Course and Unit Requirements

The Graduate Group in Comparative Literature offers the Ph.D. degree under Plan B. The Ph.D. program requires knowledge of three literatures in their original languages, one of which may be British and/or American literature (see below). Course work will consist of at least 70 upper division and graduate units (all in courses with reading in the original languages), with the following minimum distribution:

Graduate Units in Comparative Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COM 255: Colloquium in Comparative Literature</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two graduate seminars in Comparative Literature</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two courses (CR1 200A and - 200C) offered by the theory consortium administered by Critical Theory, one surveying twentieth-century literary theory and one surveying historically a range of pre-twentieth-century literary theory.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 250A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 250B</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 250C</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM 250D</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Units in National Literatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary literature of concentration</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second literature of concentration</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional graduate units (contingent upon previous preparation)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal, Minimum Graduate Units 58 units

Electives (either upper division or graduate units in three literatures of concentration or in Comparative Literature) 12 units

Minimum Total for the Ph.D. 70 units
Please note that these are minimum unit requirements for completion of the degree. In most cases, when appropriate seminars are available, students will be expected to take more than the minimum number of graduate units, especially in the primary literature. Individual study (“299”) courses will not normally be allowed to substitute for seminars except when seminars are unavailable. All courses must be approved by the Graduate Adviser, and completion of the minimum unit requirements does not in itself constitute satisfaction of required course work for the degree. The precise number of graduate and/or upper division units in each literature is not specified, in order to allow for individual variation, as approved by the Graduate Adviser, in accordance with each student’s preparation and the availability of appropriate courses. Graduate courses are not specifically required in the third literature of concentration, but in no case should a student’s program include fewer than eight units of course work in any of the three literatures (excluding 199s or 299s unless no other courses are available).

For the Ph.D. degree, the primary literature studied must be Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, or Spanish. The second and third literatures may be any of the primary literatures as well as Arabic, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, or any other literary language approved by the graduate committee.

Students are encouraged to work in one or more of the interdisciplinary Designated Emphases that are awarded in conjunction with the Ph.D. degree: Critical Theory, Feminist Theory and Research, Native American Studies, Second Language Acquisition, and Social Theory and Comparative History.

Comparative Literature 250 A-B-C-D

The COM 250 series consists of three graded courses, COM 250A-B-C, followed by COM 250D, graded S/U. In each course the student meets weekly with a supervising faculty member. The writing and other requirements in these courses are as follows:

COM 250A: the student will construct a reading list of about 25 items in the student’s second literature, read and discuss with the supervising faculty member a substantial selection of the texts on this list, and write a 5-page rationale justifying the choice of texts and a 20-25 item annotated bibliography of secondary material relevant to these texts.

COM 250B: Normally COM 250B will treat a third literary tradition. A student may instead choose to focus on a special topic, such as a particular theme, genre, or interdisciplinary focus within a chosen period. For the 250B the student will construct a reading list consisting of ca. 25 literary texts, if for the third literature. If the student has chosen to focus on a special topic, the reading list will consist of 10-12 literary texts and 10-12 works drawn from such disciplines as literary theory, history, philosophy, law, medicine, the visual arts, gender studies, and film studies. The student will read and discuss with the supervising faculty member a substantial selection of the works on the 250B list, and will prepare a syllabus, including primary and secondary readings, for an upper-division course on either the student’s third literature or the special topic, along with a 5-page rationale justifying the choice and sequence of texts in this course.
COM 250C: the student will construct a list of 35-50 works in the primary literature, read and discuss with the supervising faculty member a substantial selection of the texts on this list, and write an 8-10 page “conference paper” (with an abstract), based on one or more of the works in this list.

NB: The selection of reading lists is a significant step in a student’s career in the discipline of Comparative Literature, because it helps to define her or his areas of specialization, which in turn will play a role in the student’s future scholarship and search for employment. Therefore careful thought should go into the construction of these lists.

COM 250D: the student will complete a dissertation prospectus under the supervision of the dissertation adviser.

COM 250A-B-C will be taken, normally in sequence, prior to the qualifying examination. COM 250D must be taken prior to the completion of the qualifying examination.

