COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Courses offered by the Department of Comparative Literature are listed under the subject code COMPLIT on the Stanford Bulletin’s ExploreCourses web site.

The Department of Comparative Literature offers courses in the history and theory of literature through comparative approaches. The department accepts candidates for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. The department is a part of the Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/schoolofhumanitiesandsciences/divisionofliteraturesculturesandlanguages).

The field of Comparative Literature provides students the opportunity to study imaginative literature in a wide array of contexts: historical, formal, theoretical, and more. While other literary disciplines focus on works of literature within national or linguistic traditions, Comparative Literature draws on multiple contexts in order to examine the nature of literary phenomena from around the globe and from different historical moments, while exploring how literature interacts with other elements of culture and society. We study fictional narratives, performance, and poetry as well as cinema, music, and emerging aesthetic media.

Along with the traditional models of comparative literature that compare two or more national literary cultures and examine literary phenomena in light of literary theory, the department encourages study of the relationship between literature and philosophy and the enrichment of literary study with other disciplinary methodologies. Comparative Literature also embraces the study of aspects of literature that overgo national boundaries, such as transnational literary movements or the creative adaptation of particular genres to local cultures. In each case, students emerge from the program with enhanced verbal and writing skills, a command of literary studies, the ability to read analytically and critically, and a more global knowledge of literature.

Mission of the Undergraduate Program in Comparative Literature

The mission of the undergraduate program in Comparative Literature is to develop students’ verbal and written communication skills, their ability to read analytically and critically, and their global knowledge of literary cultures and the specific properties of literary texts. The program provides students with the opportunity to study imaginative literature with several methods and a consciousness of methodology.

A Comparative Literature major prepares a student as a reader and interpreter of literature through sophisticated examination of texts and the development of a critical vocabulary with which to discuss them. Along with providing core courses that introduce students to major literary phenomena in a comparative frame, the program of study accommodates the interests of students in areas such as specific regions, historical periods, and interdisciplinary connections between literature and other fields such as philosophy, music, the visual arts, gender and queer theory, and race and ethnicity. Attention to verbal expression and interpretive argument serves students who will proceed into careers requiring strong language and communication skills and cross-cultural knowledge of the world.

Learning Outcomes (Undergraduate)

The department expects undergraduate majors in the program to be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes. These learning outcomes are used in evaluating students and the department’s undergraduate program. Students are expected to demonstrate:

1. the ability to interpret a literary text in a non-native language or to compare literary texts from different linguistic traditions, which may be read in translation.
2. a self-reflective understanding of the critical process necessary to read and understand texts.
3. skills in writing effectively about literature.
4. skills in oral communication and public speaking about literature.

Graduate Programs in Comparative Literature

The department offers a Doctor of Philosophy and a Ph.D. minor in Comparative Literature.

Learning Outcomes (Graduate)

Through completion of advanced course work and rigorous skills training, the doctoral program prepares students to

1. make original contributions to the knowledge of Comparative Literature and to interpret and present the results of such research,
2. teach literary analysis and interpretation at all levels with broad historical, cultural and linguistic understanding, and
3. apply such analysis, interpretation and understanding to a range of fields and vocations.

COVID-19-Related Degree Requirement Changes

For information on how Comparative Literature degree requirements have been affected by the pandemic, see the “COVID-19 Policies tab (p. 6)” in this section of this bulletin. For University-wide policy changes related to the pandemic, see the “COVID-19 and Academic Continuity (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes)” section of this bulletin.

Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature

The major in Comparative Literature requires students to enroll in a set of core courses offered by the department, to complete electives in the department, and to enroll in additional literature courses, or other courses approved by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, offered by other departments. This flexibility to combine literature courses from several departments and to address literature from multiple traditions is the hallmark of the Comparative Literature major. Students may count courses which read literature in translation; however, every student, especially those planning to pursue graduate study in Comparative Literature, is strongly encouraged to develop a command of non-native languages.

Declaring the Major

Students declare the major in Comparative Literature through Axess. Students should meet with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies to discuss appropriate courses and options within the major, and to plan the course of study. Majors are also urged to attend department events such as public talks and conferences.

