Comparative Literature

**Director, Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures**
- Russell Ganim

**Coordinator, Comparative Literature Program**
- Brian Golnick

**Undergraduate major:** comparative literature (B.A.)
**Undergraduate minor:** comparative literature

**Graduate degree:** Ph.D. in comparative literature

**Faculty:** http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/people
**Web site:** http://clas.uiowa.edu/dwllc/comparative-literature

The Comparative Literature Program addresses culture across regions and languages in relation to literature, social theory and philosophy, history, and other disciplines. Students draw resources from several University of Iowa arts and humanities units, including the Department of Cinematic Arts; the International Writing Program; the Department of English; and the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Study of comparative literature prepares students to engage with critical concepts of tradition, identity, and expression in an interdisciplinary and multilingual environment.

In addition to degree programs and an undergraduate minor, the Comparative Literature Program offers courses approved for the Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts areas of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The Comparative Literature Program is administered by the Division of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

**Undergraduate Programs of Study**
- Major in comparative literature (Bachelor of Arts)
- Minor in comparative literature

**Bachelor of Arts**

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. 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 also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program.

The major in comparative literature is designed to promote cultural awareness, to increase speaking and writing skills, and to develop capacities for systematic reasoning about literature. The program offers two tracks: world languages and literature, and literature and arts. Students work with faculty advisors close to their track to develop coherent, individualized programs of study that reflect their interests and developing skills.

Students share a common set of basic courses in the literatures of widely divergent cultures and historical periods, in translation, and in interaction among the arts. All students are expected to gain an international perspective on literature and the arts and to become acquainted with interdisciplinary approaches to cultural study.

The successful pursuit of comparative literature requires study of at least one foreign cultural tradition, with appropriate emphasis on language, literature, and the arts in historical context. Familiarity with the literatures and cultures of other nations goes hand-in-hand with theoretical inquiry and reflection on basic issues, such as the nature and value of storytelling in literature and other arts—for instance, film, song, and painting. Translation between languages and among different arts represents another basic center of theory and practice. Individual courses of study may extend into other disciplines, including history, philosophy, linguistics, anthropology, law, and psychology.

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.

Of the 33 s.h. required for the major, students must earn 21 s.h. in University of Iowa courses. 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 majoring in comparative literature with a second major in cinema may count a maximum of 12 s.h. of credit toward both majors.

The major in comparative literature requires the following course work.

**COMMON COURSES**

All students take these (total of 18 s.h.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CL:1025 Introduction to Critical Reading and Viewing</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL:1240 Major Texts of World Literature, Antiquity to 1700</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CL:1241 Major Texts of World Literature, 1700 to the Present</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL:2100 Introduction to Criticism and Theory</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CINE:3195 Undergraduate Seminar</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative literature elective(s)</td>
<td>3 s.h.</td>
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**Tracks**

Students complete 15 s.h. of work in one of the following tracks.

**LITERATURE AND ARTS TRACK**

To complete this track, students take 12 s.h. of upper-level course work (courses numbered 3000 or above) in a single fine arts area. They may include one upper-level course in performance, practice, or production, with consent of 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.

**WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE TRACK**

To complete this track, students take 9 s.h. of courses in one foreign literature, read in the original language. They may include one course in composition and conversation.
Language courses taken to complete the General Education Program do not count toward the major.

Students take an additional 6 s.h. of course work in comparative literature or a related area (e.g., English and American literature, film, linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, history) or in a second foreign literature.

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.)

Note: When requirements for the major in comparative literature include advanced work in a language, the student may need to acquire competence in the language by completing course work early in his or her 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 General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in comparative literature have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major, which requires that they complete an honors thesis. Once a student has earned 75 s.h., he or she submits 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. A student 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.

Honors students in comparative literature must be members of the University of Iowa Honors Program, which requires students to maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and to fulfill other requirements; visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Minor

The minor in comparative literature requires 15 s.h. of University of Iowa comparative literature courses, including at least 12 s.h. earned in courses numbered CL:1240 or above. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the minor and in all UI courses for the minor. Course work in the minor may not be taken pass/nonpass. Contact the Comparative Literature Program office for a list of approved courses.

