Comparative Literature

In the College of Arts and Letters

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Faculty
Faculty assigned to teach courses in comparative literature are drawn from departments in the College of Arts and Letters.

Offered by the Department of English and Comparative Literature
Major in comparative literature with the B.A. degree in liberal arts and sciences.
Teaching major in comparative literature for single subject teaching credential in English language arts.
Minor in comparative literature.

The Major
Comparative literature is the study of literature from around the world, transcending the restrictions of national and linguistic boundaries. Traditionally, comparative study has been based on literary movements, periods and lines of influence, as well as on genres, themes, myths, and legends. In recent years comparative literature has come to include the comparison of literature with other areas of human experience.

Comparative literature offers students the opportunity to study a broad range of literary subjects from various cultures throughout the world. Courses are offered in European literature from ancient to contemporary times; in the literature of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; in folk literature, legend, fantasy, and science fiction; in literary theory; and in special topics such as travel literature, literature and existentialism, and Japanese literature and film. All reading is done in English translation (majors choosing Plan II, however, are also required to take courses in foreign language literature).

Because the field covers so wide a range, the comparative literature student does not acquire a comprehensive knowledge of any basic list of “great works.” Such a list, for all of world literature, would be far too long. Instead, students learn various approaches to literature, along with specialization of areas which particularly interest them.

Comparative literature is an excellent major for anyone desiring a broadening and enriching liberal arts education. Its application to foreign cultures is particularly useful for careers in foreign service and international trade. Translating, editing and publishing, journalism, broadcasting, and film are other possibilities, as well as advertising and public relations, politics, writing, library work, and criticism. Comparative literature is also, like English, an excellent foundation for careers in the professions, especially law.

The comparative literature major may also be used as preparation for the single subject (high school) teaching credential in English language arts. Graduate study in comparative literature may lead to teaching at more advanced levels. The Plan II major has been specifically designed for students who plan to do graduate work in this area.

Advising
All College of Arts and Letters majors are urged to consult with their department adviser as soon as possible; they are required to meet with their department adviser within the first two semesters after declaration or change of major.

Impacted Program
The comparative literature major is an impacted program. To be admitted to the comparative literature major, students must meet the following criteria:

a. Complete preparation for the major;
b. Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
c. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

To complete the major, students must fulfill the degree requirements for the major described in the catalog in effect at the time they are accepted into the premajor at SDSU (assuming continuous enrollment).

Major Academic Plans (MAPs)
Visit http://www.sdsu.edu/mymap for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs Web site was created to help students navigate the course requirements for their majors and to identify which General Education course will also fulfill a major preparation course requirement.

Comparative Literature Major
With the B.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences (Major Code: 15031)
All candidates for a degree in liberal arts and sciences must complete the graduation requirements listed in the section of this catalog on “Graduation Requirements.” No more than 48 units in comparative literature and English courses can apply to the degree.
A minor is not required with this major.

Preparation for the Major. Comparative Literature 210 or English 220; Comparative Literature 270A, 270B. (9 units)

Language Requirement. Plan I: Competency (successfully completing the third college semester or fifth college quarter) is required in one foreign language to fulfill the graduation requirement. Refer to section of catalog on “Graduation Requirements.”

Plan II: See below.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 8 or above before taking English 308W with a grade of C (2.0) or better, which is required. See “Graduation Requirements” section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. Plan I (SIMS Code: 111704): General literature. For students who do not intend to enter a graduate program in comparative literature.

Required: A minimum of 33 upper division units to include 18 units in one of the three areas (A, B, and C) below; six units in American literature, British literature, creative writing: English 308W; and an additional six units in comparative literature.

Plan II (SIMS Code: 111705): For students who intend to enter a graduate program in comparative literature.

Required: A minimum of 33 upper division units to include 18 units in one of the three areas (A, B, and C) below; six units in a foreign language literature (read in the original language); six units in another literature (which may be British or American) read in the original language; and English 308W. It is strongly recommended that even those students choosing English or American as their second literature attain competency in a second foreign language.

A. European Literature. Eighteen units selected from the following:
1. Comparative Literature 512, 513, 514.
2. Up to six units in other, variable-content comparative literature courses with appropriate content approved by the departmental adviser.
Comparative Literature

Major. (46 units) Fulfills three units in General Education. Courses within major cannot be double-counted.
9. English 308W.
11. English 533.
12. For those who took English 250A-250B (American literature survey) select three units from English 530, 534, 536, 537, 540A, 541A, 541B, 542; and three units from English 540B, 543, 544. (6 units)
   For those who took English 260A-260B (British literature survey) select six units from English 521, 522, 523, 524, 525. (6 units)
14. Comparative Literature 561, 562, or 563.
15. Four courses selected from Comparative Literature major, Plan II, Options A, B, or C — same limitations apply (12 units).
16. Linguistics 430 or 530.
17. Linguistics 452*, 454, or 550*.
18. Rhetoric and Writing Studies 509 and Teacher Education 362 must be taken concurrently.
19. Diversity literature course: Three units selected from Africana Studies 365A, 365B, 463, 464, American Indian Studies 430, Theatre 465, Women's Studies 352 (General Education IV.C) (also acceptable but non-General Education: Comparative Literature) (4 units) (51 or Asian Studies 451), 470; Chicana and Chicano Studies / English 335).

