The major in Comparative Literature leads to a BA degree and is designed to attract students who wish to pursue an interdisciplinary plan of course work focused on the study of literature as written in various languages and in various parts of the world.

One student might come to the University of Chicago with a strong background in languages other than English and want to work in two or more literatures (one of which can be English). Another student might have a strong interest in literary study and wish to address general, generic, and/or transnational questions that go beyond the boundaries of national literature offered in other literature departments. Or, a student might wish to pursue an in-depth study of the interrelationship of literature and culture, as well as issues that transcend the traditional demarcations of national literary history and area studies.

These descriptions of academic interest are not mutually exclusive. Each student will work with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to design a plan of course work that will suit his or her individual goals and that will take advantage of the rich offerings of the University.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The requirements outlined below are in effect as of Autumn Quarter 2018 and will apply to all students in the Class of 2020 and beyond.

Students interested in applying to the major in Comparative Literature should review the following guidelines and consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature. These guidelines are to assist students in developing a balanced and cohesive interdisciplinary plan of study.

The major is comprised of seven literature courses selected in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, one foundational course in comparative literary theory and methodology, two courses in literary theory, methods, or special topics in Comparative Literature, and a BA thesis workshop that serves as a capstone to the major.

A student works with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to identify a primary field (four courses) and secondary field (three courses). A student wishing to work in two literatures might choose two literatures as the primary and secondary fields (note: the second literature can be English). The secondary field might be a particular national literature or a portion of such a literature (e.g., poetry, drama, novel); another discipline (e.g., mathematics, history, film, performance studies, music); or literary theory.

Study abroad offers an attractive means of fulfilling various aims of this program. More than half of the major requirements must be satisfied by courses bearing University of Chicago numbers.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three language courses in a single language at the intermediate level or above</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four courses in a literature other than English, one of which can be in a closely related field</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three courses in a secondary field, which can be literature in another language (including English), another discipline (e.g., mathematics, performance studies, music), or literary theory</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMLT 20109 Comparative Methods in the Humanities</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two 20000-level courses in literary theory, methods, or special topics in Comparative Literature</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMLT 29801 BA Project and Workshop: Comparative Literature (See BA Project for details)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>1400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign Language Requirement

The Comparative Literature major requires three language courses in a single language at the intermediate level or above. Students who come in with high proficiency in a language other than English may instead substitute three courses in a second language (other than English) at any level.

A student can provide proof of high language proficiency in two ways:

1. A student may pass one of the College’s Practical Language Proficiency Assessments in a foreign language, if available for the relevant language; for more information, see languageassessment.uchicago.edu/flpc. (https://languageassessment.uchicago.edu/flpc/)

2. A student can demonstrate high proficiency on the basis of the student’s formal schooling experience in a country outside the United States at the high school (secondary) level. Students should write a brief description of their schooling and submit it, along with a transcript showing at least two years of high school study in the relevant language, to the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature.

Though all majors must demonstrate proficiency in a single language through at least the second-year sequence in a foreign language (or by providing proof that they enter the program with high proficiency)
in either of the two ways noted above), they are encouraged to continue their language study beyond the minimum required for the major. The Department of Comparative Literature works closely with the University of Chicago Language Center and will help students achieve their individual goals in language acquisition by suggesting programs of study that will add to their language expertise as appropriate.

BA Project
The BA capstone project is to be completed in the student’s last year of study. The project should be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and is supervised by a faculty member of the student’s choice in Comparative Literature. It may be co-advised by a faculty member from another department. Students must complete their formal application to the major by spring of third year and should identify a faculty advisor at that time.

One obvious choice for a BA project is a substantial essay in comparative literary study. This option should not, however, rule out other possibilities. Alternative examples are a translation from a foreign literature with accompanying commentary or a written project based on research done abroad in another language and culture relating to comparative interests. Students are urged to base their project on comparative concepts and to make use of the language proficiency that they will develop as they meet the program’s requirements.

NB: This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with approval from both program chairs. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Participation in the Program
Students should express their interest in the major as early as possible. The first step is to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Studies to consult about a program of study. Applicants must submit an application form which consists of a list of completed courses and a list of courses in which they are currently registered. Special mention should be made of language courses or other language training that affirms a student’s level of language proficiency. Each proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the interest of the student and his or her achievement in the languages needed to meet the goals of the intended course of study. Students will be notified by email of their acceptance to the program. Finally, students will need to formalize their declaration through my.uchicago.edu (http://my.uchicago.edu) with the assistance of the College adviser.

