

Comparative Literature

In the College of Arts and Letters

OFFICE: Arts and Letters 226
TELEPHONE: 619-594-5307 / **FAX:** 619-594-4998
E-MAIL: EandCL@mail.sdsu.edu
<http://literature.sdsu.edu>

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.

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.

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 specialized knowledge 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 (see department adviser for more information). Graduate study in comparative literature may lead to teaching at more advanced levels.

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:

- Complete preparation for the major;
- Complete a minimum of 60 transferable semester units;
- 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/myrmap> for the recommended courses needed to fulfill your major requirements. The MAPs website 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) (SIMS Code: 111701)**

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 270A, 270B; English 220. (9 units)

Language Requirement. 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."

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement. Passing the Writing Placement Assessment with a score of 8 or above before taking English 508W with a grade of C (2.0) or better, which is required. See "Graduation Requirements" section for a complete listing of requirements.

Major. (33 units)

1. Twenty-four units in 400 or 500-level comparative literature courses. May include up to six units of literature in a language other than English OR up to six units selected from the following courses:

- Africana Studies 365A [or English 365A], 365B [or English 365B], 465 [or French 465].
- American Indian Studies 300, 430.
- Chicana and Chicano Studies 335 [or English 335], 380 [or Latin American Studies 380], 450.
- Classics 310, 320, 330, 350.
- English 450, 550.
- Philosophy 315.
- Russian 305A.
- Theatre 460B.
- Women's Studies 352.

2. Six units of 500-level English courses (no double-counting of courses).

3. Three units of English 508W.

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

Comparative Literature Minor

(Major Code: 15031) (SIMS Code: 111701)

The minor in comparative literature consists of a minimum of 15 units. Three units must be selected from Comparative Literature 270A or 270B. The remaining 12 units must be in upper division courses selected from Comparative Literature 440, 445, 451 [or Asian Studies 451], 470, 513, 561, 570, 577, 580, 594, 595, 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 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 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.

C LT 470. Folk Literature (3) [GE]

Prerequisite: Completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.C., Humanities required for nonmajors.

Studies in the ballad, bardic poetry, oral and popular literature and folklore.

C LT 498. Seminar: Comparative Literature Honors Thesis (3) Cr/NC

Prerequisites: Admission to departmental honors program and consent of honors director.

Capstone class to prepare students who have been accepted into the department's honors program to write an undergraduate thesis by emphasizing advanced research methods and critical or creative writing skills.

C LT 499. Special Study (1-3)

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 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 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 570. Ecocriticism (3)

Prerequisites: Six units in literature and/or creative writing.

In-depth study of relationship between environment and literature to include ecocritical literary theory, history, and practice.

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)

Prerequisites: 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)

Prerequisites: 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.