Graduate Program of Study

- Doctor of Philosophy in comparative literature

Admission to the Doctor of Philosophy program in comparative literature is suspended; for degree requirements, see the 2010-11 General Catalog. For information about the Master of Fine Arts in comparative literature—translation, see Translation in the Catalog.

Courses

Lower-Level Undergraduate

CL:1000 First-Year Seminar 1 s.h.
Small discussion class taught by a faculty member; topics chosen by instructor; may include outside activities (e.g., films, lectures, performances, readings, visits to research facilities). Requirements: first- or second-semester standing.

CL:1019 Media Matters 3 s.h.
Development of basic creative and critical skills in the arts and humanities by examining transformations across literature, poetry, photography, and video; media of expression; telling a story in words or images; the difference between looking at a painting, watching a movie, or reading a book; how the soundtrack of a film affects the story; how looking at a musical score differs from performing it; key to producing exciting creative work; full engagement with any given medium.

CL:1025 Introduction to Critical Reading and Viewing 3 s.h.
Critical approaches to literature and audiovisual media (film, video, interactive multimedia); selected texts, scholarly and critical responses to them. Requirements: completion of rhetoric requirement. Same as CINE:1025.

CL:1205 Introduction to World Literature 3 s.h.
Ways of reading world literature; varied emphases (i.e., thematic, geographical); may include poetry, short fiction, drama, novels, and critical works on importance of translation. Requirements: completion of rhetoric General Education requirement.

CL:1240 Major Texts of World Literature, Antiquity to 1700 3 s.h.
Reading, analysis of major literary texts from writing's origins to 1700 in the Mediterranean, Asia, Africa; interrelationship of literature and history. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CL:1241 Major Texts of World Literature, 1700 to the Present 3 s.h.
Reading and analysis of major literary texts from 18th century to present in chronological sequence; emphasis on interrelationship of literature and history. Requirements: completion of rhetoric requirement. GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts.

CL:1500 Ukraine, a Country at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Seminar on Ukrainian History and Culture 3 s.h.
Cultural specificity of Ukraine as a large multicultural European country; vital background information for analysis of present-day political events; strategic location between East and West; centuries-long history and culture; all readings in English, no knowledge of Russian or Ukrainian required. Same as SLAV:1500.

CL:1510 Ghost Stories and Tales of the Weird in Premodern Chinese Literature 3 s.h.
Reading of Chinese literature concerning ghosts, marvels, and supernatural from 1st millennium B.C.E. through 19th century; readings analyzed against changing historical and religious contexts. Taught in English.

CL:2100 Introduction to Criticism and Theory 3 s.h.
Critical approaches to the phenomenon of literature. Requirements: junior standing.

CL:2531 Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies 3 s.h.
Same as SLAV:2531.

CL:2618 The Third Reich and Literature 3 s.h.
Nazi literature, literature of the Holocaust and the Opposition, exile literature, in English translation. Taught in English. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as GRMN:2618.

CL:2660 Magic Mirrors, Self-Discovery, and Murder: Gender Trouble in German Literature 3-4 s.h.
German literature since Romantic era as an intensifying battle of wits over language in which gender has played a central role; a stark rift open where literary space offers much less hospitable conditions to women writers than to men; exploration of gendered fault line that runs through literary space; how women writers respond to and rewrite language that confronts them; readings from German literary texts (in English translation) from 1800 to present; emphasis on writings of women supplemented with key texts by major authors to which they respond and reread; knowledge of German not required. Same as GRMN:2660.

CL:2700 Romani (Gypsy) Cultures of Eastern Europe 3 s.h.
Aspects of culture shared by most Roma (Gypsies) around the world; samples of folklore from Europe; impact of Roma on European literature, music, and culture; readings in English; no previous knowledge of Russian or Romani required. Same as SLAV:2232.

