Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (CLCS)

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Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Website (https://fulbright.uark.edu/programs/comparative-literature-cultural-studies/index.php/)

Degrees Conferred:
M.A., Ph.D. (CLCS)

Program Description: Established in 1958, the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program is an innovative interdisciplinary graduate program for advanced studies in literature and culture across linguistic, national, disciplinary, and genre boundaries. Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies takes for granted that matters of everyday culture — popular culture as well as literary culture — are political matters in the way that power relations are established and sometimes challenged. The program offers advanced academic training in comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic studies, literary translation, and world language acquisition.

The program is supported primarily by the Departments of Communication, English, and World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The program also has affiliated faculty members in several programs and departments in the humanities and social sciences, including Anthropology, Art, Classics, Theatre, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Education, as well as interdisciplinary programs such as African and African American, Latin American and Latino, Middle Eastern, Indigenous, Jewish, and Gender Studies.

Primary Areas of Faculty Research: Literary theory and criticism, cultural studies, postcolonial studies, gender studies, visual discourses, world languages, literary translation.

M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

Admission to the Master of Arts Degree in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies: The normal preparation for graduate study in comparative literature and cultural studies is an undergraduate degree in world languages, English, or a related field in the humanities and the social sciences. Applicants should have advanced proficiency in the intended languages of study. Admission requirements:

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work.
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals.
6. A Curriculum Vitae
7. An academic writing sample, demonstrating critical thinking, writing ability and research potential (10 pp approximately)
8. Three letters of recommendation

Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies: In addition to the general requirements of the Graduate School, all master’s candidates must meet the following requirements:

1. All master’s candidates must take WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature and COMM 5503 Communication and Cultural Studies
2. All master’s candidates must take 6 hours of world languages and literatures in areas and historical periods different from their primary fields. All master’s candidates are required to take and pass a comprehensive examination based on course work taken. Students may retake only once any examination they fail.
3. All master’s candidates must demonstrate reading proficiency in a language other than English. The language requirement may be fulfilled either by taking 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.

Requirements of the Thesis Option

1. Candidates in the master’s option must complete 30 hours of graduate course work and 6 thesis hours. Master’s candidates intending to enter the Ph.D. program are recommended to choose the thesis option.
2. Candidates will take 6 hours of course work and 6 thesis hours in their primary area of concentration.
3. Candidates will take 12 hours of graduate course work in a second field (other literary tradition or cultural studies).
4. Master’s candidates in the thesis option must present a thesis proposal early in their second year of study and must turn in the thesis during the last semester of course work, following Graduate School guidelines for thesis submission.
5. Theses in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their thesis in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a thesis in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the thesis committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.
6. Candidates in the thesis option are only required to take the world literatures and cultures comprehensive exam.

Requirements for the Non-Thesis Option

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1. In addition to the general requirements, Master’s candidates in the non-thesis option must select two fields and complete 12 hours of graduate coursework in each field (Arabic, Classics, English, French, German, Spanish, and courses in other disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences).

2. Candidates are required to take two comprehensive exams. One is on the specialty fields and one is on the selected areas of world literatures and cultures.

Students should also be aware of Graduate School requirements with regard to master’s degrees (http://catalog.uark.edu/graduatecatalog/degreerequirements/#mastersdegreestext).

**Requirements for Ph.D. with Comparative Literature Concentration**

**Admission Requirements:**

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals. Doctoral applicants must specify which concentration they wish to pursue (comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic Studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics—as described in detail below).
6. An academic writing sample preferably from a research or examination paper from a literature or culture course, showing evidence of critical thinking, writing ability, and research skills
7. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors, employers, or supervisors

**Requirements for the Doctoral Degree:**

1. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 66 hours of graduate coursework (including credit taken for the M.A. or M.F.A.) and must attain a 3.00 grade-point average in each of their fields. Part or all of the graduate coursework completed at other U.S. institutions or accredited institutions abroad with a grade of “B” or higher and taken within seven years of starting the doctoral program may count towards the 66 hours requirement with the approval of the Program Advisory Committee. However, it should be noted that this coursework will not be reflected on the student’s transcript.

2. WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature is required of all Ph.D. candidates in the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.

