

Comparative Literature



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GRADUATE
SCHOOL



The Comparative Literature program at Emory offers Ph.D. students a comprehensive curriculum leading to teaching and scholarship in literary disciplines across national traditions and in the theoretical and critical exploration of literature and language. Teaching faculty are drawn from departments throughout the University, representing a variety of literatures and related disciplines.

Rigor and Innovation

Comparative Literature at Emory reflects the strengths of a distinguished group of faculty internationally recognized for their literary scholarship as well as for their theoretical work.

- We emphasize the primary expertise and goals of Comparative Literature: close reading and deep knowledge of literary theory, employed to compare literatures in different languages across national boundaries and to engage in theoretical explorations across disciplinary boundaries such as psychoanalysis and philosophy.
- We recognize the crucial significance of engaging “languages” more broadly defined, including, for instance, those languages or symbolic systems that are central to developments in the sciences and in technology.
- We encourage innovative theoretical reflection across linguistic and disciplinary boundaries, and informed by vigilant attention to the intricacies and performative powers of language.

Students who wish to pursue in-depth training in a particular literary tradition may study toward Certificates in English, French, and Spanish. Certificates are also offered in Philosophy and Women’s Studies. An additional option is a Minor in Psychoanalytic Studies, which provides courses both in the University and in the Emory Psychoanalytic Institute.

Intellectual Community

The graduate program in Comparative Literature involves not only formal scholarly training but also intellectual activities guided and hosted by graduate students, including a series that brings speakers to Emory specializing in theoretical, literary and comparative topics, and an annual conference on cutting-edge theoretical and literary concerns central to students in the program.

Speakers in the lecture series have included Elaine Scarry, Avital Ronell, Ross Chambers, Cynthia Chase, John Felstiner, and Andrzej Warminski, among others.

DISCOVER

the unexpected

Topics of the conferences have included “Violence and Representation,” “Literature on Trial,” “Literature and Democracy,” “Encountering Infancy,” and “The Event of War: Intervention in the 20th and 21st Centuries.”

Students have also produced mini-seminars and the Department as a whole regularly brings in visiting faculty for lectures and seminars on topics such as the Holocaust, Trauma Studies, Ethics, Psychoanalysis, Literary Theory and Politics, and writers including Deleuze, Hölderlin, Benjamin, and others.

Curriculum

The curriculum in Comparative Literature asks students to focus on a range of literature and theoretical areas of inquiry.

Students choose one primary and one secondary body of literature representing different traditions along with a set of defined theoretical, critical and/or historical areas of inquiry pursued within the framework of their chosen literatures.

In developing their program, candidates are encouraged to pursue one or more of five theoretical areas that cross disciplinary boundaries:

- A. Trauma, Psychoanalysis and Testimony;
- B. Literature and Philosophy;
- C. Politics and Global Culture;
- D. Comparative Literature and Religion;
- E. Literature, Technology, and Human/Post-Human Studies.

These fields represent the scholarly expertise of the Comparative Literature faculty as well as the interdisciplinary emphasis of the University.

Degree Requirements

All students take two core courses—“Literary Theories” and “The Teaching of Literature.” Other courses are chosen according to a student’s selected course of study. Courses are offered on a rotating basis, and students may choose courses outside of Comparative Literature as appropriate to their fields of study. (The Comparative Literature website archives past courses with course descriptions, events organized by faculty and graduate students, and faculty listings which offer an idea of faculty interests and strengths).

In addition to coursework, students must

- Demonstrate excellence in one foreign language and a good reading knowledge in a second foreign language.
- Pass a qualifying examination and a Ph.D. examination.
- Write a doctoral dissertation.

For a detailed list of degree requirements, please visit our website, www.comparativelit.emory.edu.

Certificate Options for Comparative Literature Ph.D. Candidates

Certificate options available to graduate students in Comparative Literature include the certificates offered through the Emory University Department of Philosophy, Department of English, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Department of French and Italian, and the Department of Women’s Studies.

