

**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PROGRAM**  
**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRICULUM AND MAJOR**  
**[Rev 11/14/07]**

**We are proposing:**

- **11 new courses**
- **2 course title changes**
- **8 dropped courses**

Over the past year we have restructured and clarified our undergraduate major, and course changes we are proposing are designed to support that restructuring.

In years past, COLT course offerings have varied widely depending on changing faculty interests. Such variety is not altogether a problem; students are drawn to COLT because of its spirit of open-ended inquiry. Students value the flexibility of our program and the eclecticism of our course content. Nonetheless, a change is currently in order. Our goal over the past three years has been to grow the undergraduate major and to raise its visibility on campus. As we grow, we cannot continue to serve our majors well without bringing more consistency and coherence to our course offerings.

At the same time, our restructured curriculum is meant to enhance the undergraduate experience in two ways:

- In the first place, we have designed an articulated course of study that will give all COLT students a cutting edge, foundational training in the discipline of comparative literature. All students will take a full year of required 300-level courses: COLT 301, COLT 302/3/4 and COLT 305. Ideally these courses will be taken in sequence, during a student's junior year, but given our desire to maintain flexibility for transfer students and late-declaring majors, we expect some students will take the courses out of sequence.

COLT 301, already on the books, is our introduction to literary theory. COLT 302, 303 and 304 are genre courses; respectively they cover the three principle literary genres: poetry, narrative and drama. These three courses will be offered in alternating years. COLT 305 offers students an introduction to the discipline of cultural studies. Taken together, COLT 301, 302/3/4 and 305 introduce students to the advanced study of theory, genre and culture, and thus provide the disciplinary backbone, as it were, for students' body of coursework both within and outside of the Program. Furthermore, in their graduating year students will participate in the COLT capstone seminar (415) where, working closely with faculty and advanced GTF mentors, students will develop an original research project. For honors students this project will serve as the prospectus for their B.A. thesis.

Both in the 300-level courses and, especially, in COLT 415, it is our goal to offer students a highly mentored and individualized training in literary study. With its mandatory one-on-one tutorial hours, COLT 415 in particular gives students a unique opportunity for advanced scholarship. This initiative is, we feel, especially in keeping with Provost Brady's emphasis on undergraduate research and academic excellence.

- Secondly, the changes we propose are intended to promote community: an essential ingredient in undergraduate satisfaction and retention. Comparative Literature is by definition interdisciplinary and thus our students take courses all across campus.

Furthermore, UO undergraduates in general tend to declare their majors late, and often do not enter a mentoring community until their very final terms of study. With our carefully articulated core curriculum, however, we aim to increase the likelihood that COLT students will work together as a cohort at the same time that they spread out into their various subspecialties.

With these changes we have ultimately strived to preserve -- and even to enhance -- our program's flexibility, while at the same time we have developed a core curriculum that we hope will nurture our majors within a mentoring community and will anchor their scholarship in the methods and values of the discipline itself.

### **More about the redesigned major:**

The existing COLT Major is designed for maximum flexibility and responds to the realities of a small program faculty. There are few required courses, and almost no offerings at the 300-level. The bulk of a COLT major's training in literary study happens outside of the Program. Thus, although the current Major is one of the more credit-intensive majors in CAS, it entails a rather diffuse program of study. In redesigning the Major we've streamlined it at the same time that we've clarified its structure and developed a core of required courses.

These changes have become possible because we've been successful in generating a more active participating faculty. Moreover, we have also been able to budget funds to hire several adjunct faculty per year. Furthermore, we are in the process of hiring a full-time tenure-track assistant professor. We thus now have the means to offer a greater number of advanced courses and thus a more articulated program of study for our undergraduates.

To summarize the changes we've made, we offer the following comparison between the old structure of the major and the new structure:

**OLD:** In addition to language study, seventeen required courses for the major: 2 at the lower-division, and the remaining 15 at the upper-division.

**NEW:** In addition to language study, fifteen required courses for the major: 2 at the lower-division, and the remaining 13 at the upper-division.

