

Comparative Literature Minor

Coordinator: Jia-Yan Mi; Faculty: McMann

The Comparative Literature Program offers students a unique opportunity to study literary texts and the interactions between literature and other disciplines, including the arts, sciences, social sciences, and philosophy across cultural and linguistic boundaries. By fostering an intellectual curiosity about and attentiveness toward the interconnections between the study of literary history, criticism, theory, and poetics, the interdisciplinary study of comparative literature requires students to read and analyze literature in the context of multicultural relationships in international and interdisciplinary contexts. Through the systematic comparison of literary works (broadly defined) from more than one culture or era, students of comparative literature develop a sophisticated understanding of what literature is; through the acquisition and application of interpretive methods gained from the study of related disciplines such as art, music, history, film, linguistics, science, and philosophy, they learn how to analyze texts in their sociological, political, linguistic, and cultural contexts.

In consultation with an advisor, students who minor in comparative literature are expected to design an intellectually coherent program of study that focuses on the literary works and cultural contexts of at least two distinct cultures. While courses in fulfillment of this requirement may be drawn from a wide range of disciplines, the goal of the minor is to enable students to put the texts of different cultures and eras—and their contexts—in dialogue. This cultural and literary juxtaposition will culminate in a required capstone independent research course designed by the student, approved by the coordinator of the Comparative Literature Program, and supervised by a faculty member of the student's choice.

Students interested in a minor in comparative literature should consult with one of the faculty members in the program as early as possible to plan their program of study.

Requirements for the Minor (5 course units)

- One of the following: ASL103, CHI 201, FRE 240, FRE 241, GER 201, GRE 202, ITL 240, JPN 201, LAT 201, RUS 252, SPA 241 or the equivalent in another language
- Three additional courses (at least two of which should be at the 300 or 400 level) from the CMP courses listed in the Bulletin or from offerings in literature by other departments, chosen in consultation with a faculty member in the Comparative Literature Program.
- CMP 493, Capstone Independent Study in Comparative Literature