3. Ph.D. candidates must take 24 hours in a main field. The goal is for the student to use this coursework to create a primary field of specialization.

4. Ph.D. candidates must complete 18 hours in one of the five doctoral concentrations—traditional comparative literature, cultural studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics—as described in detail below.

5. Ph.D. candidates must take 9 hours in world literatures and cultures outside their main field, providing historical depth and geographical breadth to their literary and cultural studies.

6. Ph.D. students must complete an additional 12 elective credits. They may use these to develop a tertiary field, strengthen primary or secondary fields, or to take courses outside those fields.

7. Ph.D. candidates must take 18 dissertation hours.

8. Ph.D. students must declare a concentration by the end of the first year and define a Dissertation Committee by the end of the second year. The committee consists of the student’s research supervisor plus two other faculty members. This committee will administer the candidacy exam, the proposal defense, and the dissertation defense.

9. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages other than English before being admitted into candidacy. The language requirements may be fulfilled either by completing 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.

10. Candidacy: Upon completion of coursework and world languages requirements, all Ph.D. students must take a two part candidacy exam and present a dissertation proposal.

11. The candidacy examination is based on a set of reading lists based on coursework and areas of concentration, that the student composes with the guidance of their advisor and committee members. The reading list is divided into five sections: two lists comprising the student’s areas of concentration and three lists covering world literatures and cultures. The candidacy examination has two parts:

   a. A written examination covering the student’s world literatures and cultures fields;
   
   b. A written examination covering the concentration areas of the reading lists.

Students may retake only once any examination they fail.

1. Dissertation Proposal: After successfully completing the candidacy examination, the Ph.D. student will submit a dissertation proposal to be discussed and approved in a formal meeting with the Dissertation Committee. This meeting is the proposal defense. A student failing a proposal defense may revise the proposal and retake the defense one time.

2. Dissertations in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their dissertation in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a dissertation in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the dissertation committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.

3. Upon passing both parts of the written examination as well as successfully completing the proposal defense, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate and enters the dissertation stage.

4. Within the time limits specified by the Graduate School, each student must submit a dissertation acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee.
5. Each student must pass a dissertation defense administered by the student’s Dissertation Committee.

Requirements for the Comparative Literature Concentration (CLIT): This concentration is for students interested in world literature and the intersections of different literary traditions beyond national borders. Candidates will complete at least 18 hours in a second world language and literary tradition.

Requirements for Ph.D. with Cultural Studies Concentration

Admission Requirements:

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals. Doctoral applicants must specify which concentration they wish to pursue (comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic Studies, applied linguistics, or translation) and describe how their research interests might be met by working with specific members of our faculty
6. An academic writing sample preferably from a research or examination paper from a literature or culture course, showing evidence of critical thinking, writing ability and research skills
7. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors, employers, or supervisors

Requirements for the Doctoral Degree:

1. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 66 hours of graduate coursework (including credit taken for the M.A. or M.F.A.) and must attain a 3.00 grade-point average in each of their fields. Part or all of the graduate course work completed at other U.S. institutions or accredited institutions abroad with a grade of “B” or higher and taken within seven years of starting the doctoral program may count towards the 66 hours requirement with the approval of the Program Advisory Committee. However, it should be noted that this course work will not be reflected on the student’s transcript.
2. WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature is required of all Ph.D. candidates in the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.
3. Ph.D. candidates must take 24 hours in a main field. The goal is for the student to use this coursework to create a primary field of specialization.
4. Ph.D. candidates must complete 18 hours in one of the five doctoral concentrations –traditional comparative literature, cultural studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics—as described in detail below.
5. Ph.D. candidates must take 9 hours in world literatures and cultures outside their main field, providing historical depth and geographical breadth to their literary and cultural studies.
6. Ph.D. students must complete an additional 12 elective credits. They may use these to develop a tertiary field, strengthen primary or secondary fields, or to take courses outside those fields.
7. Ph.D. candidates must take 18 dissertation hours.
8. Ph.D. students must declare a concentration by the end of the first year and define a Dissertation Committee by the end of the second year. The committee consists of the student’s research supervisor plus two other faculty members. This committee will administer the candidacy exam, the proposal defense, and the dissertation defense.
9. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages other than English before being admitted into candidacy. The language requirements may be fulfilled either by completing 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.
10. Candidacy: Upon completion of coursework and world languages requirements, all Ph.D. students must take a two part candidacy exam and present a dissertation proposal.
11. The candidacy examination is based on a set of reading lists based on coursework and areas of concentration, that the student composes with the guidance of their advisor and committee members. The reading list is divided into five sections: two lists comprising the student’s areas of concentration and three lists covering world literatures and cultures. The candidacy examination has two parts:
   a. A written examination covering the student’s world literatures and cultures fields;
   b. A written examination covering the concentration areas of the reading lists.

