Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies, Ph.D.

Admissions to the Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies Ph.D. have been suspended as of summer 2018 and will be discontinued as of fall 2021. If you have any questions, please contact the department (complit@lss.wisc.edu).

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.

Admissions

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Students apply to one of the named options in the M.A.:

- Comparative Literature M.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-litterature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-comparative-literature-ma/#text)
- Folklore Studies M.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-ma/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-folklore-studies-ma/#text)

All entering students are admitted into one of the two named options in the M.A. program. Students are accepted into the Ph.D. program upon successful completion of the Second-Year Examination.

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

Requirements

Minimum Graduate School Requirements

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

Major Requirements

Curricular Requirements

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**Assessments and 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.

**Language Requirements**

Second language: An examination in a second language (other than English) must be taken by the end of the second semester of graduate study and before the Second Year Examination.

In the event that the linguistic tradition under examination cannot be covered by a member of the comparative literature and folklore studies faculty, the advisor will invite an appropriate member of the UW–Madison faculty to assist in the administration of the examination.

Third Language: A third language (other than English and the second language) proficiency must be demonstrated by the completion of an appropriate intermediate or advanced literature course with a grade of AB or better. This requirement must be satisfied before the Comprehensive (or ‘prelim’) Examinations.

Fourth Language Reading Requirement: For students pursuing the Comparative Literature Ph.D. option, each candidate must demonstrate reading knowledge of at least one of the following languages: Sanskrit, Hebrew, Classical Greek, Latin, a Medieval language, or a major Asian or African language. This requirement is satisfied by the completion of an appropriate course with a grade of AB or better.

**POLICIES**

Students should refer to one of the named options for policy information:

- Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies: Comparative Literature, Ph.D. ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-phd/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-comparative-literature-phd/](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-phd/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-comparative-literature-phd/))
- Comparative Literature and Folklore Studies: Folklore Studies, Ph.D. ([http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-phd/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-folklore-studies-phd/](http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/comparative-literature-folklore-studies/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-phd/comparative-literature-folklore-studies-folklore-studies-phd/))

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources ([https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/](https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/)) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

PEOPLE

**Faculty:** Professor Livorni (chair, also French and Italian); Associate Professor Livanos; Assistant Professor Fielder; Lecturer Botero. **Affiliate Faculty:** Professors Adler (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Casid (Art History), Dharwadker (English), Garlough (Gender and Women’s Studies), Gilmore (Landscape Architecture), Goodkin (French and Italian), Guyer (English), Kern (Asian Languages and Cultures), Longinovic (German, Nordic, and Slavic), Rosenblum (Jewish Studies), Valentine (Linguistics) Wells (English); Associate Professors Kapust (Political Science), Neyrat (English); Assistant Professor Grunewald (English), **International Affiliate Faculty:** Ramalho de Sousa Santos (University of Coimbra, Portugal). See also Faculty (http://clfs.wisc.edu/people/faculty/) on the department website.