Wells

Academic Staff Beatriz Botero

AFFILIATES
Professors Adler (also German), Casid (Art History), De Ferrari (Spanish & Portuguese), Goodkin (French and Italian), Guyer (English), Kern (Asian Languages and Cultures), Longinovic (Slavic), Rosenmeyer (Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies), Santos (University of Coimbra, Portugal)

Associate Professor Garlough (Gender and Women's Studies)

Academic Staff: Scott Mellor (Scandinavian Studies), Ruth Olson (Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures)

HONORARY AFFILIATES
Professors Brenner (Center for Jewish Studies), Bühnemann (Asian Languages and Cultures), Gross (German), Klug (Law)