

Mission Statement

The mission of the Program in Comparative Literature Major at City College complements those of the Department of English and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The Comparative Literature Major aims to provide students with an appreciation of literature as a form of knowledge and understanding from which they can derive both pleasure and instruction. Through thoughtful engagement with works of literature from in two or more languages, Comparative Literature majors also learn how to think critically about themselves and their world, to develop their own powers of expression, and to gain a deeper awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Learning Outcomes

Student with the B.A. in Comparative Literature will:

- Know how to read closely, critically, and deeply in at least two different languages.
- Be familiar with a broad range of literary texts written in one language, and with a more limited range of texts written in a second language.
- Be familiar with the basic periods in the history of one literary tradition, and have at least some preliminary acquaintance with a second.
- Have a critical and aesthetic appreciation of a variety of literary modes, genres and uses of figurative language.
- Know how to construct written arguments grounded in textual evidence and strengthened by research.
- Be able to write clear, strong prose, preferably, though not necessarily, in two languages.
- Know how to discuss a literary text in its biographical, historical, aesthetic, and philosophical contexts.
- Possess an awareness of literature as both a tradition and a set of responses to that tradition.
- Be prepared for graduate study, particularly in literary studies, or for a career in translation, journalism, publishing, law, teaching, administration, or public relations.

Learning Outcome Grid

(Outcomes are numbered from 1 to 16 as listed below)

1. Be able to read primary texts for general comprehension in a first language, which may or may not be English.
2. Be able to critically interpret primary texts in a first language, which may or may not be English.
3. Be able to read primary texts for general comprehension in a second language, which may or may not be English.
4. Be able to critically interpret primary texts in a second language, which may or may not be English.
5. Be familiar with a broad range of literary texts written in one language, and with a more limited range of texts written in a second language.
6. Be familiar with the basic periods in the history of one literary tradition, and have at least some preliminary acquaintance with a second.
7. Have a critical and aesthetic appreciation of a variety of literary modes, genres and uses of figurative language.
8. Know how to discuss a literary text in its biographical, historical, aesthetic, and philosophical contexts.
9. Be able to compare works of the same genre from two or more literary-linguistic cultures.
10. Be able to compare works of similar theme from two or more literary-linguistic cultures.
11. Be able to compare ancient and modern works of similar theme or genre.
12. Have an awareness of the possibilities of cross-cultural literary influence and interaction, with attention to geographical, historical, and linguistic differences and connections.
13. Be able to investigate, evaluate, and apply secondary sources of information in research.
14. Be able to write clear, strong prose in a first language, which may or may not be English, and have some experience writing prose in a second language, which may or may not be English.
15. Know how to construct written arguments grounded in textual evidence and strengthened by research.
16. Be prepared for graduate study, particularly in literary studies, or for a career in translation, journalism, publishing, law, teaching.

Courses	Learning Outcomes		
	Comp. Lit. 35000	Comp. Lit. 31XXX	Comp. Lit. 41XXX
1	X	X	X
2	X	X	X
3			X
4			X
5	X	X	X
6	X	X	X
7	X	X	X
8	X	X	X
9	X	X	X
10	X	X	X
11	X	X	X
12	X	X	X
13	X	X	X
14	X	X	X
15	X	X	X
16			X

COURSE KEY

Comparative Literature

35000 – Introduction to Comparative Literature

31xxx – Special Topics in Comparative Literature

41xxx – Special Topics in Comparative Literature (Senior Seminar)