

School of Comparative Literary Studies

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The School

Director of the School:

Robert Polzin

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G.A. Woods

The School of Comparative Literary Studies offers programs of graduate study leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Comparative Literature. These programs, involving courses in comparative literary studies and, where appropriate, up to two courses from other departments, have considerable flexibility in the sense that they can be tailored to suit each student's special interests in particular periods or areas while, at the same time, through the core half courses, Comparative Literary Studies 17.501 and 17.502, and the final comprehensive examination, providing a specialized training in the techniques of comparative literary studies.

The purpose of the program in comparative literature is to study literature in its international context, and to relate and compare literary phenomena usually studied in isolation because of linguistic barriers and the traditional departmental division of academic disciplines. Thus, taking into account the interrelation of all humanistic studies, such as the various literatures, philosophy, psychology, sociology, the visual arts, and history, "comparatists" view literary creation within the total complex evolution of world literature. The historical flow of literary archetypes, the role of folklore and myth in literature, recurrent problems of literary theory, and consideration of the less well known literatures of the world are some of the objects of comparative literary studies.

The study of this discipline must be based on a truly comparative perspective, on a solid linguistic foundation, and on an awareness of all difficulties that arise in comparative literature, conceived as a domain both within and beyond the limits of national literatures.

Students registered in other departments, who wish to register in one or more courses from the comparative literature program, must demonstrate a reading knowledge of the languages required for each course. Such students are encouraged to emphasize their own area of literary study in

presentations and essays when the instructor judges that the content of the course(s) so permits. Three years of study at the university level will normally constitute the required level of language proficiency.

Qualifying-Year Program

The regulations governing admission to the qualifying-year program are outlined in the general section of this calendar.

Applicants who hold only a general (pass) B.A. degree will be required to successfully complete the basic half courses, Comparative Literary Studies 17.401: Foundations of Comparative Literary Studies and Comparative Literary Studies 17.402: Theories of Literature, and to take courses from other departments of literature, or Comparative Literary Studies (see *Undergraduate Calendar*) to achieve the equivalent of a combined honours B.A. with high honours standing.

The total course program is to be worked out in consultation with the graduate studies supervisor. Formal admission to the master's program may be considered at the end of the first term.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.401
Foundations of Comparative Literary Studies
The history of the discipline of comparative literature will be studied, including its beginnings in nineteenth-century France, its evolution, and its current status in Europe, the United States, and Canada.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.402
Theories of Literature
The course focuses on twentieth-century literary theories in the context of comparative studies, providing the student with an overall view of the theoretical discussion of literature from about 1920 to the present. Included in the study are Russian Formalism, American New Criticism, and such other approaches as the structuralist, semiotic, socio-cultural and hermeneutic.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

(Students enrolling in this course under the cross-listed 38.402 should note the requirements of the Department of Spanish).

Master of Arts

Admission Requirements

The regulations governing admission to the master's program are outlined in the general section of this calendar.

The specific requirements for admission to the master's program in comparative literature are the following:

- An honours B.A. degree (or equivalent) with at least high honours standing in a literature (studied in the original language) or in two literatures or in a literature and a related arts subject
- Proficiency in English
- An ability to work at the graduate level in an additional language approved by the School. Students whose record does not clearly demonstrate this ability will be required to take as part of their program at least one half credit in the literature of this second language in the original language

Program Requirements

Students accepted into the master's program without having taken the two half courses, Comparative Literary Studies 17.401 and Comparative Literary Studies 17.402 (or their equivalent), will be required to take these courses as extra to the degree.

Master's candidates in comparative literature will follow one of three programs. The specific requirements are as follows:

- The two half courses, Comparative Literary Studies 17.501: Problems in the Theory of Literature I and Comparative Literary Studies 17.502: Problems in the Theory of Literature II
- Two full graduate courses (or the equivalent) selected from those offered by Comparative Literary Studies. With departmental approval, one of these full courses may be a 400-level course. Courses in other programs in the University may also be selected with permission of the Graduate Committee, but normally not in excess of one full course (or the equivalent)
- *Either* Comparative Literary Studies 17.599: M.A. Thesis (equivalent to two full course credits); *or* Comparative Literary Studies 17.598: Research Essay (one full credit) and Comparative Literary Studies 17.593: M.A. Comprehensives (one full credit); *or* an additional full graduate course (or the equivalent) and 17.593: M.A. Comprehensives (one full credit)

Guidelines for Completion of Master's Degree in Comparative Literature

The master's program is normally completed no later than two years or six terms after initial full-time registration and six years or eighteen terms after initial part-time registration.

Graduate Courses*

A prerequisite for all graduate-level courses is appropriate linguistic ability and approval of the School of Comparative Literary Studies. A student may not receive credit for both a half course and a full course which bears the same topic title.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.501W1
Problems in the Theory of Literature I
Topic for 1994-95: Specular Narratology
The problems studied in this course include the following: what do narratives tell readers about the ways they construct themselves as stories about a certain reality? What do they tell us about their own truth value and the techniques they use to convey it? What do they tell us about the hermeneutics of either telling or reading a story?