Grading
All courses to be used in the major must be taken for a quality grade of B– or higher, except for the BA Workshop course, CMLT 29801, which is graded on a Pass/Fail basis.

HONORS
To be eligible for honors in Comparative Literature, students must earn an overall cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher, and a GPA of 3.5 or higher in the major. They must also complete a BA essay or project that is judged exceptional in intellectual and/or creative merit by the first and second readers.

ADVISING
Students must consult on an ongoing basis with the Director of Undergraduate Studies for selection and approval of course work for the major. Students will need to regularly provide documentation of any approvals for the major to their College adviser for the necessary processing. Further advice and counseling will be available from the preceptor for the program and from the faculty member who supervises the student’s BA project.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE COURSES

CMLT 11008. Introduction to Latinx Literature. 100 Units.
From the activist literature of the Chicano Civil Rights Movement to contemporary fiction and poetry, this course explores the forms, aesthetics, and political engagements of U.S. Latinx literature in the 20th and 21st centuries. Theoretical readings are drawn from Chicano Studies, Latinx Studies, American Studies, Latin American Studies, Hemispheric Studies, Indigenous Studies, and Postcolonial Studies, as we explore Latinx literature in the context of current debates about globalization, neoliberalism, and U.S. foreign policy; Latinx literature’s response to technological and socio-political changes and its engagement with race, gender, sexuality, class, and labor; and its dialogues with indigenous, Latin American, North American, and European literatures. (Poetry, 1830-1940, Theory)
Instructor(s): Rachel Galvin Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): LACS 11008, ENGL 11008
CMLT 20109. Comparative Methods in the Humanities. 100 Units.
This course introduces models of comparative analysis across national literatures, genres, and media. The readings pair primary texts with theoretical texts, each pair addressing issues of interdisciplinary comparison. They include Orson Welles’s ‘Citizen Kane’ and Coleridge’s poem ‘Kubla Khan’; Benjamin’s ‘The Storyteller,’ Kafka’s ‘Josephine the Mouse Singer,’ Deleuze and Guattari, Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature, and Mario Vargas Llosa’s The Storyteller; Victor Segalen’s Stèles; Fenollosa and Pound’s ‘The Chinese Character as a Medium of Poetry’ and Eliot Weinberger’s Nineteen Ways of Looking at Wang Wei; Mérimée, ‘Carmen,’ Bizet, Carmen, and the film adaptation U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha (South Africa, 2005); Gorky’s and Kurosawa’s The Lower Depths; Molière, Tartuffe, Dostoevsky, The Village Stepanchikovo and its Inhabitants, and Bakhtin, ‘Discourse in the Novel’; Gogol, The Overcoat, and Boris Eikhenbaum, ‘How Gogol’s Overcoat Is Made.’
Instructor(s): Olga Solovieva Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Prerequisite: Completed Humanities, or Civilization Core requirement. The course is designed for the second-year students and above.
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 28918

CMLT 21233. Black Speculative Fiction. 100 Units.
This course familiarizes students with Black literary speculative fiction, sci-fi, and fantasy. The objective of this course is to read Black speculative fiction alongside the historical contexts the assigned works speak to, as well as orient students to the radical re/imaginings of Black pasts, presents, and futures in the novels and short films at the center of the course. This class will pay particular attention to Black diasporic/international contributions to the genre. (Fiction, Theory)
Instructor(s): Sophia Azeb Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 21223

CMLT 23401. The Burden of History: The Nation and Its Lost Paradise. 100 Units.
What makes it possible for the imagined communities called nations to command the emotional attachments that they do? This course considers some possible answers to Benedict Anderson’s question on the basis of material from the Balkans. We will examine the transformation of the scenario of paradise, loss, and redemption into a template for a national identity narrative through which South East European nations retell their Ottoman past. With the help of Žižek’s theory of the subject as constituted by trauma and Kant’s notion of the sublime, we will contemplate the national fixation on the trauma of loss and the dynamic between victimhood and sublimity.
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): REES 29013, HIST 34005, NEHC 20573, CMLT 33401, HIST 24005, REES 39013, NEHC 30573