Students may retake only once any examination they fail.

1. Dissertation Proposal: After successfully completing the candidacy examination, the Ph.D. student will submit a dissertation proposal to be discussed and approved in a formal meeting with the Dissertation Committee. This meeting is the proposal defense. A student failing a proposal defense may revise the proposal and retake the defense one time.
2. Dissertations in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their dissertation in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a dissertation in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the dissertation committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.
3. Upon passing both parts of the written examination as well as successfully completing the proposal defense, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate and enters the dissertation stage.
4. Within the time limits specified by the Graduate School, each student must submit a dissertation acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee.
5. Each student must pass a dissertation defense administered by the student’s Dissertation Committee.

Requirements for the Cultural Studies Concentration (CULS). This concentration is for students interested in inter and trans disciplinary
approaches to study literature and culture, including non-literary genres such as mass media, popular culture, visual discourses, and communication theories. In addition to the other program requirements, students in the cultural studies concentration must complete 18 hours of coursework in an area related to cultural studies, including take COMM 5503 Communication and Cultural Studies and the seminar COMM 5993 Readings In Cultural Studies.

**Ph.D. with Interdisciplinary Hispanic Studies Concentration**

**Admission Requirements:**

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals. Doctoral applicants must specify which concentration they wish to pursue (comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic Studies, applied linguistics, or translation) and describe how their research interests might be met by working with specific members of our faculty
6. An academic writing sample preferably from a research or examination paper from a literature or culture course, showing evidence of critical thinking, writing ability and research skills
7. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors, employers, or supervisors

**Requirements for the Doctoral Degree:**

1. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 66 hours of graduate course work (including credit taken for the M.A. or M.F.A.) and must attain a 3.00 grade-point average in each of their fields. Part or all of the graduate course work completed at other U.S. institutions or accredited institutions abroad with a grade of “B” or higher and taken within seven years of starting the doctoral program may count towards the 66 hours requirement with the approval of the Program Advisory Committee. However, it should be noted that this course work will not be reflected on the student’s transcript.
2. WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature is required of all Ph.D. candidates in the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.
3. Ph.D. candidates must take 24 hours in a main field. The goal is for the student to use this coursework to create a primary field of specialization.
4. Ph.D. candidates must complete 18 hours in one of the five doctoral concentrations –traditional comparative literature, cultural studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics—as described in detail below.
5. Ph.D. candidates must take 9 hours in world literatures and cultures outside their main field, providing historical depth and geographical breadth to their literary and cultural studies.
6. Ph.D. students must complete an additional 12 elective credits. They may use these to develop a tertiary field, strengthen primary or secondary fields, or to take courses outside those fields.
7. Ph.D. candidates must take 18 dissertation hours.
8. Ph.D. students must declare a concentration by the end of the first year and define a Dissertation Committee by the end of the second year. The committee consists of the student’s research supervisor plus two other faculty members. This committee will administer the candidacy exam, the proposal defense, and the dissertation defense.
9. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages other than English before being admitted into candidacy. The language requirements may be fulfilled either by completing 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.
10. Candidacy: Upon completion of coursework and world languages requirements, all Ph.D. students must take a two part candidacy exam and present a dissertation proposal.
11. The candidacy examination is based on a set of reading lists based on coursework and areas of concentration, that the student composes with the guidance of their advisor and committee members. The reading list is divided into five sections: two lists comprising the student’s areas of concentration and three lists covering world literatures and cultures. The candidacy examination has two parts:
   a. A written examination covering the student’s world literatures and cultures fields;
   b. A written examination covering the concentration areas of the reading lists.