Upper-Level Undergraduate and Graduate

CL:3101 The Iowa Review Reading Group in Contemporary Fiction 0-3 s.h.
Reading and discussion of unsolicited submissions to The Iowa Review of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction; reading groups formed under supervision of editors; preparation of a portfolio that documents student's work, with a short commentary reflecting on the process and their role in it.

CL:3102 The Iowa Review Reading Group in Contemporary Poetry 0-3 s.h.
Reading and discussion of unsolicited submissions to The Iowa Review of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction; reading groups formed under supervision of editors; preparation of a portfolio that documents student's work, with a short commentary reflecting on the process and their role in it.

CL:3103 The Iowa Review Reading Group in Contemporary Nonfiction 0-3 s.h.
Reading and discussion of unsolicited submissions to The Iowa Review of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction; reading groups formed under supervision of editors; preparation of a portfolio that documents student's work, with a short commentary reflecting on the process and their role in it.

CL:3104 Topics in International Literature and Culture 3 s.h.
Focus on significant texts or critical problems related to international literature and culture. Requirements: junior or senior standing. Recommendations: two or more courses in literary study.

CL:3107 Literature and Anthropology 3 s.h.
Topics vary. Same as ENGL:3107, ANTH:3107.

CL:3122 Tolstoy and Dostoevsky 3-4 s.h.
Tolstoy's War and Peace and Anna Karenina; Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, The Demons, and short stories. Taught in English. Same as SLAV:3122.

CL:3152 America in Other Words 1-3 s.h.
Current idea of America in its imaginary form: post-1989 world fiction, poetry, and film in original language, in translation, and via online translation resources. Same as IWP:3152.

CL:3203 Modern Japanese Fiction in Translation 3 s.h.
Nineteenth century to present. Same as JPN:3203.

CL:3204 Traditional Japanese Literature in Translation 3 s.h.
From seventh century to early modern times. Same as JPN:3202.

CL:3206 Warriors Dreams 3 s.h.
Images of the warrior in traditional Japanese literature, from poetry of the eighth century to romances of the 19th century; readings in English. Same as JPN:3206.

CL:3210 Comparative Arts 3 s.h.
Cultural and aesthetic issues arising from side-by-side investigation of several art forms, including literature, cinema, painting, music, opera, architecture; periods, schools, styles, and their theories. Same as IWP:3210.

CL:3221 Twentieth-Century Czech Authors 3 s.h.
Twentieth-century prose literature of Czechoslovakia; philosophical works of Capek, Hrabal, Kundera, Klima, Havel. Taught in English. Same as SLAV:3221.
CL:3222 City as Text/Text as City 3 s.h.
Ways of reading cities: how built environments are shaped by history; how European cities differ from American or postcolonial cities; how to map, inhabit, remember, touch, smell, and experience a city; what is a global city; what is a sustainable city; how city spaces are felt in terms of gender, class, race, and ethnicity; models that architects, planners, politicians, and designers use to create habitable spaces; how to think of texts as cities (i.e., as spaces where people congregate, meet, live); research paper that combines class readings with independent research on a city of students' choice.

CL:3223 Reading European Poetry 3 s.h.
Development of literary reading skills and critical imagination; increase awareness of the complexity of poetry translation, introduction to works of major canonical poets from several European traditions and languages.

CL:3262 Pan-Caribbean Literary Currents 3 s.h.
Twentieth-century fiction, film, and cultural practices in the Hispanic, Francophone, and Anglophone Caribbean; cultural essays to complement literary readings; pan-Caribbean cultural practices—music and carnival celebrations. Taught in English. Requirements: for CL:3262 — junior or senior standing; for SPAN:3270 — two literature courses. Same as SPAN:3270.

CL:3263 Studies in 20th-Century European Literature 3 s.h.
Evolving practices explored through genre, period, movement, or topic, in conjunction with relevant models of analysis; readings in English. Requirements: rhetoric.