**Teaching Requirement**

At least one year’s teaching experience at half time or more is required of all candidates for the Ph.D. at any time before the degree is awarded. This requirement may be fulfilled by holding a teaching assistantship and/or associate position in any literature department or program at 50% time for three quarters, or by other teaching activities, which provide equivalent experience. Contingent on satisfactory performance, teaching appointments at UC Davis may be held up to a maximum, normally, of twelve quarters (four academic years).

**Foreign Language Competence**

Students entering the Ph.D. program with language deficiencies in the first, second, or third literatures of concentration shall submit in writing to the Graduate Adviser at the beginning of their first quarter of residence a plan indicating how they intend to achieve adequate proficiency within the first two years of the Ph.D. study program. This plan shall be signed by the candidate and the Graduate Adviser, who will keep the plan in the student’s file. Any deviation from this program of studies will need the explicit approval of the Graduate Adviser, who will amend the original plan accordingly.

**The Qualifying Examination**

**The Ph.D. Committee**
The qualifying examination is administered by a Ph.D. Committee consisting of five faculty members, including the supervising faculty members in COM 250A-B-C. Every Ph.D. Committee shall include at least one member of the Comparative Literature program. The committee will be chaired by a faculty member, normally from Comparative Literature, who was not one of the three supervising faculty members in COM 250A-B-C. If a student is fulfilling a Designated Emphasis, one member of the committee will be a faculty member in that Designated Emphasis.

The Written and Oral Examinations

The Qualifying Examination will consist of

a) A 24-hour take-home, written examination on the list of works in the primary literature developed in COM 250C. This examination will normally consist of a choice of one or two out of three or more questions covering both the primary literature in its entire historical range and the student’s area(s) of specialization. A student who has an M.A. in the primary literature will not be required to answer any questions covering the history of literature. The student who already has an M.A. in the primary literature, however, will be required to answer one or two out of three questions covering his or her area(s) of specialization. In either case the number of questions posed will be at the discretion of the examiner.

The exam answer should consist of no less than five pages and no more than fifteen double-spaced typewritten pages for each question answered. This examination will normally be composed by the student's supervising instructor for COM 250C.

b) A 24-hour take-home, written comparative examination based on the two reading lists developed in COM 250A and COM 250B. The student will be asked to discuss a topic or topics drawing on his or her area(s) of specialization in one or two national literary traditions. [If the student has chosen to focus on a special topic in place of a third literary tradition, part of this examination will treat the special topic, the other part the student’s second literature. Otherwise the examination will cover the student’s second and third literatures.] Students will bring the expertise developed in Designated Emphases to bear on this question as appropriate.

The exam answer should consist of no less than five pages and no more than fifteen double-spaced typewritten pages for each question answered. This examination will normally be composed jointly by the student's supervising instructors for COM 250A and 250B.

c) A two-hour oral examination based on the student’s two written examinations and on the student’s plans for the dissertation.
A student who fails either of the two take-home examinations may retake it once within a calendar year of the failure. A student will not be admitted to the oral examination if he or she fails one of the written examinations a second time.

A student who receives a grade of Not Pass on the oral examination must retake it within a calendar year of the Not Pass. If the student receives a Fail on the oral examination, she or he will be recommended for disqualification from continuing study in the degree program.

**Dissertation (Plan B)**

The Ph.D. degree will be awarded upon acceptance by the candidate’s Dissertation Committee of a dissertation whose format is prescribed by Graduate Studies and whose substance will be comparative in nature. The Dissertation Committee shall consist of three readers -- the dissertation committee chair plus a second and third reader. At least one of these, normally the dissertation director, must be a member of the Comparative Literature faculty. A substantial prospectus for the dissertation, normally written in Comparative Literature 250D under the dissertation director’s supervision, must be approved by all three members of the committee.

**Satisfactory Progress Towards the Degree:**

The student is expected to complete all work for the Ph.D., including the dissertation, within six years of entering the doctoral program. Normally the qualifying examination is taken in the fourth year of study, leaving two years in which to write the dissertation, but the student is free to take the examination in the third year, if she or he feels prepared to do so, has completed all necessary course requirements, and has the approval of the Graduate Adviser.

Students must make up all “Incomplete” grades by September 1 in order to retain a teaching appointment in Comparative Literature during the following academic year.