Students may retake only once any examination they fail.

1. Dissertation Proposal: After successfully completing the candidacy examination, the Ph.D. student will submit a dissertation proposal to be discussed and approved in a formal meeting with the Dissertation Committee. This meeting is the proposal defense. A student failing a proposal defense may revise the proposal and retake the defense one time.
2. Dissertations in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their dissertation in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a dissertation in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the dissertation committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.
3. Upon passing both parts of the written examination as well as successfully completing the proposal defense, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate and enters the dissertation stage.
4. Within the time limits specified by the Graduate School, each student must submit a dissertation acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee.
5. Each student must pass a dissertation defense administered by the student’s Dissertation Committee.

**Requirements for the Interdisciplinary Hispanic Studies Concentration (HISP):** This concentration is designed for candidates with
an M.A. in Spanish whose scholarly and teaching interests are primarily in Hispanic studies and in interdisciplinary and transnational approaches to the literatures and cultures of Spain, Latin America and Hispanic United States. Candidates in this concentration will complete 18 hours in one of these three fields: Iberian, Latin American or U.S. Latino/Latina literatures and cultures.

**Ph.D. with Literary Translation Concentration**

**Admission Requirements:**

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals. Doctoral applicants must specify which concentration they wish to pursue (comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic Studies, applied linguistics, or translation) and describe how their research interests might be met by working with specific members of our faculty.
6. An academic writing sample preferably from a research or examination paper from a literature or culture course, showing evidence of critical thinking, writing ability and research skills.
7. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors, employers, or supervisors.

**Requirements for the Doctoral Degree:**

1. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 66 hours of graduate course work (including credit taken for the M.A. or M.F.A.) and must attain a 3.00 grade-point average in each of their fields. Part or all of the graduate course work completed at other U.S. institutions or accredited institutions abroad with a grade of "B" or higher and taken within seven years of starting the doctoral program may count towards the 66 hours requirement with the approval of the Program Advisory Committee. However, it should be noted that this course work will not be reflected on the student’s transcript.
2. WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature is required of all Ph.D. candidates in the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.
3. Ph.D. candidates must take 24 hours in a main field. The goal is for the student to use this coursework to create a primary field of specialization.
4. Ph.D. candidates must complete 18 hours in one of the five doctoral concentrations – traditional comparative literature, cultural studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics – as described in detail below.
5. Ph.D. candidates must take 9 hours in world literatures and cultures outside their main field, providing historical depth and geographical breadth to their literary and cultural studies.
6. Ph.D. students must complete an additional 12 elective credits. They may use these to develop a tertiary field, strengthen primary or secondary fields, or to take courses outside those fields.
7. Ph.D. candidates must take 18 dissertation hours.
8. Ph.D. students must declare a concentration by the end of the first year and define a Dissertation Committee by the end of the second year. The committee consists of the student’s research supervisor plus two other faculty members. This committee will administer the candidacy exam, the proposal defense, and the dissertation defense.
9. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages other than English before being admitted into candidacy. The language requirements may be fulfilled either by completing 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.
10. Candidacy: Upon completion of coursework and world languages requirements, all Ph.D. students must take a two part candidacy exam and present a dissertation proposal.
11. The candidacy examination is based on a set of reading lists based on coursework and areas of concentration, that the student composes with the guidance of their advisor and committee members. The reading list is divided into five sections: two lists comprising the student’s areas of concentration and three lists covering world literatures and cultures. The candidacy examination has two parts:
   a. A written examination covering the student’s world literatures and cultures fields;
   b. A written examination covering the concentration areas of the reading lists.

Students may retake only once any examination they fail.

1. Dissertation Proposal: After successfully completing the candidacy examination, the Ph.D. student will submit a dissertation proposal to be discussed and approved in a formal meeting with the Dissertation Committee. This meeting is the proposal defense. A student failing a proposal defense may revise the proposal and retake the defense one time.
2. Dissertations in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their dissertation in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a dissertation in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the dissertation committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.
3. Upon passing both parts of the written examination as well as successfully completing the proposal defense, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate and enters the dissertation stage.
4. Within the time limits specified by the Graduate School, each student must submit a dissertation acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee.
5. Each student must pass a dissertation defense administered by the student’s Dissertation Committee.