**OLD:** Of the seventeen required courses, seven are taken in COLT.

**NEW:** Of the fifteen required courses, eight are taken in COLT.

**OLD:** Three specified courses required in COLT, mostly at lower-div level.

**NEW:** Four specified courses required in COLT, all at upper-div level.

**OLD:** Three "core areas" defined in relation to a student's "major focus." This system was designed to enable creative, individual courses of study. In practice, however, it has been a continual source of confusion and frustration both for students and faculty.

**NEW:** The guidelines for coursework in primary and secondary national/linguistic traditions have been greatly simplified. The notion of a "major focus" has been abandoned, in favor instead of a choice between two different emphases within the major: "Language and Culture" or "Disciplines in Dialogue." The opportunity for a creative, individual course of study is now built into the major through the "Disciplines in Dialogue" emphasis and the individualized research work of COLT 415.

**OLD:** Foreign language requirement unintentionally entailed a bias toward Western European languages where literature is taught beginning at the 300-level.

**NEW:** Foreign language requirement has been modified to recognize the special needs of majors studying Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Japanese, Russian and/or Swedish -  
- languages where a third year of language study most likely entails further training in grammar and oral production.

**OLD:** No minimum grade requirement for coursework in the Major or Minor.

**NEW:** Coursework required for the Major or Minor must be passed with grades of mid-C or better.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING COLT CURRICULUM  
AT A GLANCE**

<b>Course number/title</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 208: "World of..." courses, defined by literary genre (e.g. "World of Fiction," "World of Poetry")	Drop	Genre study should take place at the upper-division level, after students have received basic introduction to world literature. Replace individual genre courses with 211 and 212: courses that address World Literature and World Cinema <i>across</i> genre. 211 and 212 also explicitly address the <i>question of globalization</i> : how are literary forms transmitted from one cultural context to the next, across geographical and historical divides?
211: Comparative World Literature	Add	This course replaces the COLT 200-level genre courses. Unlike survey-based world lit courses (cf. ENG 107, 108, 109), COLT 211 does not seek to introduce students to a "canon" of world literature, but instead to give them the tools to understand the global transmission and translation of literary forms.
212: Comparative World Cinema	Add	Similar in aim and method to COLT 211. Currently film has been taught within the 201-208 sequence. There is currently no established World Cinema course offered at UO.
302: Theories of Poetry 303: Theories of the Novel 304: Theories of Drama	Add	Our aim is to relocate genre study at the upper-division level. These courses will be offered in alternating years. Our intention is to introduce all COLT undergrads to advanced genre study, although the content of that study (i.e. poetry, novel, or drama) will vary on an annual basis.
305: Cultural Studies	Add	An introductory course in cultural studies is lacking at UO. Such a course is especially essential to students engaged in comparative work.
415: Capstone Seminar	Add	This course will offer our majors a crucial opportunity to conduct advanced research within a close, mentoring environment.
418/518: Modernisms	Drop	This specialized course in a specific literary movement (i.e. Modernism) is being replaced by the more general topics course "Literary Movements."

430/530: Literary Movements	Add	See 418/518. This broader course rubric will enable us to offer this course more frequently and thus to increase the coherence of our curriculum and predictability of our course offerings.
440/540: Studies in Genre	Add	440/540 offers a more advanced version of the kind of genre study engaged in 302/3/4.
450/550: Comparative Studies in Cinema	Title and description change	Changes are semantic only -- intended to create more consistent terminology across the curriculum.
460/560: Major Theorists	Add	Currently our curriculum offers no means for undergrads or grads to pursue in-depth analysis of seminal theorists in the field.
464/564: Cross-Cultural Investigations of Gender	Drop	As with our decision to drop 418/518 in favor of the broader rubric of 430/530, we've decided to drop this course in favor of the broader proposed course, 470/570.
470/570: Studies in Identity	Add	See 464/564 and 430/530. The title and content of this course are meant to parallel courses like 440/540 and 450/550. Moreover, the course is intended to offer a more advanced version of the study of identity formation engaged in COLT 360 (Gender and Identity in Literature).
490/590: Literature and Philosophy	Title change	Change is semantic only -- intended to create more consistent terminology across the curriculum.

