

Proposal for a Minor in Comparative Literature

1. **Title:** Comparative Literature Minor, College of Liberal Arts, Department of Modern Languages
2. **Objectives:** The Minor in Comparative Literature will provide students the opportunity to study literature in a global context, across and beyond national and linguistic boundaries, and from interdisciplinary and multicultural perspectives. Students will also gain an understanding of the disciplinary conventions and methodology associated with the discipline of comparative literature.

3. **Description / Rationale:**

Catalog Description:

The Minor in Comparative Literature will benefit students majoring in a modern or classical language or English, although students from any discipline in Liberal Arts or other colleges who meet admissions and prerequisite requirements may complete the minor. Students taking a Comparative Literature Minor will find that it provides an excellent background for almost any major in the arts or the humanities and for graduate study in language and literature, since it develops critical thinking and skill in reading and working with complex texts and theories.

(Rationale)

This program is based on a careful study of some 25 programs across the country as well as on the guidelines and standards established for undergraduate programs by the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Currently only a handful of Ohio institutions offer a comparative literature minor.

The departments of Modern Languages, English, Classics, Religion, and Philosophy all offer courses to support the Comparative Literature Minor.

4. **Admission:** Admission to the program requires a GPA of at least 2.0 and completion of ENG 101 and 102 with a grade of C or above.
5. **Requirements:** The curriculum of the Comparative Literature Minor consists of 36 hours of course work. Students must complete 4 hours of literature courses selected from either ENG 204 or CLS 204; these hours for the minor will not count toward the GE requirement. Students must also complete CPL 310; however, language majors must choose different topics for CPL 310 courses that they take toward the minor than the one they take for their major. (CPL 310 is a variable topics course and is repeatable.)

Required Courses:

ENG 204 or CLS 204 (select one)	4 hours
CPL 310: Problems in Comparative Literature	4 hours
CPL 405: Theory of Comparative Literature or ENG 450: Studies in Literary Theory (select one)	4 hours

ENG 204 GREAT BOOKS: LITERATURE (4)

Introduction to interpreting literature, using works from various periods and cultures, viewed in their social and historical contexts and read for their enduring interest.

CLS 204 GREAT BOOKS: CLASSICAL BEGINNINGS (4)

Reading, discussion, analysis of selected texts from ancient Greece and Rome; for example, the works of Homer, Sophocles, Plato, Virgil, Cicero, Horace.

CPL 310 PROBLEMS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (4)

Readings in comparative literature dealing with themes, myths, genres, literary movements, or characters; e.g., the myth of Electra in the modern theater, the picaresque novel, existentialism in European fiction, and the ambitious hero in literature, from a comparative perspective.

CPL 405 THEORY OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (4)

History and development of comparative literature as a discipline; study of basic reference works and journals; papers and reports based on comparative studies.

ENG 450 STUDIES IN LITERARY THEORY (4)

Intensive study of literary theory in order to develop an understanding of critical questions and approaches. Prerequisite: ENG 257 or ENG 251; at least one of the ENG 350-359 sequence.

Elective Courses:

300- and 400- level courses	24 hours
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Elective courses will be drawn from the list that follows. Required courses may not count as elective courses.

CLASSICS

330 STUDIES IN ANCIENT LITERATURE (4) Drama, epic, and lyric poetry; prose; selected themes in ancient literature; and literary criticism.

- 360 STUDIES IN ANCIENT MYTHOLOGY (4)** Greek and Roman mythology; aspects and approaches to the study of myths; and archaeological and nonliterary sources. Prerequisite: Junior/Senior standing or permission of department.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

- 399 STUDIES-SELECTED SUBJECTS (1 TO 4)** Problems, approaches, and topics in the field of comparative literature. Topics vary.
- 405 THEORY OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (4)**
History, development and theory of comparative literature as a discipline; study of basic reference works and journals; papers and reports based on comparative studies.