**Requirements for the Literary Translation Concentration (LITR).** This concentration is designed for candidates interested in advanced studies in translation theory and scholarly research on literary translation. Candidates in this concentration must take 18 hours of translation coursework including nine hours in translation workshops (ENGL 5043).
and nine hours from the following form and theory courses in poetry and fiction (ENGL 5223, ENGL 5263, ENGL 5273, ENGL 5283, ENGL 5293). Courses may be substituted from related fields with advisor approval. The dissertation project may be a study of some translation issue or a book-length translation of a literary work with a critical introduction and annotated text. Candidates will typically have an M.F.A. in literary translation or an M.A. in Arabic, Classics, French, German, Spanish, or other languages and literatures.

**Ph.D. with World Languages and Applied Linguistics Concentration**

**Admission Requirements:**

1. Application to the Graduate School
2. Complete official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work
3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the Aptitude Test (verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing).
4. International students are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams, meeting the minimum score required by the Graduate School.
5. Statement of purpose describing academic interests and professional goals. Doctoral applicants must specify which concentration they wish to pursue (comparative literature, cultural studies, Hispanic Studies, applied linguistics, or translation) and describe how their research interests might be met by working with specific members of our faculty
6. An academic writing sample preferably from a research or examination paper from a literature or culture course, showing evidence of critical thinking, writing ability and research skills
7. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors, employers, or supervisors

**Requirements for the Doctoral Degree:**

1. Ph.D. candidates must complete a minimum of 66 hours of graduate coursework (including credit taken for the M.A. or M.F.A.) and must attain a 3.00 grade-point average in each of their fields. Part or all of the graduate course work completed at other U.S. institutions or accredited institutions abroad with a grade of “B” or higher and taken within seven years of starting the doctoral program may count towards the 66 hours requirement with the approval of the Program Advisory Committee. However, it should be noted that this course work will not be reflected on the student’s transcript.
2. WLIT 5193 Introduction to Comparative Literature is required of all Ph.D. candidates in the Program in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.
3. Ph.D. candidates must take 24 hours in a main field. The goal is for the student to use this coursework to create a primary field of specialization.
4. Ph.D. candidates must complete 18 hours in one of the five doctoral concentrations – traditional comparative literature, cultural studies, interdisciplinary Hispanic studies, translation, and world languages and applied linguistics — as described in detail below.
5. Ph.D. candidates must take 9 hours in world literatures and cultures outside their main field, providing historical depth and geographical breadth to their literary and cultural studies.
6. Ph.D. students must complete an additional 12 elective credits. They may use these to develop a tertiary field, strengthen primary or secondary fields, or to take courses outside those fields.
7. Ph.D. candidates must take 18 dissertation hours.
8. Ph.D. students must declare a concentration by the end of the first year and define a Dissertation Committee by the end of the second year. The committee consists of the student’s research supervisor plus two other faculty members. This committee will administer the candidacy exam, the proposal defense, and the dissertation defense.
9. Ph.D. students must demonstrate reading proficiency in two languages other than English before being admitted into candidacy. The language requirements may be fulfilled either by completing 12 hours in the target language or by taking the reading exam administered by the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Documented coursework from an accredited institution in which the language of instruction is other than English may be used to substitute for a language exam.
10. Candidacy: Upon completion of coursework and world languages requirements, all Ph.D. students must take a two part candidacy exam and present a dissertation proposal.
11. The candidacy examination is based on a set of reading lists based on coursework and areas of concentration, that the student composes with the guidance of their advisor and committee members. The reading list is divided into five sections: two lists comprising the student’s areas of concentration and three lists covering world literatures and cultures. The candidacy examination has two parts:
   a. A written examination covering the student’s world literatures and cultures fields;
   b. A written examination covering the concentration areas of the reading lists.

Students may retake only once any examination they fail.