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

Fernando de Toro.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.502W1
Problems in the Theory of Literature II
Topic for 1994-95: Reference, Sense and Meaning: Theoretical Problems in Interpretation
This course focuses on some of the theoretical problems that text semantics pose for literary interpretation. Emphasis is placed on exploring the external/internal fields of textual reference, the language-specific sense of discourse and the processes by which meaning effects are conveyed. Literary texts will come from twentieth-century English, French, German and Spanish poetry and short fiction.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

H.-G. Ruprecht.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.521F1
Literary History II: Studies of Themes and Myths
Topic for 1994-85: Forms of Displacement: Modernity and Travel
The course will examine questions pertaining to exile, emigration, exploration, nomadism and tourism in relation to the twentieth-century novel and short story. The reflection on travel and its role now taking

* F,W,S indicates term of offering. Courses offered in the fall *and* winter will be followed by T.

The number following the letter indicates the credit weight of the course: 1 denotes a half-course credit, 2 denotes a full-course credit, etc.

place in literary theory and such disciplines as anthropology, geography and psychoanalysis will also be considered. The authors on the reading list will include Achebe, Conrad, Forster, Gordimer, Joyce, Paci, Pavese, Jelloun. Providing the linkage with theory and non-literary discourses will be articles and excerpts by Bakhtin, Deleuze, Freud, Lévi-Strauss, Lotman, Lukacs, MacCannell, Said and Tuan.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
F.G. Loriggio.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.522F1
Literary History III: Periods, Styles and Movements
Topic for 1994-95: Lowell and Larkin: A Cross-Cultural Comparison

A comparison of the work and careers of Robert Lowell and Philip Larkin in the framework of their historical positions in American and British poetry. Particular attention will be paid to their attitudes to Anglo-American modernism. An attempt will be made to attain a focus on differences in development of American and British poetry in the mid-twentieth century. Texts by Lowell, Larkin, and Alvarez.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
(Also offered as English 18.561)
A.T. Tolley.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.523W1
Literary History IV: Form and Function of Genres
Topic for 1994-95: Updating the Comic: Laughter in Twentieth-Century Literature and Other Discourses
The focus of the course will be the function (transgressive, integrative etc.) of laughter in twentieth-century theatre and in the discussions of the comic and comedy undertaken by such disciplines as philosophy, psychoanalysis and anthropology. Literary texts will come primarily from Beckett, Campanile, Fo, Ionesco, Pirandello, Stoppard. Theoretical and non-literary material will include works or excerpts of works by Bergson, Bakhtin, Bataille, Eco, Eliade, Freud, Frye, Jung and Nietzsche. Some films (Marx Brothers, Woody Allen) will also be studied.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
F.G. Loriggio.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.532T2
Studies in the Literature of Identity
Topic for 1994-95: Female Identity: Writing by Women in the Twentieth Century
This course will explore topics such as gender and narrativity, women's space, marginalization, women and madness, and mothers and daughters in writing by women in the first half of the twentieth century in northern Europe and North America. The texts will be discussed from a cross-cultural perspective with reference to poststructuralist literary theory,

including feminist criticism. Texts include: Dinesen, Woolf, Colette, Stein, de Beauvoir, Skram, Undset, Salverson, and Roy.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
G.A. Woods.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.554T2
Cross Cultural Studies I: Literatures Written in the English Language
Topic for 1994-95: The Fourth World and the Edge of Empire

The course will study the emergence of indigenous literatures in the modern world. Attention will focus primarily on texts from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States but some works by South African and Latin-American writers will also be discussed, as will some works by non-indigenous writers. Among the authors included in the reading list are: Sally Morgan, Hyllus Maris (Australia); Witi Ihimaera, Keri Hulme (New Zealand); Marmon Silko, Gerald Vizenor, Alice Walker (U.S.); Wilma Stockenstrom (South Africa); Marquez (Columbia).

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
Before 1994-95 course 17.554 was offered as 17.550.
(Also offered as English 18.504)
J.J. Healy.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.556W1
Cross-Cultural Studies IIB: Literature of the of the Francophonie
Topic for 1994-95: Poétiques des littératures francophones dans l'espace antillais et les aires de diaspora

Analyse de l'émergence des littératures francophones des Caraïbes (Haïti, Martinique, Guadeloupe et Guyane). Les poétiques des poètes et poéticiens: A. Césaire, E. Glissant, Frankétienne, R. Depestre, L.G. Damas. Analyse de l'émergence d'une poésie migrante contemporaine (Montréal). Analyse des poétiques dans les aires de métissage culturel et littéraire, analyse des interrelations vernaculaires et véhiculaires.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.
Before 1994-95 course 17.556 was offered as 17.551.
Pierre Laurette.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.558W1
Comparative Canadian Literature I
Topic for 1994-95: Fictional Autobiographical Narratives: Theory and Practice
This course aims to define the characteristics of various autobiographical narratives/"récits autobiographiques" through the readings of theoretical works from France, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. Using a corpus of Québécois and English-Canadian novels, we will study the defining characteristics of various autobiographical "sous-genres" (diary, memoirs,

autobiography, epistolary, etc.) Although the course will emphasize fictional autobiographical narratives/"récits autobiographiques fictifs", we will also look at non-fictional autobiographical narratives. The fictional/factual opposition will allow for the discussion of a series of epistemological and narrative questions involving problems of simulation, reference, representation, fictionalization, postmodernism, historiography and the rhetoric of truth claims. Texts by H. Aquin, N. Brossard, D. Godfrey, D. Marlatt, M. Monette, M. Ouellette-Michalska, M. Ondaatje.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