CMLT 23301. Balkan Folklore. 100 Units.
Vampires, fire-breathing dragons, vengeful mountain nymphs. 7/8 and other uneven dance beats, heart-rending laments, and a living epic tradition. This course is an overview of Balkan folklore from historical, political, and anthropological perspectives. We seek to understand folk tradition as a dynamic process and consider the function of different folklore genres in the imagining and maintenance of community and the socialization of the individual. We also experience this living tradition firsthand through visits of a Chicago-based folk dance ensemble, ‘Balkan Dance.’
Instructor(s): A. Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): ANTH 35908, NEHC 30568, ANTH 25908, CMLT 33301, REES 39009, NEHC 20568, REES 29009

CMLT 24410. Kurosawa and His Sources. 100 Units.
This interdisciplinary graduate course focuses on ten films of Akira Kurosawa which were based on literary sources, ranging from Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Jules Dassin, Georges Simenon, and Shakespeare to Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Gorky, and Arseniev. The course will not only introduce to some theoretical and intermediary problems of adaptation of literature to film but also address cultural and political implications of Kurosawa’s adaptation of classic and foreign sources. We will study how Kurosawa’s turn to literary adaptation provided a vehicle for circumventing social taboos of his time and offered a screen for addressing politically sensitive and sometimes censored topics of Japan's militarist past, war crimes, defeat in the Second World War, and ideological conflicts of reconstruction. The course will combine film analysis with close reading of relevant literary sources, contextualized by current work of political, economic, and cultural historians of postwar Japan. The course is meant to provide a hands-on training in the interdisciplinary methodology of Comparative Literature. Undergraduate students can be admitted only with the permission of the instructor.
Instructor(s): Olga Solovieva Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): SIGN 24410, EALC 34410, EALC 24410
CMLT 24202. Philosophy and Literature in India. 100 Units.

Is philosophy literature? Is literature philosophy? What constitutes either of these seemingly disparate enterprises, formally and thematically, and what kinds of conjunctions can we imagine between them (philosophy in/of/as literature)? Can one translate these terms across cultures? Are they the sole prerogative of leisureed elites, or can they harbor and cultivate voices of dissent? Above all, what does it mean to reflect on these categories outside the parochial context of the Western world? This course explores these questions by introducing some of the literary cultures, philosophical traditions, religious poetry, and aesthetic theories of the South Asian subcontinent. Students will encounter a variety of genres including scriptural commentary, drama and courtly poetry, and the autobiography. Readings, all in translation, will range from Sanskrit literature to Sufi romances and more.

Instructor(s): Anand Venkatkrishnan
Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): SALC 20903, SIGN 26073, RLST 24200

CMLT 26211. The World in Ruins. 100 Units.

In this course we will not limit ourselves to the traditional view of ‘ruins’ as remains of ancient or modern buildings. Our course will involve a variety of different artifacts (literary texts, paintings, films, philosophical tracts, etc.) from different cultural moments, in order to attain a clearer understanding of our notion of ruins, decay, and decadence. We will first examine ‘ruins’ in classical cultures, focusing on Plutarch’s short treatise On the Obsolescence of Oracles. We will investigate the ‘discovery’ of ruins in the Renaissance through Petrarch’s Letters on Familiar Matters, his canzoniere, and his epic poem Africa, Francesco Colonna’s verbal/visual Hypnerotomachia Poliphili (The Strife of Love in a Dream), and Joaquim De Bellay’s The Antiquities of Rome. 17th-century approach to ruins and decay will focus on Benjamin’s texts (Origins of the German Tragic Drama among others), Agamben’s response to Benjamin in Man Without Content, and European poetry and paintings. After an analysis of Piranesi’s famous etchings Vedute di Roma, we will approach Romanticism through Leopardi’s and Hölderlin’s works. There will be a screening of Pasolini’s The Walls of Sana’a (1970), which will open our discussion of the concepts of decay and annihilation in modern times. We will read Curzio Malaparte’s novel The Skin and W. G. Sebald’s On the Natural History of Destruction, César Aira’s Episode in the Life of a Landscape Painter, and the recent Anthropocene: The Human Epoch.

Instructor(s): A. Maggi
Terms Offered: Spring
Note(s): Taught in English.
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 42311, ITAL 26210, ITAL 36210

CMLT 26912. Strangers to Ourselves: Emigre Literature and Film from Russia and Southeast Europe. 100 Units.

