
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (M.A. & Ph.D.)

Executive Officer: Professor André Aciman

The Graduate Center

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FACULTY (AS OF JULY 2009)

André Aciman n Ali Jimale Ahmed n Ammiel Alcalay n Elizabeth K. Beaujour n Felicia Bonaparte n John Brenkman n Marvin A. Carlson n Clare L. Carroll n Mary Ann Caws n Vincent Crapanzano n Giuseppe C. Di Scipio n Martin Elsky n Evelyn Ender n Tamara S. Evans n Paolo Fasoli n Daniel C. Gerould n Hermann W. Haller n Giancarlo Lombardi n Amy Mandelker n Nancy K. Miller n Paul Oppenheimer n Eugenia Paulicelli n Julia Przybos n Joan T. Richardson n Lía Schwartz n Jacob Stern n John Van Sickle n Scott D. Westrem n Joshua D. Wilner n Richard Wolin

For the most up-to-date faculty listings and specializations, see the program's Web site.

THE PROGRAM

The Comparative Literature program offers coordinated courses in literature, theory, criticism, aesthetics, and translation, including literatures in English-American, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Slavic languages, Classical Greek, and Latin. Students take courses in the national and classical literature programs as well as in Comparative Literature. They may register for certificates in Film Studies, Medieval Studies, Renaissance Studies, and Women's Studies. Texts and contexts range from ancient times to the present. Because more than thirty professors are on the Comparative Literature doctoral faculty, seminars and tutorials taught within the program cover a rich variety of subjects and methodologies ranging from the visual arts, music, and theatre, to history, political science, anthropology, psychoanalysis, philosophy, philology, and other disciplines. Ph.D. degrees in Comparative Literature are offered with specializations in Italian, Classical Greek, and Latin. With their adviser's consent, students are allowed to take courses through the Interuniversity Doctoral Consortium at Columbia University, Princeton University, New York University, New School University, Stony Brook University, Rutgers University, Teachers College, and Fordham University. The program also offers a master's degree in Comparative Literature.

Degrees in Comparative Literature with special concentrations in Classics and German are offered. The specialization in Italian is offered in consortium with the Italian Department of New York University. The degree with a special concentration in Classics is offered in cooperation with the Graduate Program in Classics at the Graduate Center and with the departments of classics at New York University and Fordham University. The Graduate Program in Germanic Languages and Literatures is housed in the Comparative Literature program.

Resources for Training and Research

Several literature journals are housed or partially housed at the Graduate Center, and training in editorial work is available. Students in the program frequently have an opportunity to teach undergraduate courses in the various colleges of the City University and are given preference for such positions according to the regulations of the University.

En-route M.A.

Upon completing 45 credits with an average grade of B, passing the First Examination, and satisfactorily completing a major research paper, a doctoral student may apply for an en-route M.A. degree. Those seeking an en-route master's degree should have the Executive Officer initiate the appropriate action.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

In addition to the general University requirements stated earlier in this bulletin, the applicant is required to have received a bachelor's degree with a major in one of the following subjects: Comparative Literature; English; a modern foreign language (e.g., French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish) or a classical language acceptable to the Admissions Committee; philosophy; history; or other fields acceptable to the Admissions Committee.

In addition, the applicant should have a superior record in undergraduate courses in literature. An applicant who has an M.A. degree in a single literature and who meets the other special requirements may also be eligible for admission.

Applicants must possess linguistic and literary preparation sufficient to qualify for admission to graduate courses in a foreign literature of their choice. They are also required to have a reading knowledge of an approved second foreign language, which should permit them to read literature in this language with ease. This knowledge of a second foreign language may be tested by a written examination. An applicant presenting only one foreign language may be admitted to matriculation conditionally. Any conditions must be satisfied, normally through examination, before the completion of 15 credits.

The applicant for the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature with a specialization in Classics is required to have a knowledge of Classical Greek and Latin. Applicants who have not studied one of the classical languages are advised to investigate the Latin/Greek Institute at the Graduate Center.

The applicant for the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature with a specialization in German must be proficient in German.

The applicant for a Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature in the Italian specialization is required to demonstrate proficiency in all Italian language skills.

All applicants are required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS

Course of Study A minimum of 30 credits, which should normally be distributed in the following manner, is required:

15 credits in Comparative Literature. All students are required to complete C L 79500 Theory and Practice of Literary Scholarship and Criticism in the first year.

12 or more credits in individual national literatures, in courses offered in other literature programs. At least 6 of these credits must be in a foreign literature.

3 credits to be determined in consultation with the Executive Officer.

Upon completion of 30 credits, students will be required to take a written examination. This examination will test the students' general competence in Comparative Literature as well as in their special areas of literature. A special circular obtained from the Executive Officer provides detailed information and instructions. Students enrolled in the Ph.D. program who wish to meet the requirements for the Master of Arts may take the First Examination in lieu of the written comprehensive examination.

The student must demonstrate by written examination a reading knowledge of two approved foreign languages. The Executive Officer may recommend exemption from a language examination for students who have passed at least two graduate courses in the literature of that language with a grade of A or B in each course.