Advising

Upon declaring the major, each student is assigned an adviser by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Students should consult with their advisers at least once a quarter. While the Chair monitors progress to completion of the degree, the adviser oversees the student’s general intellectual development and offers advice about courses and projects. Students are also encouraged to develop relationships with other faculty members who may act as mentors.
Overseas Campuses and Abroad Programs

The Department of Comparative Literature encourages study abroad, both for increased proficiency in language and the opportunity for advanced course work. Course work done at campuses other than Stanford is counted toward the major at the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and is contingent upon the Office of the University Registrar's approval of transfer credit. To that end, students abroad are advised to save syllabi, notes, papers, and correspondence.

Degree Requirements

All majors in Comparative Literature (including honors) are required to complete the following requirements. All courses applied to the major must be taken for a letter grade, and a grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or better must be achieved in each core course.

1. COMPLIT 101 What Is Comparative Literature?. This gateway to the major is normally taken by the end of sophomore year. It provides an introduction to literature and its distinctions from other modes of linguistic expression, and a fundamental set of interpretive skills. This course fulfills the Writing in the Major requirement.

2. Core Courses (5 units each)

   Students should complete these courses as soon as possible. Each course draws on examples from multiple traditions to explore fundamental issues in its genre.

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<tr>
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<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 121</td>
<td>Poems, Poetry, Worlds</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 122</td>
<td>Literature as Performance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 123</td>
<td>The Novel and the World</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. COMPLIT 199. This senior seminar is designed as a culmination to the course of study while providing reflection on the nature of the discipline. Topics vary.

4. Electives: Majors must complete at least 40 units of electives. 15 of the 40 units must be COMPLIT courses. The remaining courses should form a coherent intellectual focus requiring approval from the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and may be drawn from Comparative Literature offerings, from other literature departments, or from other fields of interdisciplinary relevance. Up to 10 units of Thinking Matters or SLE courses may be counted towards the elective requirement. Electives are subject to adviser consultation and approval.

5. Total unit load: Students must complete course work for a total of at least 65 units.

Philosophical and Literary Thought

Undergraduates may major in Comparative Literature and Philosophy. The Philosophy specification is not declared in Axess and does not appear on either the transcript or the diploma. Students in this option take courses alongside students from other departments that also have specialized options associated with the program for the study of Philosophical and Literary Thought. Each student in this option is assigned an adviser in Comparative Literature, and student schedules and courses of study must be approved in writing by the adviser, the Chair of Undergraduate Studies of Comparative Literature, and the Chair of Undergraduate Studies of the program. See the Philosophy + Literature @ Stanford (https://philit.stanford.edu/programs/philosophyandliterature.html) web site.

A total of 65 units must be completed for this option, including the following requirements:

1. Seven courses taught by Comparative Literature faculty. Of the seven, the following five (5 units each) are required courses:

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<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 122</td>
<td>Literature as Performance</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 123</td>
<td>The Novel and the World</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 199</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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</table>

The remaining two courses must be instructed by Comparative Literature faculty and approved by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Up to five units of SLE may be counted in lieu of one of these two courses.

2. Philosophy and Literature Gateway Course (4 units) COMPLIT 181 Philosophy and Literature. This course should be taken as early as possible in the student's career, normally in the sophomore year.

3. Philosophy Writing in the Major (5 units) PHIL 80 Mind, Matter, and Meaning. Prerequisite: introductory Philosophy course.

4. Aesthetics, Ethics, Political Philosophy (ca. 4 units): One course from the PHIL 170 series.

5. Language, Mind, Metaphysics, and Epistemology (ca. 4 units): One course from the PHIL 180 series.

6. History of Philosophy (ca. 8 units): Two courses in the history of philosophy, numbered above PHIL 100. Up to five units of SLE may be counted in lieu of one of these two courses.

7. Related Courses (ca. 8 units): Two upper division courses relevant to the study of philosophy and literature as identified by the committee in charge of the program. A list of approved courses may be found on Philosophy and Literature (http://philit.stanford.edu/programs/relevance.html) web site.

8. One course, typically in translation, in a literature distant from that of the student's concentration and offering an outside perspective on that literary tradition.

