

INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR

Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS)

Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS) is for students who like literature but do not wish to major in English or in a single language offered by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. It is an individualized major in Literature itself, and students take courses in any or all of the above literatures, as well as in related areas such as film studies, literary and cultural theory, history, anthropology, sociology, etc. Most semesters an undergraduate course is taught (in English) specifically as a CLCS course, such as the two-part Classics of World Literature. In recent semesters, CLCS courses have covered such subjects as Modernism in Architecture and Literature, The Politics of Avant-Garde Literature and Art, Gertrude Stein and Her Friends, Myth and Literature, Psychoanalysis and Literature, The Epic Poem, Modern Literary Criticism, Literature and the Fine Arts, Magic and the Occult in Literature, Semiotics, The Art and Literature of the Baroque, etc.

For an individualized major in CLCS, a student should take

- 12 credits in CLCS, and
- 12 credits in one national literature (English, French, Italian, German, etc.), and
- 12 credits in a related field (philosophy, history, etc.) are recommended, but related courses can also be in the national literatures

[Additional requirements of the Individualized Major Program include a capstone and a research methods course. See below.]

Since CLCS is intended as a major for students with more imagination and resourcefulness than usual, the specifics of the major are always worked out individually between the student and his/her advisor. CLCS is an excellent undergraduate major for the student who intends to enter graduate school either in this field itself (UConn offers an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies), or in any national literature. Since its primary concern is always the nature of literature itself, regardless of national origins, it is at the center of the humanities.

(from <http://languages.uconn.edu/programs/clcs/undergrad/index.html> July 14, 2009)

You may discuss a CLCS major with one of the following CLCS faculty members:

Professor Lucy S. McNeece
CLCS Co-chair
lucy.mcneece@uconn.edu
Arjona, Room 242
860-486-3315

Professor Ted van Alst, Jr.
CLCS Co-chair
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Arjona, Room 112

CAPSTONE COURSE AND RESEARCH METHODS COURSE

Every individualized major student must satisfy a capstone requirement. Therefore, your plan of study must include INTD 4600W Individualized Major Capstone Course, a thesis, or an acceptable alternative. For more details about this requirement, see:

http://www.iisp.uconn.edu/imjr_capstone.htm. In addition, every individualized major must take a suitable research or methods course. Discuss with your faculty advisors which CLCS courses might serve as a suitable research course for your major. Further information on the general requirements of the Individualized Major can be found at:

http://www.iisp.uconn.edu/imjr_planofstudy_guidelines.htm.

ADMISSION TO THE IMJR- Your application for admission should include (1) a plan of study; (2) a statement of purpose; and (3) your current unofficial transcript. Your statement of purpose should define the academic focus and coherence of the proposed major. Your faculty advisors should see and approve a final version of both your plan of study and statement of purpose. You will find more admissions information at: http://www.iisp.uconn.edu/imjr_admissions.htm.

CLCS UPPER-LEVEL COURSES

2214 (214) Introduction to World Cinema and Comparative Film Theory

Either semester. Three credits.

Introduction to the theory and criticism of film, applied to classics of world cinema. Comparative study of the development of cinematic techniques, and comparative approach to film as cultural production.

3201 (201) Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

Either semester. Three credits. This course may be repeated for credit with a change of topic.

Literary and cultural questions that go beyond national boundaries: the relationship of literature to other disciplines and to the other arts; cinema as a cultural phenomena. (No foreign language required.)

3203 (203) Comparative Studies in Cultural History

Either semester. Three credits. This course may be repeated for credit with a change of topic.

The comparative study of cultural movements in literature and the arts throughout history. The course will explore different areas of cultural practice -- e.g., social, literary, political, aesthetic, anthropological, -- with an eye as to how they are shaped, and in turn shape, dominant institutions and values. Sample topics include: World War I and the emergence of Modernism; European Fascisms; Christian, Jewish, and Muslim culture in Medieval Spain; photography

and the Colonial Encounter, etc. May be repeated with change of topic.

3207 (207) Film Genres

Either semester. Three credits.

Conventions, history, and development of selected film genres.

3208 (208) Studies in Film History

Either semester. Three credits.

The history of cinema from its origins to the present in relation to relevant historical and cultural developments.