Being alienated from myself, as painful as that may be, provides me with that exquisite distance within which perverse pleasure begins, as well as the possibility of my imagining and thinking,’ writes Julia Kristeva in ‘Strangers to Ourselves,’ the book from which this course takes its title. The authors whose works we are going to examine often alternate between nostalgia and the exhilaration of being set free into the breathless possibilities of new lives. Leaving home does not simply mean movement in space. Separated from the sensory boundaries that defined their old selves, immigrants inhabit a warped, fragmentary, disjointed time. Immigrant writers struggle for breath-speech, language, voice, the very stuff of their craft resounds somewhere else. Join us as we explore the pain, the struggle, the failure, and the triumph of emigration and exile. Vladimir Nabokov, Joseph Brodsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Nina Berberova, Julia Kristeva, Alexander Hemon, Dubravka Ugrešić, Norman Manea, Miroslav Penkov, Ilija Trojanow, Tea Obreht.

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva
Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): REES 39010, CMLT 36912, REES 29010

CMLT 27701. Imaginary Worlds: The Fantastic and Magic Realism in Russia and Southeastern Europe. 100 Units.

In this course, we will ask what constitutes the fantastic and magic realism as literary genres while reading some of the most interesting writings to have come out of Russia and Southeastern Europe. While considering the stylistic and narrative specificities of this narrative mode, we also think about its political functions -from subversive to escapist, to supportive of a nationalist imaginary-in different contexts and at different historic moments in the two regions.

Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva
Terms Offered: Autumn
Equivalent Course(s): CMLT 37701, REES 39018, REES 29018
CMLT 29023. Returning the Gaze: The West and the Rest. 100 Units.
Aware of being observed. And judged. Inferior... Abject... Angry... Proud... This course provides insight into identity dynamics between the ‘West,’ as the center of economic power and self-proclaimed normative humanity, and the ‘Rest,’ as the poor, backward, volatile periphery. We investigate the relationship between South East European self-representations and the imagined Western gaze. Inherent in the act of looking at oneself through the eyes of another is the privileging of that other’s standard. We will contemplate the responses to this existential position of identifying symbolically with a normative site outside of oneself-self-consciousness, defiance, arrogance, self-exoticization-and consider how these responses have been incorporated in the texture of the national, gender, and social identities in the region. Orhan Pamuk, Ivo Andrič, Nikos Kazantzakis, Aleko Konstantinov, Emir Kusturica, Milcho Manchevski.
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Winter
Equivalent Course(s): REES 39023, HIST 33609, HIST 23609, NEHC 39023, CMLT 39023, NEHC 29023, REES 29023

CMLT 29024. States of Surveillance. 100 Units.
What does it feel to be watched and listened to all the time? Literary and cinematic works give us a glimpse into the experience of living under surveillance and explore the human effects of surveillance - the fraying of intimacy, fracturing sense of self, testing the limits of what it means to be human. Works from the former Soviet Union (Solzhenitsyn, Abram Tertz, Andrey Zvyagintsev), former Yugoslavia (Ivo Andrić, Danilo Kiš, Dušan Kovačević), Romania (Norman Manea, Cristian Mungiu), Bulgaria (Valeri Petrov), and Albania (Ismail Kadare).
Instructor(s): Angelina Ilieva Terms Offered: Spring
Equivalent Course(s): REES 39024, CMLT 39024, REES 29024

CMLT 29801. BA Project and Workshop: Comparative Literature. 100 Units.
This workshop begins in Autumn Quarter and continues through the middle of Spring Quarter. While the BA workshop meets in all three quarters, it counts as a one-quarter course credit. Students may register for the course in any of the three quarters of their fourth year. A grade for the course is assigned in the Spring Quarter, based partly on participation in the workshop and partly on the quality of the BA paper. Attendance at each class section required.
Instructor(s): Claudio Sansone Terms Offered: Autumn Spring Winter
Note(s): Required of fourth-year students who are majoring in CMLT. Students should register for this course in the term where it best fits in their schedule.

CMLT 31600. Marxism and Modern Culture. 100 Units.
Designed for graduate students in the humanities, this course begins with fundamental texts on ideology and the critique of capitalist culture by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Gramsci, Althusser, Wilhelm Reich and Raymond Williams, before moving to Marxist aesthetics, from the orthodox Lukács to the Frankfurt School (Adorno, Benjamin) to the heterodox (Brecht), and concludes with contemporary debates around Marxism and imperialism (Lenin, Fanon, and others), and Marxism and media, including the internet. This course will have a particular focus on guiding students through the conventions of academic writing in the Humanities.
Instructor(s): Loren Kruger Terms Offered: Winter
Prerequisite(s): Humanities graduate students and equivalent (eg DIV school; not suitable for MAPSS or Social Science PhDs
Equivalent Course(s): ENGL 32300, MAPH 31600