Before 1994-95 course 17.558 was offered as 17.553. Julie LeBlanc.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.561F1

Studies in Postmodernism I

Topic for 1994-95: Postmodern Theory

This course deals with the theories of postmodernism and their relation to feminist theory in art, philosophy, architecture, literature, and theatre. Some of the authors that will be considered are J. Baudrillard, H. Cixous, T. de Lauretis, G. Deleuze, A. de Toro, D.W. Fokkema, F. Guattari, L. Hutcheon, L. Irigaray, C. Jencks, J. Kristeva, D. LaCapra, J-F. Lyotard, T. Moi, L. Nicholson, P. Portoghesi, G. Spivak, R. Venturi, A. Warhol.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School

Fernando de Toro.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.562W1

Studies in Postmodernism II

Topic for 1994-95: Postmodern Fiction

This course will examine postmodern fiction and fiction by women through focusing on their differences and similarities in the use of narrative strategies and techniques such as genre subversion, non-fictionality, memory, historicity, the palimpsest, intertextuality and rhizomatic writing in the work of authors such as K. Acker, J. Banville, J. Barnes, J.L. Borges, N. Brossard, A. Carter, H. Cixous, J.M. Coetzee, U. Eco, G. García, Márquez, M. Puig, A. Roa Bastos.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

Fernando de Toro.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.565F1

Intertextuality: Literature and Other Cultural Phenomena

Topic for 1994-95: Intertextuality as Discursive Appropriation, Subversion and Manipulation: Modern and Postmodern Artistic Practices

This course deals with the discursive manifestations of intertextual relations, i.e. with the various forms of textual networks including the ironic transformation of classic genres, the subversive use of canonic writings, and the manipulatory transcoding

of the cultural dialogue between modern and postmodern art, poetry, theatre and fiction. Texts by Anouilh, Atwood, Barnes, Borges, Brecht, Coetzee, Donoso, Eliot, Handtke, Joyce, Lima, Plenzdorf, Roth, Tournier, Vargas Llosa.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

H.-G. Ruprecht.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.580F1

Seminar in Comparative Literary Studies

Topic for 1994-95: Interfaces of Deconstruction: Nietzsche, Heidegger, Derrida and the Literary Experience

Devoted to the presentation and discussion of deconstructive thinking in contemporary criticism, the seminar concerns itself with the fundamental ideas and conceptual frameworks of deconstruction as practised by Jacques Derrida. This includes, necessarily, selected readings of Nietzsche's and Heidegger's writings about literature.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

H.-G. Ruprecht.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.582F1

Seminar in Comparative Literature

Topic for 1994-95: Critical Theory and the Bible

An exploration of trends in biblical scholarship influenced by current literary theory and the philosophy of language. Selected biblical texts from Deuteronomy through II Kings are interpreted according to these new approaches.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

(Also offered as Religion 34.520)

Robert Polzin.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.593F2, W2, S2

Comprehensives

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.595F3, W3

Study Abroad

Under the terms of the accord with l'Université de Picardie in France, Università di Bari in Italy, and Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina, students may do a part of their work for the M.A. in Comparative Literature in France, Italy and Argentina. The content of the study will be decided by the School of Comparative Literary Studies at Carleton. Only students sponsored by the School under the exchange may take this course. Work done in France, Italy and Argentina will be the subject of a report from l'Université de Picardie, Università di Bari, and the Universidad de Buenos Aires and will receive a final grade awarded by the School of Comparative Literary Studies at Carleton.

Prerequisite: Permission of the School.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.596T2

Directed Special Studies

From time to time, students whose main interests are not covered by courses offered in a given year may pursue independent research, subject to the availability of a qualified adviser and relevant library resources at Carleton. Interested students should apply directly to the supervisor of graduate studies.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.597F1, W1, S1

Directed Special Studies

From time to time, students whose main interests are not covered by courses offered in a given year may pursue independent research, subject to the availability of a qualified adviser and relevant library resources at Carleton. Interested students should apply directly to the supervisor of graduate studies. Before 1993-94 course 17.597 was offered as 17.598.

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.598F2, W2, S2

Research Essay

- Comparative Literary Studies 17.599F4, W4, S4

M.A. Thesis

Courses Not Offered in 1994-95

17.520	Literary History I
17.540	Studies in Modernism and Postmodernism
17.543	Paraliterature
17.555	Cross-Cultural Studies II: Literature of the Francophonie
17.557	Cross-Cultural Studies III: Literature of the Luso-Hispanic World
17.559	Comparative Canadian Literature II
17.571	The Theory and Practice of Translation
17.581	Seminar in Comparative Literature