

## Interested in This Major?

**Current Students:** Visit us in Curtin Hall, Room 772, call us at 414-229-4382, or email [comp-lit@uwm.edu](mailto:comp-lit@uwm.edu)

**Not a UWM Student yet?** Call our Admissions Counselor at 414-229-7711 or email [let-sci@uwm.edu](mailto:let-sci@uwm.edu)

**web:** [uwm.edu/comparative-literature](http://uwm.edu/comparative-literature)



## What is Comparative Literature?

Comparative Literature moves beyond the borders of any one country or linguistic community to

**Comparative Literature is a great major if you love exploring other cultures.**

study literature across languages, geographies, time periods, and genres. Comparative Literature also examines the relationship between

literature and other forms of cultural expression and human experience, including popular culture, technology, other arts, and other disciplines such as anthropology, history, philosophy, political science, religion, or women's and gender studies.

## Comparative Literature at UWM

The Comparative Literature Program at UWM offers an undergraduate major and minor as well as a graduate concentration within the Master of Arts in Language, Literature, and Translation (MALLT). All courses are taught in English, although all instructors read and conduct research in at least two languages other than English.

Comparative literature faculty have expertise in a wide range of modern and classical languages and literary traditions from around the globe. You will benefit from their extensive knowledge as you explore diverse international literatures and cultures in your classes.

With so many possible approaches to literature and culture, it's difficult to describe the focus of a "typical" CompLit class, but course materials might include traditional literary works such as novels and poems; other art forms, including film, music,

or painting; sacred texts like the Bible or the Koran; and such non-fictional texts as literary criticism, political theory, philosophical treatises, historical analysis, or cultural analysis.

Comparative Literature offers the majority of its courses at UWM in a traditional classroom format, but we teach a number of courses online as well, and the minor can be completed entirely online. We continue to develop new online offerings, recognizing the diversity of our students' learning styles and schedules.

Comparative literature students learn and develop the following skills:

- Critical Analysis
- Exceptional writing
- Strong research skills
- Cross-cultural communication
- International understanding.

**These skills are increasingly valued in the contemporary workforce across many different fields.**

## Career Opportunities

The internationally-focused analytical and communication skills of comparative literature graduates prepare them for careers in international business, public relations, advertising, foreign service, governmental agencies, and non-profit agencies as well as positions more traditionally associated with literary studies like teacher, writer, editor, translator, and librarian. The major also prepares students for graduate or professional school, not only in literature or other fields in the humanities but also in law, medicine, library and information studies, social sciences, or business.



## Major Requirements

A total of 36 credits is required for the major, including:

Course #	Course Title
CompLit 207	World Literature in Translation: Antiquity through the 1600s
CompLit 208	World Literature in Translation: The 17th to the 21st Century
Either CompLit 463 or 464	
At least 24 credits of the 36 credits must be at the 300-level or above.	

There are two options within the major. Option A is recommended for students who plan to pursue a graduate degree in comparative literature and requires that 9-12 credits of the student's advanced level courses be completed in literature courses taught in a foreign language.

Option B is recommended for students with little or no training in a foreign language. Students complete all of their advanced level requirements through courses in the analysis of literature or the other arts. While Option B provides strong training for many professions and fields of graduate study, it is not adequate preparation for graduate work in comparative literature.

## Minor Requirements

The minor requires 18 credits, including CompLit 207 and CompLit 208; either CompLit 133, CompLit 135, or a 200-level CompLit course; and 9 credits at the advanced level (numbered 300 or above).

The minor can be completed entirely online!

## Double Majors and Certificates

Double majors are not uncommon, and there a number of complementary programs.

Students pursuing degrees in foreign languages, English, and Film Studies often find that not only can comparative literature be integrated into their studies easily, but that many courses count toward both programs. The same is true of several interdisciplinary programs such as Religious Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and UWM's many internationally-focused majors such as Comparative Ethnic Studies, Global Studies, International Studies, Jewish Studies, and Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latin@ Studies.

Comparative Literature courses also frequently count toward many of UWM's interdisciplinary certificate

programs, including Ancient Mediterranean Studies; Asian Studies; Cultures and Communities; Digital Arts and Culture; Food Studies; French and Francophone Studies; Latin American and Caribbean Studies; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Studies; Middle Eastern and North African Studies; Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution; and Russian and East European Studies.