**CATALOG COPY INDICATING  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO COLT CURRICULUM**

*proposed new courses are highlighted  
changes/deletions to existing courses indicated by ~~strikethrough~~*

101, 102, 103 Introduction to Comparative Literature (4,4,4) Introduction to the comparative study of literature. 101: world literature, emphasis on literary genre, historical period. 102: world literature in its social and political contexts. 103: visual culture from around the world. Calhoon, Middlebrook.

198 Workshop: [Topic] (1–2R)

199 Special Studies: [Topic] (1–5R)

~~201 The World of Epic (4) Explores narratives of nation or culture building, classical to modern.~~

~~202 The World of Drama (4) Studies drama as a genre, a critical paradigm, and a social and cultural phenomenon.~~

~~203 The World of Poetry (4) Surveys poetries of different languages, periods, and cultures.~~

~~204 The World of Fiction (4) Explores novels and short stories. Examines narrative features—point of view, authority, voice, style, structure—in cultural and international contexts.~~

~~206 The World of Autobiography (4) Examines the nature and problems of writing about the self. Explores autobiography and its subgenres in cultural and international contexts.~~

~~208 Genre: [Topic] (4R) Identifies emerging, hybrid, or minor genres in cultural and international contexts. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 12 credits.~~

211 Comparative World Literature (4) Explores literature from a global standpoint. Examines the movement of literary forms (e.g. genres, motifs, rhetorical modes) from one culture, region and historical epoch to the next.

212 Comparative World Cinema (4) Explores cinema from a comparative standpoint. Considers the aesthetic, ideological and socio-economic exchanges between "national" cinematic traditions.

301 Approaches to Comparative Literature (4) Introduction to theory and methods in comparative literature, with some attention to the history and problems of the discipline. Hokanson.

302 Theories of Poetry (4) Introduction to the study of poetry and poetic form from a world perspective.

303 Theories of the Novel (4) Introduction to the study of narrativity and the novel from a world perspective.

- 304 Theories of Drama (4) Introduction to the study of drama and performance from a world perspective.
- 305 Cultural Studies (4) Introduction to the interdisciplinary study of cultural discourses and practices.
- 350 Comparative Literature: [Topic] (4R) Recent topics include Art of Translation, Madness and Creativity.
- 360 Gender and Identity in Literature (4) Introduction to the study of gender in literature, from Asia to Europe to the Americas, and from the classics to the late 20th century.
- 399 Special Studies: [Topic] (1–5R)
- 401 Research: [Topic] (1–21R)
- 403 Thesis (1–12R)
- 405 Reading and Conference: [Topic] (1–21R)
- 407/507 Seminar: [Topic] (1–5R)
- 408/508 Workshop: [Topic] (1–21R)
- 410/510 Experimental Course: [Topic] (1–5R)
- 415 Capstone Seminar: [Topic] (4) Senior seminar for all COLT students includes development and presentation of an original research project.
- ~~418/518 Modernisms: [Topic] (4–5R) Comparative study of modernism as a force for aesthetic and social renovation. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.~~
- 430/530 Literary Movements: [Topic] (4-5R) Literature and other media considered within the context of intellectual, cultural and/or socio-political movements, e.g. Modernism, Situationism, the Baroque. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.
- 440/540 Studies in Genre: [Topic] (4-5R) In-depth analysis of specific literary genres and/or modes, e.g. lyric poetry, comedy, allegory. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.
- 450/550 Comparative Studies in Cinema ~~Cinematic Representations~~: [Topic] (4–5R) Advanced consideration of the aesthetic (including literary) and cultural contexts of world film. ~~Film considered in treated in broad aesthetic (including literary) and cultural contexts.~~ Calhoun. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.
- 460/560 Major Theorists: [Topic] (4-5R) Concentrates on the work of a single literary or cultural theorist, e.g. Walter Benjamin, Jacques Derrida, Gayatri Spivak. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.
- 461/561 Studies in Contemporary Theory: [Topic] (4–5R) Identifies issues in literary or cultural theory for close examination. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

