

# COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

## PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR

### High School Preparation

Recommended as part of or in addition to UC's "a-g" admission requirements:

**English composition and literature,  
Two or more years of foreign language,  
English, European, World and American history and civilization.**

### Transfer Preparation

To make normal progress in the major, complete the following courses prior to transfer:

**Two years (or equivalent) of a language other than English.  
Three courses from: European Literatures, Asian Literatures, Middle Eastern Literatures, African Literatures, or American Literatures  
One year of Western Civilization, world history, Western art history or history of Western philosophy.**

Please see the UCSB *General Catalog* ([www.catalog.ucsb.edu](http://www.catalog.ucsb.edu)) or your school counselor for more information on course preparation. California community college students should see [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org).

An interdepartmental undergraduate program, Comparative Literature combines the study of national literatures with courses that address the relationship between literature and other disciplines such as anthropology, cultural studies, gender studies, philosophy, linguistics, media and technology studies, psychoanalysis, religious studies, and fine and performing arts.

Comparative Literature majors study literary theory, periods of world literature, themes, movements and genres. Comparative Literature majors might investigate the development of the Faust tradition from the Middle Ages to the present. They might examine the development of notions of self and community as represented in a literary tradition, or trace a theme such as the bohemian in film and literature.

### The Major

UCSB offers the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Comparative Literature. Comparative Literature majors select either a foreign language or interdisciplinary emphasis. To prepare for the major, students must take two years of a foreign language appropriate for their field of study; three lower-division comparative literature courses; and one of the three-course series in world history, art history, history of philosophy, or religious studies. Students should complete their preparatory classes in their freshman and sophomore years in order to make normal progress towards completion of their degree. The major requires 44 upper-division (junior and senior level) units, which include literature classes taught in translation and in foreign languages.

The Comparative Literature Program is interdepartmental. Faculty come from the departments of Art Studio, Classics, Theater, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, English, Film Studies, French and Italian, Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies, and Spanish and Portuguese. The Comparative Literature chairperson and advisory board committee members help students plan appropriate programs of study.

### The Minor

The Comparative Literature program also offers a minor in Comparative Literature. The minor requires two years of any foreign language taught at UCSB; two lower division comparative literature courses, and several upper-division comparative literature courses.

### Comparative Literature and Careers

The study of comparative literature, like the study of all liberal arts, is designed to prepare students for a broad range of careers as well as continued study in graduate school and professional programs. Comparative literature majors develop skills and abilities that can be applied in a number of areas. For example, comparative literature majors:

- develop effective oral and written communication skills;
- gain insight into cultures other than their own through the study of language and literature;
- learn to analyze multiple forms of writing: literary, historical, theoretical, and philosophical;

Students will also acquire an awareness of individual and group behavior, and an understanding of social relations, and will develop planning, organizational and analytic skills.

A degree in Comparative Literature provides preparation for possible careers as teachers and scholars in literary and cultural studies, as well as for careers that require familiarity with multi-cultural perspectives, such as journalism, business, law and diplomacy.

Students interested in teaching and research at the university level should plan to complete a doctoral degree. Students interested in teaching at the community college level should pursue graduate work at least through the master's degree. Teaching at the high school level requires the California Single Subject Teaching Credential. Students considering a high school teaching career should discuss their plans with the credential advisor in UCSB's Graduate School of Education early in their academic career.

For more information about UCSB's Comparative Literature major, please call or write to:

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