After passing the comprehensive examination, the student will be required to write a thesis on an approved subject. It may be directed by any member of the Comparative Literature doctoral faculty, subject to the written approval of the faculty member and the Executive Officer. The thesis must be approved by a faculty committee. A registration form is obtainable from the Executive Officer.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

In addition to the normal Ph.D. in Comparative Literature described below, three forms of the degree are also available with special concentrations in Italian, Classics, and German. Graduate work in Italian is offered in consortium with New York University. Graduate work in Classics is offered in cooperation with the Graduate Program in Classics at the Graduate Center and with the departments of classics at New York University and Fordham University. Further information, including special requirements, is available upon application to the Executive Officer.

In addition to the general University requirements, stated earlier in this bulletin, the student must complete the following special requirements.

Course of Study The student is required to follow a course of study approved in writing by the Executive Officer, a Deputy Executive Officer, or the student's faculty adviser in the program. A minimum of 66 graduate credits are required for the degree. Additional credits may be required at the discretion of the program's officers and the student's adviser.

The student's course of study will normally include work in at least three literatures. In one literature, the student is expected to acquire a thorough historical knowledge of the literature from its origins through its major phases, the texts to be studied in the original. In the other two literatures, the work will reflect the student's special interests.

With the approval of the Executive Officer, a Deputy Executive Officer, or the student's faculty adviser in the program, work in cultural disciplines related to literature, such as anthropology, philosophy, art history, social and intellectual history, political science, theatre, and musicology, may be incorporated in the student's program.

C L 79500, Theory and Practice of Literary Scholarship and Criticism, is required of all students in their first year and of all students admitted with advanced standing who have not

had the course or its equivalent. History of Literary Theory and Criticism I and History of Literary Theory and Criticism II are also required.

The 66 credits should normally be distributed in the following manner:

36 credits in Comparative Literature.

18 credits in individual national literatures, in courses offered in other literature programs. At least 12 of these credits must be in a foreign literature. The primary texts assigned in these courses must be in the foreign language.

12 credits to be determined in consultation with the advisory committee or its representative.

For a student specializing in Classics, the courses should normally be distributed in the following manner: 21 credits in Comparative Literature, including the required courses indicated above, and 12 credits to be determined in consultation with the Executive Officer, a Deputy Executive Officer, or the student's faculty adviser in the program.

For a student specializing in German the courses should normally be distributed in the following manner: 36 credits in Germanic Languages and Literatures, 24 credits in Comparative Literature, including the required courses indicated above, and 6 credits to be determined in consultation with the Executive Officer, a Deputy Executive Officer, or the student's faculty adviser in the program.

First Examination The First Examination, a written examination, should be passed after the student has completed 30 credits. The examination will test the student's familiarity with a range of major works in at least two literatures and the ability to analyze these works in their critical and historical contexts. It will also test the student's command of the theory and methods of Comparative Literature. Permission to proceed to more advanced courses is contingent upon the student's performance in the First Examination.

Foreign Language Before students can be advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D., they must demonstrate by written examination a reading knowledge of three foreign languages, one classical, two modern. The classical language will normally be Latin or Classical Greek. (Training in Classics is available through the Latin/Greek Institute.) Only when a student's course of study makes a compelling case may another language be substituted for Latin or Greek. Petition for such a substitution must be made to the program's Executive Committee. In no case may another modern language be substituted for this requirement. The choice of modern languages must be approved by the Executive Officer and will be determined by (1) relevance to the student's areas of literary concentration and (2) the existence of significant criticism or critical writing in the language. Likewise, a student concentrating on the literatures of the Middle East could be required to substitute ancient Hebrew.

For students specializing in Classics, the required languages are Classical Greek, Latin, and either French or German.

The Executive Officer may recommend exemption from a language examination for students who have passed at least two graduate courses in the literature of that language with a grade of A or B in each course. Students are required to make full use of their command of foreign languages in their courses in Comparative Literature. Students must have an excellent command of English.

Teaching It is the policy of the program that all candidates for the Ph.D. should acquire some college teaching experience as part of the requirements for the degree.

Second Examination The Second Examination will consist of two oral comprehensives. A special circular obtainable from the Executive Officer provides detailed information and instructions.

Dissertation The dissertation must be on a subject approved by a committee of the doctoral faculty and directed by a member of the faculty. After the dissertation has been approved by the sponsoring committee, the candidate shall defend it at an oral examination.

THE DOCTORAL SPECIALIZATION IN ITALIAN

Graduate work in Italian literature and linguistics leading to the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature is offered within an Italian specialization. Students follow a course of study that, while enabling them to develop specific competence in all periods of Italian literature and in Italian linguistics, stresses the importance of a comparative basis of inquiry and analysis. Students enrolled in the Italian specialization will normally take a minimum of 39 credits in Italian (9 of which may be tutorials), 18 credits in Comparative Literature including the required courses indicated for Comparative Literature majors, and 9 credits in a related field. The First Examination will test the student's familiarity with the minor and major works of Italian literature and the ability to analyze these works in their critical and historical contexts. It will also test the student's command of theory and methods of Comparative Literature. Permission to proceed to more advanced courses is contingent upon the student's performance in the First Examination. All other Comparative Literature requirements and procedures are applicable to the Italian specialization.