A certificate is available to graduate students in Comparative Literature through the Psychoanalytic Studies Program.

Graduate students also have the option of a Concentration in Comparative Literature & Religion.



Training in Teaching

At Emory, all doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other elements of teaching, through the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO) administered by the Graduate School. The program includes a summer workshop that covers broadly applicable issues and skills, a course on pedagogical issues in comparative literature, and teaching opportunities that provide a mentored and progressive development of teaching skills and experience.

Graduate students have a unique opportunity to participate in the undergraduate program and to enhance their teaching and mentoring skills by leading an undergraduate theory reading group, undergraduate coffee hours and an undergraduate colloquium. This collaboration has proved highly successful in bolstering intellectual community in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Students

There are currently 37 doctoral students in the Comparative Literature program. They are working in a variety of languages and literatures including French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, among others.

Students create their own scholarly itineraries and final projects according to their languages, conceptual frameworks and theoretical and disciplinary interests. Recent and current dissertations include

- *A Path Through the Abyss: Re-inventing Testimony Through Post-Holocaust Survivor Poetry, Memoir and Video Oral Histories*
- *Counterfeit Politics: The Conspiracy Narrative in Twentieth Century U.S. and Argentine Literature*
- *Future Reading: Romanticism, Aesthetics, Politics*
- *Une Autre Oreille: Staging Difference in Henry James and Marguerite Duras*
- *MnemoTechnologies: Memory and Experience in Late 20th Century Philosophy and Literature*
- *Shifting Poetics: Creolization, Migration, Relation*
- *Subjects of Love and the Vicissitudes of Reading: Rousseau, Stendhal, Baudelaire, Derrida, Barthes*
- *Speculations of Desire: Narcissism and Love Imagery in the Literature and Iconography of Medieval France and Iberia*
- *Time for Paul: Lyotard, Agamben, Badiou*

Faculty

Comparative Literature at Emory is known nationally and internationally for its stellar scholars and cutting-edge research and teaching in fields such as literary theory, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, trauma studies, ethics, new media studies, post-colonial theory, and queer theory. Our faculty are recognized worldwide for their leadership in theoretical and interdisciplinary innovation as well their outstanding skills in the teaching of close reading in a variety of textual genres.

The Comparative Literature program has 17 core faculty members, some of whom have appointments in French, English, German, Classics, the Institute of the Liberal Arts, Russian and East Asian Languages and Literatures, Religion, and Spanish.

The program also has a number of associated faculty members, including faculty from humanities programs as well as the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Film Studies, Theater Studies, History, and the Psychoanalytic Institute.

Our website has a complete list of both core and associated faculty members, with information about research interests and publications.



Administrative Faculty

GEOFFREY BENNINGTON
CHAIR

Ph.D., Oxford University, 1984;
Asa G. Candler Professor of Modern French Thought.
Modern French Literature and Thought; eighteenth-century
French novel; literary theory; deconstruction.
geoffrey.bennington@emory.edu

DEBORAH ELISE WHITE
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Ph.D., Yale University;
English and Comparative Literature. Romanticism and
Literary Theory (deconstruction, politics and aesthetics,
literary theory)
dwhite2@emory.edu

JILL ROBBINS
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Ph.D., Yale University, 1985;
Professor of Comparative Literature and Religion. Levinas;
Blanchot; Philosophical and Biblical Hermeneutics.
jrobbi2@emory.edu

For Further Information Contact

Alian Teach
Academic Department Administrator
404-727-1108 or ateach@emory.edu

Tara Davis
Academic Degree Program Coordinator
404-727-7994 or tdavis2@emory.edu



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Requests for Additional Information:

RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS

James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies
209 Administration Building
201 Dowman Drive
Atlanta, GA 30322

404-727-6028

(ask for the Comparative Literature program)

Fax: 404-727-4990

<http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu>

<http://www.comparativelit.emory.edu>