462/562 Cultural Intersections: [Topic] (4–5R) Studies designated issues between literatures and societies remote from one another, e.g., “minor” and “major” cultures, Asia and the West. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

~~464/564 Cross-Cultural Investigations of Gender: [Topic] (4–5R) Advanced study of gender in settings of historical and/or cultural difference with explicit attention to the theoretical premises underlying comparison. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.~~

470/570 Studies in Identity [Topic] (4-5R) Advanced study of gender, ethnicity and other identity formations in literature. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

490/590 Literature and Philosophy: ~~Philosophical Problems and Literary Contexts:~~ [Topic] (4–5R) Establishes a dialogue between philosophy and literature—as disciplines, as historical constructions, as value systems. R twice when topic changes for maximum of 15 credits.

503 Thesis (1–16R)

601 Research: [Topic] (1–16R)

603 Dissertation (1–16R)

605 Reading and Conference: [Topic] (1–16R)

607 Seminar: [Topic] (1–5R)

608 Colloquium: [Topic] (1–16R)

610 Experimental Course: [Topic] (1–5R)

612 Comparative Literature in the Academy (1–2) Explores professional issues for graduate students who plan careers in college and university teaching and scholarship.

613 Translation Pedagogy (4–5) Pedagogy and theoretical training for teaching world literature and literature in translation.

614, 615 Graduate Studies in Comparative Literature (5,5) 614: overview of the state of the discipline. Treats historical and theoretical developments in literary studies including philology and cultural studies; reconsiders the place of comparative literature in a global, pluralistic curriculum. 615: survey of contemporary literary theory.

## PROPOSED NEW CATALOG COPY FOR THE COLT UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR AND MINOR

### **Undergraduate Studies**

The undergraduate program offers a unique major that cuts across disciplines, teaches critical skills, and provides an intellectually challenging curriculum while preparing students for possible careers in the media, law, government, business, or teaching. Students with a good background in one or more languages other than English find that the program gives them the opportunity to study literature and related cultural productions, including canonical and emerging writings, in a variety of historical and theoretical perspectives.

The program combines maximum flexibility with a rigorous grounding in the basics of literary theory and cultural studies. Depending on their interests, majors choose one of two emphases: "Language and Culture" and "Disciplines in Dialogue." In Language and Culture, students develop proficiency in two national/linguistic traditions. In Disciplines and Dialogue, students explore links between a single national/linguistic tradition and a non-literary field. Both emphases are ideally suited to students considering either a double-major or a major and a minor. In COLT, students can combine their multiple interests into a single program of study.

In addition to their coursework outside of COLT, a carefully designed core curriculum takes students through the basics of comparative literature as a discipline. Coursework within COLT culminates with a capstone seminar (COLT 415) during which students work closely with faculty and advanced graduate students to explore individualized research interests. Many COLT students use the capstone seminar to develop a BA Honors Thesis project (see "Honors Track" below).

### **Emphases within the Major**

In COLT we recognize that there are many different ways of thinking about literature from a comparative perspective. Accordingly we offer two different emphases for the major. One emphasis, **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**, features comparative study across different national/linguistic traditions. This emphasis is recommended for students who wish to study abroad, attend graduate school in Comparative Literature, or who simply want to gain an in-depth understanding of one or more foreign cultures. A second emphasis of study, **DISCIPLINES IN DIALOGUE**, allows students to combine literary study with work in a non-literary tradition. The Disciplines in Dialogue track offers an alternative for students considering a double major in literature and a non-literary field. It is also well-suited to students who want to combine literary study with creative writing, performance or the visual arts.