9. Capstone Seminar (ca. 4 units): In addition to COMPLIT 199 Senior Seminar, students take a capstone seminar of relevance to philosophy and literature approved by the undergraduate adviser of the Program in Philosophical and Literary Thought. The student's choice of a capstone seminar must be approved in writing by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies of Comparative Literature and by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies of the program.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 283A</td>
<td>Modern Notions of 'The Holy': Hölderlin, Heidegger, Celan</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN 125</td>
<td>Nietzsche: Life as Performance</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 194W</td>
<td>Capstone Seminar: Imagination in Fiction and Philosophy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 194Z</td>
<td>Capstone: Living a Meaningful Literary Life</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH 163D</td>
<td>Shakespeare: The Ethical Challenge</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Seminar Paper Requirement: Students must write at least one seminar paper that is interdisciplinary in nature. This paper brings together material from courses taken in philosophy and literature, and may be an honors paper (see below), an individual research paper (developed through independent work with a faculty member), or a paper integrating materials developed for two separate courses (by arrangement with the two instructors). Though it may draw on previous course work, the paper must be an original composition, 18-20 pages in length. It must be submitted to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and receive approval no later than the end of Winter Quarter in the fourth year of study.

Transfer units may not normally be used to satisfy requirements 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9. Units devoted to acquiring language proficiency are not counted toward the 65-unit requirement.
Honors Program

Students majoring in any DLCL department (i.e., Comparative Literature, French and Italian, German Studies, Iberian and Latin American Cultures, and Slavic Languages and Literatures) who have an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or above and who maintain a 3.5 (GPA) in their major courses, are eligible to participate in the DLCL’s honors program.

Prospective honors students must choose a senior thesis adviser from among their home department’s regular faculty in their junior year by May 1. During Spring Quarter of the junior year, a student interested in the honors program should consult with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies of their home department to submit a thesis proposal (2-5 pages), DLCL Honors application, and an outline of planned course work for their senior year.

Honors theses vary considerably in length as a function of their topic, historical scope, and methodology. They may make use of previous work developed in seminars and courses, but display an enhanced comparative or theoretical scope. Quality rather than quantity is the key criterion. Honors theses range from 40 to 90 pages not including bibliography and notes.

Honors students are encouraged to participate in the DLCL program hosted by Bing Honors College. This DLCL Honors College is designed to help students develop their projects and is offered at the end of the summer. Applications must be submitted through the Bing program. For more information, view the Bing Honors (https://undergrad.stanford.edu/programs/bhc/about-bing-honors-college) web site.

Enrollment

A minimum of 10 units total, described below, and a completed thesis is required. Honors essays are due to the thesis adviser no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15, of the terminal year. If an essay is found deserving of a grade of ‘A-’ or better by the thesis adviser, honors are granted at the time of graduation.

1. Spring Quarter of the junior year (optional): DLCL 189C Honors Thesis Seminar, 2-4 units S/NC, under the primary thesis adviser. Drafting or revision of the thesis proposal. The proposal is reviewed by the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and the Director of the department and will be approved or returned for submission.

2. Autumn Quarter of the senior year (required): DLCL 189A Honors Thesis Seminar, 4 units S/NC, taught by a DLCL appointed faculty member. Course focuses on researching and writing the honors thesis.

3. Winter Quarter of the senior year (required): DLCL 189B Honors Thesis Seminar, 2-4 units S/NC, under the primary thesis adviser. Focus is on writing under guidance of primary adviser.

4. Spring Quarter of the senior year (option; mandatory if not taken during junior year): DLCL 189C Honors Thesis Seminar, 2-4 units S/NC, under the primary thesis adviser. Honors essays are due to the thesis adviser and student services officer no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15 of the terminal year.

5. Spring Quarter of the senior year (required) DLCL 199 Honors Thesis Oral Presentation, 1 unit S/NC. Enroll with primary thesis adviser.

The honors thesis in the DLCL embodies Stanford’s excellence in course work and research. It is simultaneously one element of the student’s intellectual legacy and part of the University’s official history. The faculty considers the honors thesis to be far more than a final paper; rather, it is the product of solid research that contributes to conversations taking place within a larger scholarly community and representative of the intellectual vitality of the discipline. For all of these reasons, DLCL honors theses will be visible to future scholars researching similar questions through full online access through the Stanford Digital Repository (https://library.stanford.edu/research/stanford-digital-repository) (SDR) and may be used as course materials for future Stanford honors preparatory courses. For similar purposes, a printed copy may also be kept in DLCL spaces. The DLCL has adopted an opt-out practice. Students who wish to limit the availability or formats in which the thesis may be shared may do so by filling out the appropriate form with the DLCL student affairs officer.

