

Comparative Literature

The concentration in Comparative Literature enables students to study an illustrative range of literary topics and to develop a focused critical understanding of how cultures differ from one another and what those differences mean. Our courses provide opportunities to engage with literary works across linguistic and cultural boundaries, exploring the traditions and innovations of the literatures of the world.

In the spirit of Brown's Open Curriculum, a concentration in Comparative Literature affords great academic freedom. Advanced literature courses from any literature department at Brown count for concentration credit. Any language—ancient or modern—supported at Brown may form part of a Comparative Literature concentration program. All students take a course in literary theory and have the opportunity to complete a senior essay.

There are three concentration tracks and requirements:

- Track 1: Comparative Literature in Two Languages
- Track 2: Comparative Literature in Three Languages
- Track 3: Literary Translation

Genre and Period Requirements for all concentrators:

- One course in each literary genre (poetry, narrative, and drama/film)
- Courses must cover at least three different historical periods (such as, Antiquity; Middle Ages; Renaissance/Early Modern; Enlightenment; Modern: 19th-21st centuries).

Prerequisites in languages:

Students must demonstrate proficiency in the languages of their selected literatures. We recommend that prerequisite(s) for taking 1000-level courses in their languages be completed by Semester V.

Students working in non-European languages may be allowed more latitude; be sure to be sure to consult a concentration advisor about constructing an individualized plan.

Selecting literature courses in your language areas:

Readings must normally be in the original language. If English is one of your languages, courses need to be devoted chiefly to literature originally written in English.

Transfer of Credits:

Two courses per semester of study abroad may be applied to the concentration, up to a total of four courses (for two semesters abroad). A maximum of five courses from external venues (study abroad; transfer credits from other institutions, including summer study) may be applied to the concentration.

Joint or Double Concentration:

Joint or double concentration programs may also be arranged. Students may also combine a concentration in Comparative Literature with a teaching certificate in English or a modern language. A student interested in such a program should consult the advisor in the Education Department (<http://www.brown.edu/academics/education/>) and the advisor in Comparative Literature as early as possible (preferably by Semester V). In accordance with University policy, double concentrators are allowed a maximum overlap of two courses between concentrations.

Track 1: Concentration in Comparative Literature in two languages

Requirements

COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature	1
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the first chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2

TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the second chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)

FIVE electives. Courses taught in Comparative Literature and other literature courses at any level (below or above 1000) may satisfy this requirement.

Total Credits **10**

Examples of courses that may fulfill the requirements, above, include but are not limited to the following. Students are encouraged to discuss class choices with their advisor.

COLT 0510C	The World of Lyric Poetry
COLT 0510F	Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, The Men and the Myths
COLT 0510K	The 1001 Nights
COLT 0510P	Reading the Renaissance
COLT 0610D	Rites of Passage
COLT 0610L	Murder Ink: Narratives of Crime, Discovery, and Identity
COLT 0610Q	Before Wikipedia
COLT 0710C	Introduction to Scandinavian Literature
COLT 0710I	New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
COLT 0710N	A Comparative Introduction to the Literatures of the Americas
COLT 0710Q	The Odyssey in Literature and Film
COLT 0710X	Fan Fiction
COLT 0710Z	Comedy from Athens to Hollywood
COLT 0711H	The Arabic Novel
COLT 0711L	The Quran and its Readers
COLT 0711O	Off the Beaten Path: The Diversity of Modern Japanese Literature
COLT 0711Q	Writing Love in Korean Literature
COLT 0810H	How Not to Be a Hero
COLT 0810I	Tales and Talemakers of the Non-Western World
COLT 0810L	The Pursuit of Happiness
COLT 0810M	Uncanny Tales: Narratives of Repetition and Interruption
COLT 0811I	Classical Mythology and the Western Tradition
COLT 0811Z	Islands in the Western Imaginary: Paradise, Periphery, Prison
COLT 0812O	Reading Art in Literature
COLT 0812V	Troy: City, Legend, Literature
COLT 0812W	The Epic Tradition: from Homer to Milton
COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature
COLT 1310G	Silk Road Fictions
COLT 1310J	The Arab Renaissance
COLT 1310N	Global Modernism and Crisis
COLT 1410S	Classical Tragedy
COLT 1420B	A Mirror for the Romantic: <i>The Tale of Genji</i> and <i>The Story of the Stone</i>
COLT 1420F	Fantastic and Existentialist Literatures of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil
COLT 1420O	Proust, Joyce and Faulkner
COLT 1421V	Modernisms North and South: Ulysses in Dublin, Paris, and Buenos Aires
COLT 1422L	The Modernist Novel: Alienation and Narration
COLT 1422M	Reading the Short Story