CL:3277 Literature and Art 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 18th/19th-Century Literature, or 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3155.

CL:3302 Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917 3 s.h.
Survey of major works, figures, and trends of 19th- and early 20th-century Russian literature; age of the Russian novel; works of Turgenev (Fathers and Sons), Tolstoy (Confession), Dostoevsky (The Idiot, The Brothers Karamazov), and Chekhov (plays). Same as SLAV:3202.

CL:3341 Chinese Literature: Poetry 3 s.h.
Readings in classical and modern Chinese poetry in English translation. Same as CHIN:3341.

CL:3379 Literature and Society 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Literary Theory and Interdisciplinary Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3152.

CL:3396 Cuban American Literature and Culture 3 s.h.
Experiences of Cuban exiles in the United States; emergence of a literature and culture based on sense of dispossession, marginality, and memory of island past. Taught in English. Prerequisites: ENGL:1200. GE: Values, Society, and Diversity. Same as SPAN:3420.

CL:3570 Transnational and Postcolonial Writing by Women 3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3570.

CL:4100 Approaches to Critical Theory 3 s.h.
Introduction to major critical approaches in literary and cultural theory from a variety of traditions; studying existing models, students learn to think theoretically about language and society, and to orient themselves among existing theoretical discourses, interrogating the latter critically in terms of their own perspectives and theoretical needs; selections from influential works, shared class discussion, and presentations; no prior knowledge in the area of critical theory is presumed. Same as TRNS:4100.

CL:4201 The Tale of Genji 3 s.h.
Close reading in English of Murasaki Shikibu's Tale of Genji; tale's literary and social contexts, and later reception. Same as JPNS:4201.

CL:4203 Modern Chinese Writers 3 s.h.
Readings in modern and contemporary Chinese fiction; in English translation. Same as CHIN:4203.

CL:4266 Topics in Literature and Theory 3 s.h.

CL:4368 Post-Colonial Literature in France 3 s.h.
Literatures and cultures of Arabo-French (Beur) and Afro-French immigrations. Prerequisites: FREN:3060 and FREN:3300. Same as FREN:4080.

CL:4648 Issues in Gender and Sexuality 3 s.h.
Significance of gender and/or sexuality to cinema, in general or in a period, genre, film type, or national cinema; theoretical approaches, including feminist and queer theory.

CL:4700 Latin American Studies Seminar 3 s.h.

CL:4900 Independent Study arr.

Graduate

CL:5201 Seminar in Chinese Fiction 3 s.h.
Novels, novellas; 16th to 18th centuries (Ming and Qing periods). Requirements: ability to read original texts. Same as CHIN:5201.

Requirements: two years of modern Chinese and one year of classical Chinese. Same as CHIN:5202.
CL:5219 The Iowa Review Teacher's Workshop: Contemporary Literature 1 s.h.
Collaboration with The Iowa Review on adapting materials for classroom use; participants help select poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction from pages of recent issues and develop curricular materials for use in 9th-12th grade language arts courses on the basis of selected materials; teaching portfolio of selected curricular materials; intended for working teachers in secondary school language arts courses.

CL:5510 Comparative Stylistics 3 s.h.
Translation from English to French, including literary texts. Same as FREN:5020.

CL:6105 Introduction to Contemporary Literary Theory 3 s.h.
How major theories construct literary text; structuralist, semiotic, psychoanalytic, Marxist, reader response, Derridian criticism. Taught in English. Same as SPAN:6905.

CL:6323 Romantic Literature 3 s.h.
Same as ENGL:6400.

CL:7000 Thesis arr.

CL:7054 Seminar: Postcolonial Studies 3 s.h.
Same as ENGL:7800.


CL:7272 Seminar in Comparative Literature 3 s.h.
In-depth study of a comparative topic or a current theoretical debate in the discipline.

CL:7302 Seminar: Medieval Literature and Culture arr.
Same as ENGL:7100.

Same as ENGL:7200.

CL:7500 Independent Study arr.