1. Dissertation Proposal: After successfully completing the candidacy examination, the Ph.D. student will submit a dissertation proposal to be discussed and approved in a formal meeting with the Dissertation Committee. This meeting is the proposal defense. A student failing a proposal defense may revise the proposal and retake the defense one time.
2. Dissertations in a language other than English. Students in the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Program may request permission to submit their dissertation in a language other than English, with legitimate justification. Valid reasons for submitting a dissertation in a language other than English includes the subject matter, special primary audience, publication venues, academic position in a foreign country, historical or literary value, and the documents to be used, analyzed and interpreted. Limited English writing skills is not a valid justification. Students must request approval of the target language from the dissertation committee, the program advisory committee, the program director and the dean of the graduate school before starting the project. All committee members must be proficient in the target language and approve target language usage. Abstracts must be written in English.
3. Upon passing both parts of the written examination as well as successfully completing the proposal defense, the student becomes a Ph.D. degree candidate and enters the dissertation stage.
4. Within the time limits specified by the Graduate School, each student must submit a dissertation acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee.
5. Each student must pass a dissertation defense administered by the student’s Dissertation Committee.

**Requirements for World Languages and Applied Linguistics Concentration (WLAL):** This concentration is designed for candidates
with research and teaching interest in applied linguistics and second
language pedagogy for world languages, literatures and cultures at
the college level. Applicants should have a Master’s of Arts in a world
language (French, German, Spanish or other languages) or a field in the
humanities or the social sciences. Candidates in this concentration must
take 18 hours in applied linguistics related courses including: WLLC 5063
Teaching Foreign Languages on the College Level, WLLC 5463
Descriptive Linguistics, CIED 5923 Second Language Acquisition, two
applied linguistics seminars (WLLC 6553 to be repeated for a total of
six hours), a qualitative and/or quantitative research methods course,
depending on the candidate’s research project approved by the adviser,
such as SOCI 5083 Applied Qualitative Research.

Courses

WLIT 5123. Survey of Russian Literature from Its Beginning to the 1917
Revolution. 3 Hours.
(Formerly WLIT 4123.) The instructor will discuss the historical and cultural
backgrounds while focusing on major writers and will deal with literature as an
outlet for social criticism. There will be textual analysis. It will be taught in English.
Graduate degree credit will not be given for both WLIT 4123 and WLIT 5123.
(Typically offered: Irregular)

WLIT 5133. Survey of Russian Literature Since the 1917 Revolution. 3 Hours.
(Formerly WLIT 4133.) The instructor will discuss the historical and cultural
backgrounds while focusing on major writers and will deal with literature as an outlet
for social criticism. There will be textual analysis. It will be taught in English with
readings in English. Graduate degree credit will not be given for both WLIT 4133 and
WLIT 5133. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with RUSS 5133.

WLIT 5193. Introduction to Comparative Literature. 3 Hours.
Literary theory, genres, movements, and influences. (Typically offered: Irregular)

WLIT 5443. Queer Theor(ies). 3 Hours.
Introduction to the complex history and evolution of Queer Theory into Queer
Theor(ies) from Foucault to the Present. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with GNST 5443.

WLIT 5523. The Quran as Literature. 3 Hours.
The Quran as literary text: its style and form, historical context, translation, issues,
communities of interpretation, and comparative perspectives. Course's integrated
approach includes translations of literature originally in Arabic. All readings in
English; students with reading abilities in Arabic encouraged to read original text.
(Typically offered: Irregular)

WLIT 5623. The Bible as Literature. 3 Hours.
The several translations of the Bible; its qualities as great literature; its influence
upon literature in English; types of literary forms. (Typically offered: Irregular)
This course is cross-listed with ENGL 5623.

WLIT 575V. Special Investigations on World Literatures and Cultures. 1-6 Hour.
Independent study of a special topic in world literatures and cultures. Prerequisite:
Graduate standing. (Typically offered: Irregular) May be repeated for up to 6 hours of
degree credit.

WLIT 5993. African Literature. 3 Hours.
(Formerly WLIT 4993.) A study of modern African fiction, drama, poetry, and film
from various parts of Africa in their cultural context. Works are in English or English
translation. Graduate credit will not be given for both WLIT 4993 and WLIT 5993.
(Typically offered: Irregular)

WLIT 600V. Master's Thesis. 1-6 Hour.
Master's Thesis. (Typically offered: Fall, Spring and Summer) May be repeated for
degree credit.