COVID-19-Related Degree Requirement Changes

For information on how Comparative Literature degree requirements have been affected by the pandemic, see the "COVID-19 Policies tab (p. 6)” in this section of this bulletin. For University-wide policy changes related to the pandemic, see the "COVID-19 and Academic Continuity (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes)” section of this bulletin.

Minor in Comparative Literature

The undergraduate minor in Comparative Literature represents a condensed (22-unit minimum) version of the major. It is designed for students who are unable to pursue the major but nonetheless seek an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of literature.

Declaring the Minor

Students declare the minor in Comparative Literature through Axess. Students should meet with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies and undergraduate student support officer to discuss appropriate courses and options within the minor, and to plan the course of study.

Requirements

- Plans for the minor are reviewed with the Chair of Undergraduate Studies.
- 22 unit minimum course plan.
- All courses must be taken for a letter grade.
- Courses may not duplicate course work for other major or minor programs.
- Up to 5 units of SLE or Independent Study may count towards one of the four additional Comparative Literature courses with approval from the Chair of Undergraduate Studies.

Courses

Course requirements for the minor in Comparative Literature are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 101</td>
<td>What Is Comparative Literature?</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 121</td>
<td>Poems, Poetry, Worlds</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 122</td>
<td>Literature as Performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPLIT 123</td>
<td>The Novel and the World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least four other Comparative Literature courses.</td>
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<td>12-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minor in Modern Languages

The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages offers an undergraduate minor in Modern Languages for students demonstrating competency in two modern languages and literatures. This minor draws on language and literature courses offered in this and other literature departments. See the “Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/schoolofhumanitiesandsciences/divisionofliteraturesculturesandlanguages/#minorinmodernlanguages)” section of this bulletin for requirements.

COVID-19-Related Degree Requirement Changes

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in this section of this bulletin. For University-wide policy changes related
to the pandemic, see the "COVID-19 and Academic Continuity" (http://
exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes) section of this
bulletin.

Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative
Literature

University requirements for the Ph.D. are described in the "Graduate
Degrees" (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees) section
of this bulletin.

The Ph.D. program is designed for students whose linguistic background,
breadth of interest in literature, and curiosity about the problems of
literary scholarship and theory (including the relation of literature to other
disciplines) make this program more appropriate to their needs than the
Ph.D. in one of the national literatures. Students take courses in at least
three literatures (one may be that of the native language), to be studied
in the original. The program is designed to encourage familiarity with the
major approaches to literary study prevailing today.

Before starting graduate work at Stanford, students should have
completed an undergraduate program with a strong background in one
literature and some work in a second literature in the original language.
Since the program demands an advanced knowledge of two non-native
languages and a reading knowledge of a third non-native language,
students should at the time of application have an advanced enough
understanding of one of the three to take graduate-level courses in that
language when they enter the program. They should be making enough
progress in the study of a second language to enable them to take
graduate courses in that language not later than the beginning of the
second year, and earlier if possible. Language courses at the 100- or 200-
level may be taken with approval from the Director of the department
or the Chair of Graduate Studies. Applicants are expected to take an
intensive course in the third language before entrance.

Students are admitted under a financial plan that attempts to integrate
financial support and completion of residence requirements with their
training as prospective university teachers. Assuming satisfactory
academic progress, fellowship support as a Ph.D. student is for five years.

Application Procedures

Competition for entrance into the program is extremely keen. The
program is kept small so that students have as much opportunity as
possible to work closely with faculty throughout the period of study.
Applicants should review all course and examination requirements,
advancement requirements, and teaching obligations carefully before
applying to the program. Because of the special nature of comparative
literary studies, the statement of purpose included in the application for
admission must contain the following information:

1. A detailed description of the applicant's present degree of proficiency
   in each of the languages studied, indicating the languages in which
   the applicant is prepared to do graduate work at present and outlining
   plans to meet additional language requirements of the program.
2. A description of the applicant's area of interest (for instance,
   theoretical problems, genres, periods) within literary study and the
   reasons for finding comparative literature more suitable to his or
   her needs than the study of a single literature. Applicants should
   also indicate their most likely prospective primary field, including the
   literatures on which they intend to concentrate.
3. An explanation of how the applicant's undergraduate education has
   prepared her or him for work in our program. If there are any gaps in
   the applicant's preparation, a plan to address those gaps should be
   discussed.
4. The applicant's reasons for wishing to study in the department.
5. The results of the general section of the Graduate Record
   Examination. These results should be sent to Stanford University, ETS
code 4704.
6. A letter of recommendation that focuses on the applicant's language
   skills, or a current ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) certificate,
   or a critical paper written in a non-native language.
7. Recommendations from faculty members in at least two of the
   literatures in which the student proposes to work, if possible.
8. A writing sample that the candidate considers to represent his or her
   best work, preferably demonstrating a comparative analysis.