*Additional prerequisites required.

Consult with the English and Comparative Literature honors program adviser for honors program variation.

Comparative Literature Minor

The minor in comparative literature consists of a minimum of 15 units in comparative literature, 12 units of which must be in upper division courses. The 12 units of upper division work must be selected, with adviser's approval, from within one of the following interest areas:

European Literature (SIMS Code: 111715): Comparative Literature 512, 513, 514.
Comparative Literary Theory (Theory of literature, genre study, literature in relation to other arts and disciplines) (SIMS Code: 111710): Comparative Literature 561, 562, 563, 580, 594, 595.

In addition the following variable content courses may be used in any of the above categories when they are appropriate: Comparative Literature 490, 571, 577, 596.

The comparative literature minor is not available to students majoring in English.
Courses in the minor may not be counted toward the major, but may be used to satisfy preparation for the major and general education requirements, if applicable. A minimum of six upper division units must be completed in residence at San Diego State University.

Courses (C LT)

Refer to Courses and Curricula and University Policies sections of this catalog for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.

LOWER DIVISION COURSES

C LT 210, Introduction to Comparative Literature (3)

Introductory study of comparative literature, its current status, its historical development, range of comparative approaches. Generally includes guest presentations by various members of the comparative literature faculty.
C LT 270A-270B. World Literature (3-3) [GE]
Comparative study of selected major works from various continents and cultures, with emphasis on way literature deals with enduring human problems and values. Semester I: prior to 1500; Semester II: since 1500. Comparative Literature 270A is not a prerequisite to 270B, and either may be taken separately.

C LT 296. Topics in Comparative Literature (3)
Introduction to subject matter of comparative studies in literature. Focus on a specific movement, theme, figure, genre, etc. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Intended for Undergraduates)

C LT 405. The Bible as Literature (3) [GE]
(Same course as English 405)
Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities. Prose and poetry of the King James version.

C LT 440. African Literature (3) [GE]
Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Comparative study of African literature as well as Black literature of North and South America and the Caribbean; intercontinental influences and the theme of Black identity.

C LT 445. Modern Latin American Literature (3) [GE]
Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Reading selections from major Latin American authors.

C LT 451. Modern Asian Literature (3) [GE]
(Same course as Asian Studies 451)
Prerequisites: Comparative Literature 270A or 270B or English 220 or Asian Studies 100 or 101; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C. Humanities required for nonmajors. Asian literatures from modern period of China, Japan, India, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, and others. (Formerly numbered Comparative Literature 460)

C LT 455. Classical Asian Literature (3) [GE]
Prerequisites: Comparative Literature 270A or 270B or English 220; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors. Survey of one or more Asian literatures from the classical period of China, Japan, India, Korea, and others.

C LT 470. Folk Literature (3) [GE]
Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for non-majors. Studies in the ballad, bardic poetry, oral and popular literature and folklore.

C LT 490. Literary Movements (3)
A movement or theme in world literature - such as symbolism, existentialism, revolution, or romantic love. See Class Schedule for specific content.

C LT 499. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC
Prerequisites: Consent of instructor and approval of department chair.
Individual study. Maximum credit six units.

UPPER DIVISION COURSES (Also Acceptable for Advanced Degrees)

C LT 512. European Literature Before 1800 (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Study of a literary period such as the Middle Ages, Renaissance, or Enlightenment. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 513. Nineteenth Century European Literature (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
European literature of the nineteenth century or of a more limited period within that century. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 514. European Literature Since 1900 (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Study of a literary period such as the Age of Modernism. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 530. Topics in Asian Literature (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Specialized study of a selected topic in Asian literature. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 561. Fiction (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
A comparative approach to themes and forms in fiction (novel and short story). Focus of course to be set by instructor. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 562. Drama (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Forms and themes in drama. Focus of course to be set by instructor. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 563. Poetry (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
A comparative approach to themes and forms in poetry. Focus of course to be set by instructor. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 571. Literary Use of Legend (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Literary treatment of such legendary figures as Don Juan, Faust, and Ulysses, in a wide range of literature and genres. See Class Schedule for specific content.

C LT 577. Major Individual Authors (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
In-depth study of the works of a major author, such as Dante, García Márquez, Murasaki, or Dostoyevsky. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 580. Concepts in Comparative Studies (3)
Prerequisites: Six units in literature.
Basic concepts in comparative studies in literature (e.g., influence, movement, figure, genre, etc.); their validity, usefulness, and limitations. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 594. Topics in Literature and the Arts (3)
Prerequisite: Six upper division units in literature or any of the other arts.
Comparative study of literature and other arts such as painting, sculpture, architecture, music, dance, and film. May be repeated with new content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a bachelor's degree. Maximum credit six units applicable to the M.F.A. degree in creative writing.

C LT 595. Literature and Aesthetics (3)
Prerequisite: Six upper division units in literature or any of the other arts.
Theoretical and experiential investigation of relationships between literature and the other arts; literary works in context of an inquiry into aesthetics. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units.

C LT 596. Topics in Comparative Literature (3)
An intensive study of a topic to be selected by the instructor. May be repeated with new title and content. See Class Schedule for specific content. Maximum credit six units. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.