

Department of Comparative Literature

Herschel J. Farbman, Department Chair

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Comparative Literature is the study of the world through its literatures and cultures. Critical theory and translation provide frameworks for making moves: across languages, media, geographic borders, and political visions. In the Department of Comparative Literature, graduate and undergraduate students immerse themselves in national and regional literatures—of Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America, and Europe—while simultaneously placing those cultural practices within dynamic global exchanges, both historical and contemporary. Through courses, conferences, collaborative projects, and digital media, Comparative Literature at UCI advances critical cosmopolitanism—a kind of worldliness cultivated by creative engagements with power, peoples, and their symbolic practices. From novel to poetry, drama to film, monuments to political protest, comics to audio, urban space to visual culture—Comparative Literature introduces students to global cultures in the widest sense, and to the theoretical lenses essential for putting them in perspective. Writing, speaking, visualizing, blogging, social networking: through multiple media Comparative Literature students at every level interpret and engage with other academics and publics outside the academy. Together, students of Comparative Literature strive for a continually evolving practice of critical awareness and political action: a global literacy and citizenship through which to face the challenges of life and work in the 21st century.

The Department seeks to foster and maintain a lively community that includes undergraduates, graduates, and faculty, and to that end holds a variety of meetings and activities so that majors can get to know one another and other members of the Department.

- Comparative Literature, B.A.
- Comparative Literature, M.A.
- Comparative Literature, Minor
- Comparative Literature, Ph.D.

Faculty

M. Ackbar Abbas, M.Phil. University of Hong Kong, *Professor of Comparative Literature; East Asian Studies* (Hong Kong culture and postcolonialism, visual culture, architecture and cinema, cultural theory, globalization)

Aijaz Ahmad, *Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature* (critical theory, world literature, marxism, tricontinental social thought)

Eyal Amiran, Ph.D. University of Virginia, *Professor of Comparative Literature* (digital media theory, twentieth-century literature, narrative and textual theory, psychoanalysis, modern and postmodern intellectual history)

Alicia Carroll, Ph.D. University of California, Riverside, *Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature; English* (19th-century American literature; Native American and Indigenous literature and cultural studies; gender and sexuality studies; queer Indigenous studies; Indigenous feminisms; autobiography; American Indian boarding school studies; settler colonialism)

Herschel Farbman, Ph.D. Yale University, *Department Chair and Associate Professor of Comparative Literature; French* (modernism, critical theory)

Alexander Gelley, Ph.D. Yale University, *Professor Emeritus of Comparative Literature* (eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European novel, critical theory)

David Theo Goldberg, Ph.D. The Graduate Center, City University of New York, *Director of the UC Humanities Research Institute and Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature; Anthropology; Criminology, Law and Society* (race, racism, race and the law, political theory, South Africa, digital humanities)

Susan C. Jarratt, Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, *Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature; Education* (histories and theories of rhetoric, ancient Greek rhetoric, writing studies)

Adriana M. Johnson, Ph.D. Duke University, *Associate Professor of Comparative Literature* (Latin American literature and film, subaltern studies, postcolonial studies, politics and culture)

Steven J. Mailloux, Ph.D. University of Southern California, *Professor Emeritus of English; Comparative Literature*

Catherine Malabou, Ph.D. Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, *UCI Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature; French; German* (German idealism, contemporary French philosophy, cultural theory, neurobiology, epigenetics)

Liron Mor, Ph.D. Cornell University, *Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature* (literary and critical theory, contemporary Israeli and Palestinian literature and film, postcolonial theories, conflict, sympathy, questions of translation and literary adaptation)

Jane O. Newman, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Professor of Comparative Literature; English; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies* (comparative Renaissance and early modern literature and culture [English, French, German, Italian, neo-Latin], Mediterranean Renaissance studies, Baroque, afterlives of antiquity, Walter Benjamin, Erich Auerbach, pre-modern lessons for the modern and post-modern)

Margot Norris, Ph.D. State University of New York College at Buffalo, *Professor Emerita of English; Comparative Literature*

Nasrin Rahimieh, Ph.D. University of Alberta, *Director of the Humanities Core Program and Howard Baskerville Professor of Comparative Literature; European Languages and Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Modern Persian literature and culture, diaspora studies, women's writing.)