For further information see the Graduate Admissions (http://
gradadmissions.stanford.edu) web site.

Degree Requirements

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree must complete three years (nine
quarters) of full-time work, or the equivalent, in graduate study beyond
the bachelor's degree. The student must take 135 units of graduate work
and submit the doctoral dissertation. At least three consecutive quarters
of course work must be taken at Stanford.

Languages

Students must present three non-native languages, two of them
sufficiently to qualify for graduate courses in these languages and the
third sufficiently to demonstrate the ability to read a major author in this
language. Two languages are certified by graduate-level course work
specified below. Only the third language may be certified by examination.
Language preparation must be sufficient to support graduate-level course
work in at least one language during the first year and in the second
language during the second year. Students must demonstrate a reading
knowledge of the third non-native language no later than the beginning of
the third year.

Literatures in the same language (such as Spanish and Spanish
American) are counted as one. One of the student's three literatures
usually is designated as the primary field, the other two as secondary
fields, although some students may offer two literatures at the primary
level (six or more graduate courses).

Teaching

Whatever their sources of financial support, students are normally
expected to undertake a total of five quarters of supervised
apprenticeships and teaching at half time. Students must complete those
pedagogy courses required by the departments in which they teach.

Minimum Course Requirements

Students are advised that the range and depth of preparation necessary
to support superior work on the dissertation, as well as demands in the
present professional marketplace for coverage of both traditional and
interdisciplinary areas of knowledge, render these requirements as bare
minimums.

1. Preparatory Courses

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<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DLCL 301</td>
<td>The Learning and Teaching of Second Languages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These courses are designed to acculturate first-year students into the
intellectual, professional, and pedagogical modes of the discipline.
Students who do not intend to teach language at Stanford or after should
consult the Chair of Graduate Studies about whether to take DLCL 301 or
replace it with another course on pedagogy.

2. A sufficient number of courses (six or more) in the student's primary
   field to ensure knowledge of the basic works in one national literature
   from its beginnings to the present.
3. At least four additional complementary courses, with most of the reading in the original, in two different national literatures (i.e., two courses in each literature).

Minimum course requirements must be completed before the student is scheduled to take the University oral examination. These requirements are kept to a minimum so that students have sufficient opportunity to seek out new areas of interest. A course is an offering of 3-5 units. Independent study may take the place of up to two of the required courses, but no more; no undergraduate courses may be counted toward the required 135 credits. Courses should be taken for letter grades when the option is available.

The principal conditions for continued registration of a graduate student are the timely and satisfactory completion of the university, department, and program requirements for the degree, and fulfillment of minimum progress requirements. Failure to meet these requirements results in corrective measures that may include a written warning, academic probation, and/or the possible release from the program.

Examinations
Three examinations are required. The first two are one hour in duration, the third two hours.

1. First One-Hour Examination. The genre examination is administered toward the end of the first year. It is designed to demonstrate the student’s knowledge of a substantial number of literary works in a single genre, ranging over several centuries and over at least three national literatures, and the theoretical problems involved in the chosen genre and in the matter of genre in general. Students must focus on poetry, drama, or narrative (including the novel), combining core recommendations from the department with selections from their own areas of concentration. Any student who does not pass the exam has the opportunity to retake it before the end of the same spring quarter. Students who do not pass this exam a second time may be dismissed from the program.

2. Second One-Hour Examination. The theory exam is administered in the autumn quarter of the second year. It is intended to demonstrate the student’s knowledge of a particular problem in the history of literary theory and criticism or the ability to develop a particular theoretical position. In either case, this exam should demonstrate wide reading in theoretical and critical texts from a variety of periods. Any student who does not pass the exam has the opportunity to retake the exam the second week of the winter quarter. Students who do not pass this exam a second time may be dismissed from the program.

