Comparative Literature, B.A.

Learning Outcomes

• Problem-Solving Skills: Students develop research skills and a repertoire of critical approaches by asking innovative questions of any new problem they encounter. Trained to probe any question from a variety of perspectives, students are prepared to navigate the multiperspective complexity of our rapidly changing world.

• Cultural Understanding and Analysis: Students learn to engage historically, geographically, and linguistically diverse materials. Though this, students are able to learn to consider issues of language and translation, different media, and other critical problems in their projects.

• Writing: Students produce a cohesive project as it relates to at least one other language other than English or an alternative focus on media and art forms.

• Engagement/Speaking Skills: Students engage with other students, instructors, and course work from departments from across the University. Through this interdisciplinary approach, students learn to meaningfully engage in discourse from a variety of perspectives.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in comparative literature requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 33 s.h. of work for the major. Of the 33 s.h. required for the major, students must earn 21 s.h. in University of Iowa course work. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They may count a maximum of 6 s.h. of course work from another major, minor, or certificate toward the major in comparative literature. Students also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

Students complete 12 s.h. in one track—world languages and literature, or literature and arts. Students work closely with faculty advisors to develop coherent, individualized programs of study that reflect their interests and developing skills.

The B.A. with a major in comparative literature requires the following course work.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comparative Literature Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Track Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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Common Courses

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<tr>
<td>CL:1240</td>
<td>Major Texts of World Literature, Antiquity to 1700</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL:1241</td>
<td>Major Texts of World Literature, 1700 to the Present</td>
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Comparative Literature Electives

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Both of these:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One comparative literature course (prefix CL) numbered 3000 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One comparative literature course (prefix CL) at any level</td>
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Tracks

Students complete 12 s.h. of work in one of the following tracks. Students can apply up to 6 s.h. in course work numbered 3000 or above from another major toward the track options.

World Languages and Literature Track

Students must complete 9 s.h. of course work in one foreign literature, read in the original language; one may be a course in composition and conversation. Language courses taken to complete the GE CLAS Core do not count toward the major.

Students complete an additional 3 s.h. of course work, approved by the advisor, in comparative literature or a related area (e.g., American literature, American Sign Language, anthropology, Asian and Slavic languages and literatures, cinema, classics, French and Italian, German, history, linguistics, philosophy, Spanish and Portuguese) or in a second foreign literature.

Literature and Arts Track

Students must complete 9 s.h. of upper-level course work (courses numbered 3000 or above) in a single fine arts area chosen in consultation with the comparative literature advisor. They may include one upper-level course in performance, practice, or production, with permission from the director of undergraduate studies.

Course work for the track also must include one 3 s.h. course that focuses explicitly on arts and literature in comparative perspective.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major, which requires that they complete an honors thesis. Once students have earned 75 s.h., they submit a written proposal for the thesis. The proposal must be approved by the faculty member who heads a student's honors thesis.
committee; the committee must be composed of at least two faculty members from the Comparative Literature Program. Students must complete the honors thesis over the next two consecutive semesters. For specific honors thesis requirements in the comparative literature major, contact the Comparative Literature Program office.

**University of Iowa Honors Program**

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the comparative literature major.

### Academic Plans

#### Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

When requirements for the major in comparative literature include advanced work in a language, students may need to acquire competence in the language by completing course work early in their plan of study. Such course work is not reflected in the following checkpoints.

**Before the fifth semester begins:** at least two courses in the major

**Before the seventh semester begins:** at least four more courses in the major (total of six) and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

**Before the eighth semester begins:** at least three more courses in the major (total of nine)

**During the eighth semester:** enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

### Career Advancement

In conjunction with an appropriate overall curriculum, the major in comparative literature can offer effective preparation for professional studies in fields such as law and business, or for employment in fields that value critical thinking and international understanding. It also offers excellent preparation for graduate work in the humanities.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.