John C. Rowe, Ph.D. State University of New York College at Buffalo, *Professor Emeritus of English; Comparative Literature*

Annette M. Schlichter, Ph.D. Humboldt University of Berlin, *Associate Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature* (feminist theory and criticism, queer theory, critiques of heterosexuality, contemporary American literature, gender and literature, voice studies)

Beryl F. Schlossman, Doctorate University of Paris 7, Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University, *Professor of Comparative Literature* (Modern literature, critical theory, film studies, psychoanalysis, the arts in society.)

Gabriele M. Schwab, Ph.D. University of Konstanz, *Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature; Anthropology; Culture and Theory; European Languages and Studies; German* (modern literature, critical theory, psychoanalysis, comparative literature)

Rei Terada, Ph.D. Boston University, *Director of Critical Theory and Professor of Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory* (theory, poststructuralism, nineteenth- and twentieth-century poetry)

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, B.A. Makerere University, *UCI Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature; English* (African and Caribbean literatures, theater and film, performance studies, cultural and political theory)

Georges Y. Van Den Abbeele, Ph.D. Cornell University, *Professor of Comparative Literature; English; European Languages and Studies; French* (French and European philosophical literature, travel narrative and tourism/migration studies, critical theory and aesthetics, francophone literature, history of cartography, media history and theory)

Sholeh Wolpe, M.A. Northwestern University, *Writer-in-Residence and Lecturer of Comparative Literature*

Affiliate Faculty

Elizabeth G. Allen, Ph.D. University of Michigan, *Professor of English; Comparative Literature; European Languages and Studies; Religious Studies* (Chaucer, Gower, 15th century poetry; exemplary literature, romance, chronicle, episodic form; intersections between ethics and politics, politics and religion; hospitality, sovereignty, legal and constitutional history of England)

Nahum D. Chandler, Ph.D. University of Chicago, *Professor of African American Studies; Asian American Studies; Comparative Literature; English; European Languages and Studies* (modern philosophy, intellectual history, history of the human sciences)

Hu Ying, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Professor of Chinese; Comparative Literature* (narrative literature, translation theory, feminist theory)

Virginia W. Jackson, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Chair in Rhetoric and Communication and Associate Professor of English; Comparative Literature* (poetics, 19th, 20th and 21st century American poetry, 19th century American literature and culture, the history of literary theory)

Ketu H. Katrak, Ph.D. Bryn Mawr College, *Professor of Drama; Comparative Literature; English* (drama and performance, African drama and Ancient Sanskrit drama [from India], postcolonial literature and theory, women writers and feminist theory)

Jerry Won Lee, Ph.D. University of Arizona, *Associate Professor of English; Anthropology; Asian American Studies; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory; East Asian Studies*

Horacio Legras, Ph.D. Duke University, *Department Chair and Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory; European Languages and Studies* (Latin American literature and culture, Latin American film, visual arts in Latin America, psychoanalysis, and photography)

Margherita Long, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Associate Professor of Japanese; Comparative Literature* (modern Japanese literature and film, environmental humanities, feminism, eco-documentary)

Julia R. Lupton, Ph.D. Yale University, *Director of Illuminations and Professor of English; Comparative Literature; Education; Religious Studies* (Renaissance literature, literature and psychology)

Tyrus Miller, Ph.D. Stanford University, *Dean of the School of Humanities and Professor of English; Art History; Comparative Literature; Visual Studies* (modernist and avant-garde studies in literature and visual arts; critical theory and aesthetics; modern architecture and urbanism; East-Central European studies; culture of socialism and post-socialism; Frankfurt School theory)

Carrie J. Noland, Ph.D. Harvard University, *Director of the International Center for Writing and Translation and Professor of French; Comparative Literature* (20th-century poetry and poetics, avant-garde movements in art and literature, critical theory, performance studies)

Laura B. O'Connor, Ph.D. Columbia University, *Associate Professor of English; Comparative Literature* (Irish literature, twentieth-century poetry, Anglo-American modernism)

Rajagopalan Radhakrishnan, Ph.D. Binghamton University, State University of New York, *Distinguished Professor of English; African American Studies; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory* (critical theory, postcoloniality, nationalisms and diasporas, poststructuralism, postmodernism, democracy and minority discourse, cultural studies, globalization and transnationalism)

John H. Smith, Ph.D. Princeton University, *Department Chair and Professor of German; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory; Religious Studies* (18th- and 19th-century literature and intellectual history, literary theory)

Jennifer Terry, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, *Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies; Comparative Literature* (cultural studies, social theory; science and technology studies, formations of gender and sexuality, critical approaches to modernity, American studies in transnational perspective, processes of militarization)

Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, *Associate Professor of African American Studies; Comparative Literature; Culture and Theory; Political Science* (South Africa, poor whites, race in foreign policy, diaspora, comparative racial politics, third world feminisms, feminist pedagogy, black political thought)

Courses

COM LIT 3. Just Reading: Developing the Reading Experience . 4 Units.