### **The LANGUAGE AND CULTURE Emphasis**

Language and Culture students designate two national/linguistic traditions: e.g. Japanese and German; British and Caribbean; South Asian and Francophone literatures. There are many ways to designate national/linguistic traditions: traditions might be linguistically based (e.g. Japanese, German); nationally or regionally based (e.g. British, Caribbean, South Asian); or may be defined by histories of imperialism and immigration (e.g. Francophone literature). Language and Culture students will work closely with the Director of Undergraduate Advising to determine their two traditions. In addition, the language chosen to fulfill the Foreign Language requirement (see below) should coincide with one of these national/linguistic traditions.

### The DISCIPLINES IN DIALOGUE Emphasis

Disciplines in Dialogue students designate one national/linguistic tradition and one other disciplinary focus (e.g. creative writing, philosophy, cinema studies, psychology, art history). Courses taken in this disciplinary focus may be spread out across several subject codes, with the approval of the Undergraduate Advisor. In addition, we strongly advise students to complete their Foreign Language Requirement (see below) in a language relevant either to their national/linguistic tradition or to their disciplinary focus.

### Foreign Language Requirement

The comparative study of culture begins with the immersion in foreign languages. All COLT majors must complete at least one year of upper-division training in a language other than English. For students working in French, German, Italian and/or Spanish, this third year will entail the study of literature. Appropriate courses include FR 317/318/319, GER 340/341, as well as any 400-level literature course taught in the language in question etc. For students working in Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Japanese, Russian and/or Swedish, the third year will most likely entail further training in grammar and oral production. Appropriate courses include CHN 301/302/303, HBRW 311/312/313, RUSS 316/317/318, etc. With approval of the Undergraduate Advisor, courses taken abroad may be used to fulfill this requirement.

### Major Requirements ..... 15 courses (minimum of 53 credits)

In addition to completing their foreign language requirement (see above), all COLT majors take eight required courses in COLT, four upper-division courses in their primary national/linguistic tradition and three upper-division courses in their secondary focus field (either a second national/linguistic tradition or a non-literary discipline).

All coursework required for the Comparative Literature major and minor must be passed with grades of mid-C or better.

<b>Required Courses in COLT</b>	<b>32 credits</b>
2 lower-division electives in COLT.....	8
1 300-level elective in COLT.....	4
1 400-level elective in COLT.....	4
COLT 301 (Approaches to Comparative Literature) .....	4
COLT 302, 303 or 304 (genre theory courses) .....	4
COLT 305 (Cultural Studies) .....	4
COLT 415 (Capstone Seminar) .....	4

<b>Course work in focus fields</b>	<b>minimum of 21 credits</b>
4 upper-division courses in primary national/linguistic tradition.....	12
3 upper-division either in secondary national/linguistic tradition (Language and Culture) or in non-literary discipline (Disciplines in Dialogue) .....	9

### Honors Track in Comparative Literature

Any COLT student may petition to enter the Honors Track during Spring of their junior year. Admission to the Honors Track is based upon the recommendation of a COLT Program or Participating Faculty member. Completion of the Honors Track entails the successful completion of a BA honors thesis and an additional 400-level elective. During COLT 415, the

Capstone Seminar (typically offered during Fall of senior year), honors students develop and present a thesis prospectus. The thesis must be comparative in nature, and should entail work in both of the student's focus fields. If the prospectus is approved by both the Capstone Seminar leader and the student's thesis adviser, then the student enrolls in COLT 403 (Thesis) during Winter of senior year. The thesis is completed under the supervision of the thesis adviser, and must be submitted to both the adviser and a second reader by the fifth week of Spring term. The thesis must then be approved by the adviser and second faculty member after a formal presentation. Both thesis adviser and second reader should be chosen from the COLT Program and Participating Faculty.

### **Minor in Comparative Literature**

The Comparative Literature minor offers an opportunity for students to pursue an interest in world literature and film without advanced language study. Seven courses are required: COLT 301, "Approaches to Comparative Literature"; four additional courses with the COLT subject code, of which no more than two may be lower-division; two upper-division literature or film courses, both in the same subject area. These two additional courses may be taught in Comparative Literature or in other departments, and may be taken abroad or away from the University of Oregon.

### **Courses**

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