3. University Oral Examination. This examination is normally taken during the autumn quarter of the third year. It covers a literary period of about a century in three or more literatures with primary emphasis on a single national literature or, in occasional cases, two national literatures. The reading list covers chiefly the major literary works of the period.

More information about the examinations is available in the Department Graduate Handbook.

Dissertation Reading Committee
The doctoral dissertation reading committee consists of the principal dissertation adviser and at least two other readers. The doctoral dissertation reading committee must have no fewer than three and no more than five members. At least one member must be from the student’s major department. Normally, all committee members are members of the Stanford University Academic Council or are emeritus Academic Council members. The student’s department Director may, in some cases, approve the appointment of a reader who is not a current or emeritus member of the Academic Council, if that person is particularly well qualified to consult on the dissertation topic and holds a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Former Stanford Academic Council members and non-Academic Council members may thus, on occasion, serve on a reading committee. A non-Academic Council member (including former Academic Council members) may replace only one of three required members of dissertation reading committees. If the reading committee has four or five members, at least three members (comprising the majority) must be current or emeritus members of the Academic Council. For additional information, see the GAP’s Policy on Dissertation Reading Committees (https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-4/subchapter-8/page-4-8-1). Students should complete and submit the Dissertation Reading Committee form (https://pangea.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Doc_Diss_Reading_Dtte_form.pdf) upon applying for Terminal Graduate Registration status.

Prospectus Colloquium
The prospectus for the dissertation must be prepared in close consultation with the dissertation adviser during the months preceding the colloquium. It should offer a synthetic overview of the dissertation, describe its methodology and the project’s relation to past scholarship on the topic, and lay out a complete plan of the chapters.

The prospectus colloquium normally takes place during the quarter after the University oral examination. It is the student’s responsibility to set the date and time of the colloquium in consultation with the members of the dissertation reading committee and the department administrator.

If the outcome is favorable by majority vote of the committee, the student is free to proceed with work on the dissertation. If the proposal is found to be unsatisfactory by majority vote, the dissertation readers may ask the student to revise the prospectus and hold a second colloquium.

Qualifying Procedures
Candidacy
Admission to candidacy is an important decision by the department based on its overall assessment of a student’s ability to complete the Ph.D. program. According to University policy, students are expected to follow department qualifying procedures and apply for candidacy by the end of the second year in residence. In reviewing a student for admission to candidacy, the faculty considers a student’s academic progress including but not limited to:

- advanced language proficiency
- course work
- performance on the qualifying (i.e. genre and theory) examinations
- successful completion of teaching assistantships
- completion of at least three units of work with each of four Stanford faculty members

Beyond the successful completion of department prerequisites, admission to candidacy depends on the faculty’s evaluation of whether student has the potential to fulfill the requirements of the degree program. Candidacy is determined by faculty vote. Failure to advance to candidacy results in the dismissal of the student from the doctoral program. Candidacy is valid for five years and students are required to maintain active candidacy through conferral of the doctoral degree. All requirements for the degree must be completed before candidacy expires. The department conducts regular reviews of each student’s academic performance, both before and after admission to candidacy. Failure to make satisfactory progress to degree may result in dismissal from the doctoral program. Additional information about University candidacy policy is available in the Bulletin (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#doctoraltext-candidacy) and GAP (http://gap.stanford.edu/4-6.html).

Annual Review
The faculty provides students with timely and constructive feedback on their progress toward the Ph.D. Annual reviews provide a general assessment and identify developing problems that could impede progress. Possible outcomes of the yearly review include:

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1. continuation of the student in good standing, or
2. placing the student on probation, with specific guidelines for the period on probation and the steps to be taken in order to be returned to good standing.

For students on probation at this point (or at any other subsequent points), possible outcomes of a review include:

1. restoration to good standing
2. continued probation, again with guidelines for necessary remedial steps
3. termination from the program. Students leaving the program at the end of the first or second year are usually permitted to complete the requirements to receive an M.A. degree, if this does not involve additional residency or financial support.