Develops the reading experience apart from writing. Develops tools for sustained attention in reading practice across a wide range of genres and media from across the globe. Students learn to appreciate elements of reading experience such as attention and perplexity.

(IV and VIII).

COM LIT 8. Travels in Comparative Literature. 4 Units.

Readings in English and in English translation on such topics as love, war, cities, travel writing, politics, fantasy and science fiction, violence.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

(IV)

COM LIT 9. Introduction to Multiculturalism. 4 Units.

Various themes and forms of literary and cultural production within a multicultural framework, including African American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American literatures and cultures.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

(IV, VII)

COM LIT 10. Topics in World Literature. 4 Units.

Introduction to texts from across the globe and from different historical periods. Readings in English and English translation.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

(IV and VIII).

COM LIT 60A. World Literature. 4 Units.

An introduction to the comparative study of literatures and cultures in a global context. Studies literary texts and other media across the borders of various cultures, historical periods, and traditions. All texts are read in English translation.

(IV and VIII).

COM LIT 60B. Reading with Theory. 4 Units.

Introduction to theory and methods of literary and cultural criticism in a global context. Students read theoretical approaches to literature, culture, and ideas. Marx and Freud, e.g., may be studied alongside readings in narrative poetry, film, song lyrics, novel.

(IV, VIII)

COM LIT 60C. Cultural Studies. 4 Units.

Introduces students to a variety of cultural practices (literature, blogs, films, radio, comics) from across the globe. Focuses on the ways that context, genre, and medium (e.g., written, visual, oral) affect how these practices are produced, circulated, and received.

(IV, VIII)

COM LIT 100A. Nations, Regions, and Beyond. 4 Units.

Intensive study of national and regional cultural and literary traditions from across the globe, among them the literary and cultural production of the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas, and Asia.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 101W. An Introduction to Translation Studies. 4 Units.

Focuses on theories of translation and on how these theories help students understand the role of translation in the world. Students develop a critical vocabulary for discussing translation in multiple linguistic traditions and complete a final translation project.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement. Working knowledge of at least one foreign language.

(Ib)

COM LIT 102W. Comparative Studies in Literature and Theory. 4 Units.

In-depth discussion of special topics.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

(Ib)

COM LIT 105. Topics in Comparative Multiculturalism. 4 Units.

Treats the literatures and cultures of one or more minority groups in California and the United States, including African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicano/Latinos, and Native Americans, and their relations to other national literatures.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the lower-division writing requirement.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

COM LIT 107. Colonialisms and Postcolonialisms. 4 Units.

Explores topics such as colonialism and race, decolonization, pre- and postcoloniality, globalization, and the cultural dynamics of colonization and subjectivity.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 108. Diasporic Literatures and Cultures. 4 Units.

Literatures, cultures, and histories of diasporic groups, e.g., literature of the Persian diaspora; cinema of the African diaspora.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 121. Narrative, Pattern, and Text. 4 Units.

Explores textual patterns, structures, and effects. May include topics such as novel, hypertext, genre, reader responses, intertextuality.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 123. Literatures in Dialogue. 4 Units.

Studies how texts interact across time and space in a global context. Uses concepts of influence, imitation, and parody, to ask, for example, how the Homeric epics can help us understand Caribbean novels and U.S. movies such as *Troy*.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 130. Gender, Sexuality, Race, Class. 4 Units.

Discusses the roles of differences such as race, class, gender, and sexuality in society, culture, and literature across the globe, covering topics such as theoretical and literary representations of queer sexuality, gender performance, critical race theory.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 131. Psychoanalysis and Culture. 4 Units.

Discusses major psychoanalytic writings of Freud and others in connection with questions of culture.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 132. Discourse, Ideologies, and Politics. 4 Units.

Compares ideologies and systems, e.g., nationalism and fundamentalism, as they affect literature and culture in a global context.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 140. Critical Cultural Studies. 4 Units.