COLT 1430B	Art and Exemplarity in Medieval and Early Modern Literature
COLT 1430D	Critical Approaches to Chinese Poetry
COLT 1430I	Poetry of Europe: Montale, Celan, Hill
COLT 1430L	Voices of Romanticism
COLT 1431B	Modern Arabic Poetry
COLT 1431C	Poets, Poetry, and Politics
COLT 1431F	Reading Modernist Poetry
COLT 1440P	Nationalism and Transnationalism in Film and Fiction
COLT 1440U	The Listener (Literature, Theory, Film)
COLT 1440X	Shéhérazades : Depicting the "Orientale" in Modern French Culture
COLT 1610B	Irony
COLT 1610V	The Promise of Being: Heidegger for Beginners
COLT 1710A	Introduction to Literary Translation
COLT 1710C	Literary Translation Workshop
COLT 1710D	Exercises in Literary Translation
COLT 1810G	Fiction and History
COLT 1810N	Freud: Writer and Reader
COLT 1810P	Literature and Medicine
COLT 1811L	Travel, Tourism, Trafficking through the Ages
COLT 1812A	Literatures of Immigration
COLT 1813M	Making a List
COLT 1813N	Early Modern Women's Writing
COLT 1813O	Adventures of the Avant-Garde
COLT 1814S	The Balkans, Europe's Other?: Literature, Film, History
COLT 1814U	Politics of Reading
COLT 1815F	Memory, Commemoration, Testimony
COLT 1815U	Encountering Monsters in Comparative Literature
COLT 2520F	Theories of the Lyric
COLT 2720C	Literary Translation
COLT 2720D	Translation: Theory and Practice
COLT 2820A	New Directions for Comparative Literature
COLT 2820M	Discourses of the Senses
COLT 2821S	Historical Form
COLT 2822A	War

Track 2: Concentration in Comparative Literature in three languages

Requirements

COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature	1
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the first chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the second chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the third chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2

THREE electives. Courses taught in Comparative Literature and other literature courses at any level (below or above 1000) may satisfy this requirement.

Total Credits **10**

Examples of courses that may fulfill the requirements, above, include but are not limited to the following. Students are encouraged to discuss class choices with their advisor.