ENGLISH

- 359 POST-COLONIAL TEXTS (4)** Representative works of major anglophone writers from around the world. Prerequisite: ENG 102.
- 399 STUDIES IN SELECTED SUBJECTS (1 TO 4)** Problems, approaches, and topics in the field of English. Topics vary. Prerequisite: ENG 102. (Subject must be a literary one. Advisor approval required.)
- 430 STUDIES IN LITERATURE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)** Intensive study of literature from the perspectives of gender theory. Intended to develop an understanding of gender and sexuality as important both to literature and to its critical appreciation. Prerequisite: ENG 255/256 or ENG 251; at least one of the ENG 350-359 sequence.
- 440 STUDIES IN ETHNIC AND REGIONAL LITERATURE (4)** Intensive study of literature from different regions of America or reflecting the experiences of different ethnic groups. Intended to develop an understanding of race, region, and ethnicity as important both to literature and to its critical appreciation. Prerequisite: ENG 255/256 or ENG 251; at least one of the ENG 350-359 sequence.
- 460 STUDIES IN LITERARY GENRES AND THEMES (4)** Intensive study of literary genres (e.g., poetry, the novel, satire) or of literary themes. Intended to develop an understanding of formal and structural aspects of literature. Prerequisite: ENG 255/256 or ENG 251; at least one of the ENG 350-359 sequence.
- 470 STUDIES IN WORLD LITERATURE (4)** Intensive study of non-European literature, focused nationally, regionally, cross-culturally, thematically, and generically. Prerequisite: ENG 255/256 or ENG 251; at least one of the ENG 350-359 sequence.

MODERN LANGUAGE HUMANITIES

- 311 FRENCH LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. French literature.
- 312 GERMAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. German literature.
- 313 RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. Russian literature.
- 314 SPANISH LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. Spanish literature.
- 315 SPANISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. Spanish-American literature
- 316 SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION (4)** Selected works of foreign literature studied in English translation. Scandinavian literature.
- 399 STUDIES IN SELECTED SUBJECTS (1 TO 4)** Problems, approaches, and topics in the field of modern languages. Topics vary. (Subject must be a literary one. Advisor approval required.)

PHILOSOPHY

- 394 EXISTENTIALISM (4)** Representative writers of the existentialist movement.
- 442 PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (4)** Examination of philosophical ideas found in literature, philosophical interpretations of literature, and evaluation of theories and aesthetics of literature.

RELIGION

- 322 TOPICS IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE (4)** Examination of selected aspects of Biblical literature from both literary and historical perspectives to explore the possible structures, functions, and meanings of this literature for its original community.
- 456 RELIGIOUS THEMES IN LITERATURE (4)** (Also listed as ENG 460.) Provides intensive study of literary works in terms of significant and recurring

religious themes and images as they can be traced in various cultures and literary traditions. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing.

6. **Program Quality.** The Comparative Literature Minor's required courses allow students to acquire the apparatus needed for literary study, both in general and from a comparative and/or interdisciplinary perspective. It begins with one course (ENG 204 or CLS 204) that provides the basic framework and tools for the study of literature. As they work through their minor electives, expanding their literary, cultural and/or interdisciplinary horizons, students will complete CPL 310, which provides practical experience with a comparative approach--across national boundaries--to a literary theme, genre, period, or mode. The 400-level required course, either in comparative literature theory (CPL 405) or literary theory (ENG 450), may be taken as soon as students have met prerequisite requirements (if applicable); this course will allow students to explore the more sophisticated methodology of literary and or interdisciplinary study. Since students will design their minor in consultation with a comparative literature advisor, they will take a complement of elective courses that will acquaint them with the range of topics that comparatists study or allow them to explore one area in greater depth.
7. **Student Performance.** At least a 2.0 cumulative GPA will be required to graduate with a minor in comparative literature.
8. **Curriculum Coordination.** The proposed Comparative Literature Minor will provide students from many departments an opportunity to take a series of courses that enhance their majors. It should not significantly affect the scheduling or resources of other departments, since most of the students choosing to minor in comparative literature will complete some of these courses as requirements for their major, especially English and Modern Languages. Modern Languages already coordinates with English for some offerings.
9. **Resource Coordination.** The Comparative Literature Minor will utilize courses already taught; there should be no additional resources needed.
10. **Program Staffing.** No additional program staffing required. Program instructors / advisors include:
 - Dr. David Garrison, Professor and Chair, Department of Modern Languages, full time (M.A. in Comparative Literature).
 - Dr. Mari H. O'Brien, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages, full time (Ph.D. in Comparative Literature).
 - Various full-time faculty members from the departments of Classics, English, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Religion.
 - Various adjunct faculty members, who will continue to be hired to teach occasional courses in their area of expertise.