Ph.D. Minor in Comparative Literature

This minor is designed for students working toward the Ph.D. in the various national literature departments. Students working toward the Ph.D. in English are directed to the program in English and Comparative Literature described among offerings in the Department of English (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/schoolofhumanitiesandsciences/english/#text). Students must have:

1. A knowledge of at least two non-native languages:
   a. one non-native language sufficient to qualify for graduate-level courses in that language
   b. the second non-native language sufficient to read a major author in the original language.
2. A minimum of six graduate courses:
   a. three graduate courses must be in the department of the second literature
      i. except for students in the Asian languages, students must choose a second literature outside the department of their major literature.
   b. three graduate courses must be in the Department of Comparative Literature, including:
      i. a seminar in literary theory or criticism
      ii. at least two of the three courses in Comparative Literature should originate in a department other than the one in which the student is completing their degree.

COVID-19 Policy Changes to Degree Requirements

On this page: Winter Quarter (p. 6) • Spring Quarter (p. 6) • Doctoral Programs (p. 7) (if applicable)

For a complete overview of academic policy changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic, see the "COVID-19 and Academic Continuity (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes)" section of this bulletin.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Stanford University made a number of emergency changes to policies and procedures that impacted Winter and Spring quarters 2019-20. Those changes, as they relate to degree programs, are compiled on this page. These changes reflect the disruption that students and instructors experienced when the University transitioned to online learning on March 9, 2020, in addition to the disruption to the Stanford community caused by the pandemic itself.

Winter Quarter 2019-20

• University-wide Winter Quarter Academic Changes (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes/#winterquarteracademicchangestext)

The Committee on Undergraduate Standards and Policy (C-USP) and the Committee on Graduate Studies (C-GS) approved an exception for Winter Quarter 2019-20 to permit students to request late class withdrawals and/or changes to class grading basis to CR/NC (for those classes that had CR/NC as an option).

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Grading Requirements

The Department of Comparative Literature counts any Winter Quarter 2019-20 class in which the student received a final grade of ‘CR’ towards undergraduate degree requirements that otherwise require a letter grade.

Other Requirements

If a student has difficulty completing an undergraduate degree requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, (e.g., a laboratory research requirement), the student should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Student Services Manager to identify academic options to fulfill degree requirements.

Graduate Degree Requirements

Grading Requirements

The Department of Comparative Literature counts any Winter Quarter 2019-20 class in which the student received a final grade of ‘CR’ towards graduate degree requirements that otherwise require a letter grade.

Other Requirements

If a student has difficulty completing a graduate degree requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, (e.g., a laboratory research requirement), the student should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Student Services Manager to identify academic options to fulfill degree requirements.

Spring Quarter 2019-20

• University-wide Spring Quarter Academic Changes (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/covid-19-policy-changes/#winterquarteracademicchangestext)

The Faculty Senate approved a policy requiring that all undergraduate and graduate classes in Spring Quarter 2019-20 be offered only on the ‘S/NC’ (Satisfactory/No Credit) grading basis.

Undergraduate Degree Requirements

Grading Requirements

The Department of Comparative Literature counts any Spring Quarter 2019-20 class in which the student received a final grade of ‘S’ towards undergraduate degree requirements that otherwise require a letter grade.

Other Requirements

If a student has difficulty completing a graduate degree requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, (e.g., a laboratory research requirement), the student should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Student Services Manager to identify academic options to fulfill degree requirements.

Graduate Degree Requirements

Grading Requirements

The Department of Comparative Literature counts any Spring Quarter 2019-20 class in which the student received a final grade of ‘S’ towards graduate degree requirements that otherwise require a letter grade.

If a student has difficulty completing a graduate degree requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, (e.g., a laboratory research requirement), the student should consult with the Director of Graduate Studies and the
Student Services Manager to identify academic options to fulfill degree requirements.

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**Doctoral Programs**

The Faculty Senate confirmed that doctoral programs have discretion to delay candidacy decisions through the end of Autumn Quarter 2020-21. It also confirmed that students have the option to defer the candidacy process (e.g., qualifying exams) to Autumn Quarter 2020-21 without penalty.

The Department of Comparative Literature has postponed the doctoral candidacy review that typically takes place at the end of a student’s second year in the program to Autumn Quarter 2020-21. Students may request to apply to candidacy in Spring Quarter 2019-20 should they wish to do so.

Annual Spring Reviews of academic progress continue as scheduled in Spring Quarter 2019-20. An additional review will occur in Autumn Quarter, 2020-21 prior to candidacy reviews.