COLT 0510C	The World of Lyric Poetry
COLT 0510F	Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, The Men and the Myths
COLT 0510K	The 1001 Nights
COLT 0510P	Reading the Renaissance
COLT 0610D	Rites of Passage
COLT 0610L	Murder Ink: Narratives of Crime, Discovery, and Identity
COLT 0610Q	Before Wikipedia
COLT 0710C	Introduction to Scandinavian Literature
COLT 0710I	New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
COLT 0710N	A Comparative Introduction to the Literatures of the Americas
COLT 0710Q	The Odyssey in Literature and Film
COLT 0710X	Fan Fiction
COLT 0710Z	Comedy from Athens to Hollywood
COLT 0711H	The Arabic Novel
COLT 0711L	The Quran and its Readers
COLT 0711O	Off the Beaten Path: The Diversity of Modern Japanese Literature
COLT 0711Q	Writing Love in Korean Literature
COLT 0810H	How Not to Be a Hero
COLT 0810I	Tales and Talemakers of the Non-Western World
COLT 0810L	The Pursuit of Happiness
COLT 0810M	Uncanny Tales: Narratives of Repetition and Interruption
COLT 0811I	Classical Mythology and the Western Tradition
COLT 0811Z	Islands in the Western Imaginary: Paradise, Periphery, Prison
COLT 0812O	Reading Art in Literature
COLT 0812W	The Epic Tradition: from Homer to Milton
COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature
COLT 1310G	Silk Road Fictions
COLT 1310J	The Arab Renaissance
COLT 1310N	Global Modernism and Crisis
COLT 1410S	Classical Tragedy
COLT 1420B	A Mirror for the Romantic: <i>The Tale of Genji</i> and <i>The Story of the Stone</i>
COLT 1420F	Fantastic and Existentialist Literatures of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil
COLT 1420O	Proust, Joyce and Faulkner
COLT 1421V	Modernisms North and South: Ulysses in Dublin, Paris, and Buenos Aires
COLT 1422L	The Modernist Novel: Alienation and Narration
COLT 1422M	Reading the Short Story
COLT 1430B	Art and Exemplarity in Medieval and Early Modern Literature
COLT 1430D	Critical Approaches to Chinese Poetry
COLT 1430I	Poetry of Europe: Montale, Celan, Hill
COLT 1430L	Voices of Romanticism

COLT 1431B	Modern Arabic Poetry
COLT 1431C	Poets, Poetry, and Politics
COLT 1431F	Reading Modernist Poetry
COLT 1440P	Nationalism and Transnationalism in Film and Fiction
COLT 1440U	The Listener (Literature, Theory, Film)
COLT 1440X	Shéhérazades : Depicting the "Orientale" in Modern French Culture
COLT 1610B	Irony
COLT 1610V	The Promise of Being: Heidegger for Beginners
COLT 1710A	Introduction to Literary Translation
COLT 1710C	Literary Translation Workshop
COLT 1710D	Exercises in Literary Translation
COLT 1810G	Fiction and History
COLT 1810N	Freud: Writer and Reader
COLT 1810P	Literature and Medicine
COLT 1811L	Travel, Tourism, Trafficking through the Ages
COLT 1812A	Literatures of Immigration
COLT 1813M	Making a List
COLT 1813N	Early Modern Women's Writing
COLT 1813O	Adventures of the Avant-Garde
COLT 1814S	The Balkans, Europe's Other?: Literature, Film, History
COLT 1814U	Politics of Reading
COLT 1815F	Memory, Commemoration, Testimony
COLT 1815U	Encountering Monsters in Comparative Literature
COLT 2520F	Theories of the Lyric
COLT 2720C	Literary Translation
COLT 2720D	Translation: Theory and Practice
COLT 2820A	New Directions for Comparative Literature
COLT 2820M	Discourses of the Senses
COLT 2821S	Historical Form
COLT 2822A	War

Track 3: Concentration in Literary Translation Requirements

COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature	1
Literary Translation (COLT 1710)		1
At least one course in linguistics (including COLT 2720 Literary Translation and history of the language courses). This may be taken at any level.		1
At least one workshop in Literary Arts. This may be taken at any level.		1
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the first chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2
TWO literature courses taught above the 1000-level in the second chosen literature. (Courses may be taken in any literature department, and may fall under such courses codes as COLT, ENGL, FREN, HISP, CHIN, RUSS, GRMN, etc.)		2
TWO electives. Courses taught in Comparative Literature and other literature courses at any level (below or above 1000) may satisfy this requirement.		2

A senior thesis, eligible for Honors, consisting of substantial work in translation with a critical introduction. Completing a thesis is required of all Track 3 students but does not guarantee departmental honors.

Total Credits **10**

Examples of courses that may fulfill the requirements, above, include but are not limited to the following. Students are encouraged to discuss class choices with their advisor.