Introduces a variety of ways of understanding cultural phenomena in relation to different power structures. These cultural phenomena may include comics, film, literature, sports, music, festivals, telling stories, or eating out.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 142. The Metropolis and Other Cultural Geographies. 4 Units.

Examines the relationship between space and culture; cultural production in the city, suburb, and/or countryside; spaces in texts and artifacts (film, literature, comics, photographs) in a global context.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 143. Literature, Arts, and Media. 4 Units.

Explores literature and other arts and media in a global context. May include film and electronic media, fine arts, oral cultures, architecture, in an international framework.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 144. Literature, History, and Society. 4 Units.

Explores the relationship between literary texts and their historical and social contexts in an international framework. Courses may address, for example, literary and cultural expressions in social revolutions or the way literary texts talk back to medicine, religion, and anthropology.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 150. Literature in Translation. 4 Units.

The study of literary works in one or more genres in English translation. May be a comparative study of works from several different original languages or a concentration on works from a single cultural/linguistic tradition.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 160. World Cinema . 4 Units.

Comparative analysis of contemporary film in languages other than English.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit 2 times as topics vary.

COM LIT 190W. Advanced Seminar in Comparative Literature and Theory. 4 Units.

Capstone seminar for the Comparative Literature major. Deepens understanding of the field through investigation of a special topic and a substantial research and writing project.

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of the Lower-Division Writing requirement.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

Restriction: School of Humanities students only.

(Ib)**COM LIT 199. Independent Study in Comparative Literature. 1-4 Units.**

To be taken only when the materials to be studied lie outside the normal run of departmental offerings.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

COM LIT 200A. History of Comparative Literature and Introduction to Methods and Theories of CL. 4 Units.

Seminar designed to introduce graduate students in Comparative Literature to the discipline of Comparative Literature. Issues and theories of comparative literary and cultural study are covered. Strongly recommended for first and second year students before the M.A. exam and review.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

COM LIT 200B. Theories of Translation. 4 Units.

The reproduction, translation, and transfer of literary and cultural, ideological and political, and symbolic codes and texts have long been the object of study in Comparative Literature. Addresses the diverse ways in which expressive systems interact and intersect.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 200C. Theories of Globalization, Inter-Nationalism, and Postcolonialism. 4 Units.

Addresses both theories and the complex history of literary and cultural expression in a national, trans-, inter-, and post-national, global frame. Topics may include: globalism and nationhood, theories of citizenship and political subjecthood, postcolonial literature and theory.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 210. Comparative Studies . 4 Units.

Studies in selected areas of Comparative Literature. Topics addressed vary each quarter.

Repeatability: Unlimited as topics vary.

COM LIT 220. Translation Workshop. 2-4 Units.

Trains students in the methodologies and practice of translation. Students focus on the translating process in a series of case studies and individual projects.

Repeatability: May be taken for credit for 8 units.

COM LIT 280A. Professionalization Seminar. 2 Units.

The first of two required professionalization seminars in Comparative Literature. Intended for second and third year students and covers preparation for the M.A. and Ph.D. exams, conference presentations, teaching and classroom management, and publishing journals.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

COM LIT 280B. Professionalization Seminar. 2 Units.

The second of two required professionalization seminars in Comparative Literature. Intended for fourth and fifth year students and covers course design, applying for grants, dissertation prospectus and support, and the job application process.

Prerequisite: COM LIT 280A. COM LIT 280A with a grade of B or better

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

COM LIT 290. Reading and Conference. 4-12 Units.

Studies in selected areas. Topics addressed vary each quarter.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

COM LIT 291. Guided Reading Course. 4 Units.

Studies in selected areas. Topics addressed vary each quarter.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

COM LIT 292. Teaching Practicum . 2 Units.

Graduate students develop their pedagogical practices by accompanying a professor teaching a UCI undergraduate class. Meets individually with the professor to discuss relevant pedagogical practices, syllabus design, lecturing, assessment, classroom management, etc. Actively participates in one teaching component.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

COM LIT 299. Dissertation Research. 4-12 Units.

A units-only course for students in the dissertation phase.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

Restriction: Graduate students only.

COM LIT 399. University Teaching. 4 Units.

Limited to Teaching Assistants.

Grading Option: Satisfactory/unsatisfactory only.

Repeatability: May be repeated for credit unlimited times.

Restriction: Graduate students only.