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**Graduate Advising Expectations**

The Department of Comparative Literature is committed to providing academic advising in support of graduate student scholarly and professional development. The overall goal of advising, both in the DLCL and the department, is to help graduate students make academic and career choices wisely, and think ahead, in order to craft a long-term plan for their graduate student career and beyond. When most effective, the advising relationship entails collaborative and sustained engagement by both the adviser and the advisee. As a best practice, advising expectations should be periodically discussed and reviewed to ensure mutual understanding. Both the adviser and the advisee are expected to maintain professionalism and integrity. Advising is both an academically invaluable form for the transmission of expertise, as well as a key aspect of creating a strong departmental and Stanford community.

**Faculty Advisers**

Faculty advisers guide students in key areas such as selecting courses, designing and conducting research, developing of teaching pedagogy, navigating policies and degree requirements, and exploring academic opportunities and professional pathways.

- Upon enrolling, students plan their work under the direction of the Chair of Graduate Studies or a faculty member designated by the program. When the student selects a more specialized adviser, the transition should involve oral or written communication between both advisers and the student concerning the student's progress, goals, and expectations. It is possible for doctoral students to choose two main advisers at the dissertation stage, provided all agree this is academically sound.
- Faculty advisers should meet with assigned students to discuss their selection of courses and to plan from a broader, longer-term perspective, including: discussion of program milestones and a basic timeline; an overview of Department and DLCL offerings beyond courses; student goals and interests and DLCL or Stanford programs that may be relevant; and (for doctoral students) how to transfer previous graduate coursework.
- Faculty advisers and graduate students should meet at least once per quarter to assess the advisee's course of study, performance over the past quarter, and plans for the next quarter, as well as longer term plans. If a student has two advisers, the student should meet at least once per quarter with each adviser and at least once per year with both advisers at the same time.
- Faculty advisers should help their advisees plan for exams, research grant applications, develop research projects, and plan ahead for both the academic job market and the job search beyond academia.
- Faculty advisers should provide feedback about the student's progress to the department during the annual review process. For more information about the annual review, see the Graduate Handbook.

**Graduate Students**

Graduate students are active contributors to the advising relationship, proactively seeking academic and professional guidance and taking responsibility for informing themselves of policies and degree requirements for their graduate program.

- Upon enrolling, students plan their work under the direction of the Chair of Graduate Studies or a faculty member designated by the program. As the student develops a field of expertise, the student chooses a program adviser to replace the Chair of Graduate Studies role. The transition should involve oral or written communication between both advisers and the student concerning the student’s progress, goals, and expectations.
- Graduate students and faculty advisers should meet at least once per quarter to assess the advisee's course of study, performance over the past quarter, and plans for the next quarter, as well as longer term plans. If a student has two advisers, the student should meet at least once per quarter with each adviser and at least once per year with both advisers at the same time.
- Students should consult with their advisers on all academic matters, including coursework, conference presentations and publications, research travel, and teaching plans.
- Students should provide a thorough self-evaluation each year for the annual review. For more information about the annual review, see the Graduate Handbook.

For a statement of University policy on graduate advising, see the "Graduate Advising (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#advisingandcredentialstext)" section of this bulletin.

**Faculty in Comparative Literature**

*Director: Amir Eshel*

Chair of Graduate Studies: Amir Eshel

Chair of Undergraduate Studies: Alexander Key

**Professors:** John Bender (also English), Russell Berman (also German Studies), Margaret Cohen (also English), Adrian Daub (also German Studies), Amir Eshel (also German Studies), Roland Greene (also English), Joshua Landy (also French and Italian), Haiyan Lee (also East Asian Languages and Cultures), David Palumbo-Liu, Patricia Parker (also English), Joan Ramon Resina (also Iberian and Latin American Cultures), José David Saldivar, Ramón Saldivar (also English), Ban Wang (also East Asian Languages and Cultures)

**Associate Professors:** Vincent Barletta (also Iberian and Latin American Cultures), Monika Greenleaf (also Slavic Languages and Literatures), Alexander Key, Indra Levy (also East Asian Languages and Cultures)

**Assistant Professors:** Marie Huber

Senior Lecturer: Vered K. Shemtov

Lecturers: Petra Dierkes-Thrun, Burcu Karahan

**Courtesy Professor:** Nancy Ruttenburg
Emeriti: (Professors) John Freccero, Hans U. Gumbrecht, Herbert Lindenberger, Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, Mary Prat