COLT 0510C	The World of Lyric Poetry
COLT 0510F	Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, The Men and the Myths
COLT 0510K	The 1001 Nights
COLT 0510P	Reading the Renaissance
COLT 0610D	Rites of Passage
COLT 0610L	Murder Ink: Narratives of Crime, Discovery, and Identity
COLT 0610Q	Before Wikipedia
COLT 0710C	Introduction to Scandinavian Literature
COLT 0710I	New Worlds: Reading Spaces and Places in Colonial Latin America
COLT 0710N	A Comparative Introduction to the Literatures of the Americas
COLT 0710Q	The Odyssey in Literature and Film
COLT 0710X	Fan Fiction
COLT 0710Z	Comedy from Athens to Hollywood
COLT 0711H	The Arabic Novel
COLT 0711L	The Quran and its Readers
COLT 0711O	Off the Beaten Path: The Diversity of Modern Japanese Literature
COLT 0711Q	Writing Love in Korean Literature
COLT 0810H	How Not to Be a Hero
COLT 0810I	Tales and Talemakers of the Non-Western World
COLT 0810L	The Pursuit of Happiness
COLT 0810M	Uncanny Tales: Narratives of Repetition and Interruption
COLT 0811I	Classical Mythology and the Western Tradition
COLT 0811Z	Islands in the Western Imaginary: Paradise, Periphery, Prison
COLT 0812O	Reading Art in Literature
COLT 0812V	Troy: City, Legend, Literature
COLT 0812W	The Epic Tradition: from Homer to Milton
COLT 1210	Introduction to the Theory of Literature
COLT 1310G	Silk Road Fictions
COLT 1310J	The Arab Renaissance
COLT 1310N	Global Modernism and Crisis
COLT 1410S	Classical Tragedy
COLT 1420B	A Mirror for the Romantic: <i>The Tale of Genji</i> and <i>The Story of the Stone</i>
COLT 1420F	Fantastic and Existentialist Literatures of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil
COLT 1420O	Proust, Joyce and Faulkner
COLT 1421V	Modernisms North and South: Ulysses in Dublin, Paris, and Buenos Aires
COLT 1422L	The Modernist Novel: Alienation and Narration
COLT 1422M	Reading the Short Story
COLT 1430B	Art and Exemplarity in Medieval and Early Modern Literature
COLT 1430D	Critical Approaches to Chinese Poetry

COLT 1430I	Poetry of Europe: Montale, Celan, Hill
COLT 1430L	Voices of Romanticism
COLT 1431B	Modern Arabic Poetry
COLT 1431C	Poets, Poetry, and Politics
COLT 1431F	Reading Modernist Poetry
COLT 1440P	Nationalism and Transnationalism in Film and Fiction
COLT 1440U	The Listener (Literature, Theory, Film)
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COLT 1710A	Introduction to Literary Translation
COLT 1710C	Literary Translation Workshop
COLT 1710D	Exercises in Literary Translation
COLT 1810G	Fiction and History
COLT 1810N	Freud: Writer and Reader
COLT 1810P	Literature and Medicine
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COLT 1812A	Literatures of Immigration
COLT 1813M	Making a List
COLT 1813N	Early Modern Women's Writing
COLT 1813O	Adventures of the Avant-Garde
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than the Honors thesis but which should constitute an integration of some aspect of their study.

Notes:

Honors in Comparative Literature

Students in all tracks may earn honors in the concentration by successfully completing a thesis that is granted honors upon submission. Completing a thesis in any track does not guarantee departmental honors. Honors are granted upon the recommendation of the two thesis readers.

Tracks 1 & 2. These are analytical studies of literary topics, comparative in nature, based upon research, and usually between 50 and 100 pages. They are usually composed of 3 chapters, with an introduction and a conclusion. Students are expected to choose a topic that involves work in each of the literatures of their concentration in the original language.

Track 3. Theses consist of a substantial work in translation with a critical introduction outlining the method used and specific problems encountered, and commenting on the history of the original work together with other translations, if any.

(See detailed Guidelines for Honors Theses (<http://www.brown.edu/academics/comparative-literature/undergraduate-program/honors-thesis/>) in Comparative Literature on Departmental website).

Capstone option

Students in Tracks 1 & 2 not taking Honors are urged, but not required, to complete a senior essay, which may be less extensive in scope and length