Students in the specialization may enroll in an Italian Studies track. They will take a minimum of 48 credits in Italian; 9 of these may be taken in tutorials; 18 of the 48 may be outside of this Ph.D. program in courses designated as Italian Studies by the director of the Italian specialization; 18 credits must be in Comparative Literature, including the three required courses indicated for Comparative Literature majors. The First and Second Examinations will retain the Italian and comparative literature components defined above. They will also accommodate students' individual Italian Studies interests. Dissertations in Italian Studies will be supervised by faculty in the student's chosen areas of specialization, as for example, Italian language and literature, art, cinema, or history.

Students choosing the specialization's Literature and Linguistics track will take 48 credits in these two fields of Italian studies. Students in this track will also take 18 credits in Comparative Literature, 9 of them in the three required courses. Examinations will retain their Italian and Comparative Literature components as defined in the first paragraph on "The Doctoral Specialization in Italian."

Courses

Unless otherwise stated, all courses are *30 hours plus conferences, 3-4 credits*.

C L 70000 Colloquium on Literary Problems

1 credit

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- C L 70100 Epic Tradition
- C L 70300* Literature and the Ancient World
- C L 70700 Medieval Literature
- C L 71000 The European Renaissance
- C L 72000 The Literature of the Baroque
Prerequisite: Ability to read two modern European languages
- C L 74000* The Modern Period
- C L 75000* Early European Fiction
- C L 75100 Studies in the Novel
- C L 78100 Studies in Literary Periods
May be taken more than once.
- C L 78200 Studies in Literary Genres
May be taken more than once.
- C L 79500 Theory and Practice of Literary Scholarship and Criticism
Required of all students in their first year of residence.
- C L 79600 Teaching Great Books
15 hours, 2 credits
- C L 79800 Independent Studies
Variable credit up to 6 credits
Directed reading under faculty supervision. Independent study would normally be undertaken in areas in which courses in either comparative literature or national literatures are not available. The student may request that the instructor assign the grade of Pass or Fail in lieu of a letter grade. The instructor may do so at his/her discretion.
Prerequisite: Written approval of the Executive Officer
- C L 80100 Seminar: Special Topics in Comparative Literature
The subject will vary from semester to semester and will be regularly announced.
Prerequisite: This course is intended primarily for advanced doctoral students. Written approval of the Executive Officer is required. Specific course and/or language prerequisites will be announced.
- C L 80200* Seminar: The Classical Tradition and Latin Literature in the Middle Ages
Prerequisite: Ability to read Medieval Latin
- C L 80700 Seminar in Medieval Literature
- C L 80900 Seminar in Renaissance Literature
- C L 82200* Seminar: Studies in the Enlightenment
Prerequisite: Ability to read two European languages
- C L 84000 Seminar: Studies in the Romantic Movement
Prerequisite: Ability to read two modern European languages
- C L 85000 Studies in the Modern Period
- C L 85500 Seminar in World Literature
- C L 86000* Seminar: Studies in Prose Fiction
- C L 86200 Seminar: Studies in the Symbolist Movement
Prerequisite: Ability to read two modern European languages
- C L 86300 Seminar: Studies in Poetry

C L 86500* Seminar: Perspectives on Literature and Art

4 credits

C L 87000* Seminar: Studies in European Drama

C L 88000 Seminar in Italian Philology and Linguistics, Variable Topics

May be taken more than once.

C L 88100 Studies in Dante, Variable Topics

C L 88200 Studies in Italian Poetry, Variable Topics

C L 88300 Studies in Italian Narrative Prose, Variable Topics

C L 88400 Studies in Italian Philosophical and Literary Thought, Variable Topics

C L 88500 Workshop in Modern and Contemporary Literary and Cultural Studies, Variable Topics

Variable credit

C L 88600 Studies in Italian Drama

C L 89000 Seminar: Aesthetics and Literary Theory

4 credits

C L 89100 History of Literary Theory and Criticism I

C L 89200 History of Literary Theory and Criticism II

C L 89400* Seminar: Problems in Translation

C L 89800 Independent Studies

Variable credit up to 6 credits

Directed reading under faculty supervision. Independent study would normally be undertaken in areas in which courses in either comparative literature or national literatures are not available.

The student may request that the instructor assign the grade of Pass or Fail in lieu of a letter grade. The instructor may do so at his or her discretion.

Prerequisite: Written approval of the Executive Officer. Open only to students who have passed the First Examination.

C L 90000 Dissertation Supervision

1 credit

Interdisciplinary Course

IDS 80500 Text and Music: A Consideration of Structures

30 hours, 3 credits

Offered jointly by the Ph.D. Programs in Comparative Literature and Music.

*offered infrequently