*Our alumni can be found working in university and K-12 education, real estate, politics, law, fundraising, library services, publishing, marketing, film production, editorial roles, corporate sales, communications, consulting, and many other fields.*

## Graduate Program

Comparative Literature is one of several concentrations in UWM's interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Language, Literature, and Translation (MALLT) program. Students apply to MALLT, taking courses in Comparative Literature and related programs. MALLT students may pursue double concentrations in another graduate program such foreign language, translation, or linguistics, and there is a joint MALLT degree with the Master of Library Information Science as well.

## Scholarships

The Comparative Literature Program administers the Roy Arthur Swanson Merit Scholarship in Comparative Literature, which is awarded each spring to one or more undergraduate students with a declared major or minor in comparative literature and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher in Comparative Literature courses. The award is \$500-\$1,000 for tuition and academic expenses.

You are also encouraged to regularly check the Financial Aid website for other campus or college scholarships for which you may qualify that are not major-specific.

Revised 07/2016



ComparativeLiteratureUWM



CompLitUWM



This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with this major in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their college education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started college prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

### Degree Requirements (brief summary):

1. English Proficiency and UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (fulfills Part A) and one OWC-Part B course.
2. Math Proficiency, UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER, and Formal Reasoning – two courses can satisfy all three requirements. Some courses have prerequisites, however, so a student may end up taking more than two total classes depending on his/her placement test scores. Students will usually take Math 103, 105, or 108 AND three credits in either a 200-level or above math course, Philosophy 211, or an approved Letters & Science statistics course.
3. Foreign Language – 4 semesters of a single Foreign Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language) (May be satisfied through 4 years of a single Foreign Language in high school.)
4. L&S Humanities – 12 credits
5. L&S Social Sciences – 12 credits
6. L&S Natural Science – 12 credits including one laboratory
7. L&S International – 9 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with Humanities and/or Social Science courses
8. UWM Arts GER – 3 credits
9. UWM Cultural Diversity GER – 3 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with a Humanities or Social Science course
10. 120 credits including 90 credits in L&S and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses
11. Complete the Comparative Literature major requirements in either Option A or Option B
  - 36 credits with at least 24 numbered 300 or above at least 15 of which are completed at UWM
  - Both CompLit 207 and 208
  - One of CompLit 463 or 464

#### Option A

- » Comparative Literature Electives to get to 36 credits with 9-12 credits in advanced literature courses taught in a foreign language

#### Option B

- » Comparative Literature Electives to get to 36 credits

### Sample Four Year Plan:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements and courses can count towards more than one requirement. For example, CompLit 207 counts towards the major and as a humanities. (This sample assumes some high school Foreign Language was taken such that the students tests into a higher class, and that the student places into college-level math and English.)

#### Option A

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 103 or 105	CompLit 208 (HU) (Int'l)
	3rd semester Foreign Language	4th semester Foreign Language
	CompLit 207 (HU) (Int'l)	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Social Science	QL-B course
Year 2	L&S Social Science/Cultural Diversity	Formal Reasoning
	5th semester Foreign Language	6th semester Foreign Language
	OWC-B course	L&S Social Science
	L&S Natural Science with lab	L&S Natural Science
	Arts GER	CompLit elective
Year 3	L&S Humanities, not CompLit	L&S Humanities, not CompLit
	Foreign Language advanced literature	Foreign Language advanced literature
	CompLit upper-level	CompLit upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	L&S Social Science	L&S Natural Science
Year 4	Foreign Language advanced literature	CompLit 463 or 464
	CompLit upper-level	CompLit upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	CompLit elective	Elective
	Elective	Elective

(HU) Humanities GER

(Int'l) International

Revised 07/2016



### Option B

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 103 or 105	ComplLit 208 (HU) (Int'l)
	1st semester Foreign Language	2nd semester Foreign Language
	ComplLit 207 (HU) (Int'l)	L&S Natural Science
	L&S Social Science	QL-B course
Year 2	L&S Social Science/Cultural Diversity	Formal Reasoning
	3rd semester Foreign Language	4th semester Foreign Language
	OWC-B course	L&S Social Science
	L&S Natural Science with lab	L&S Natural Science
	Arts GER	ComplLit elective
Year 3	L&S Humanities, not ComplLit	L&S Humanities, not ComplLit
	Literary or artistic analysis/ ComplLit elective	Literary or artistic analysis/ ComplLit elective
	ComplLit upper-level	ComplLit upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	L&S Social Science	L&S Natural Science
Year 4	Literary or artistic analysis/ ComplLit elective	ComplLit 463 or 464
	ComplLit upper-level	ComplLit upper-level
	L&S upper-level	L&S upper-level
	ComplLit elective	Elective
	Elective	Elective

(HU) Humanities GER

(Int'l) International