



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision and Renaming of the BALAS in Comparative Literature, Program in Comparative & World Literature, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SPONSOR: Lilya Kaganovsky, Professor and Director of the Program in Comparative & World Literature, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, lilya@illinois.edu, 333-6157

COLLEGE CONTACT: Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ritterk@illinois.edu, 333-1350

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Program in Comparative & World Literature seeks to revise and rename the major in Comparative Literature and the major in Comparative Literature, World Literature Concentration, to: the major in Comparative & World Literature, with two concentrations: Comparative Literature (CL) and World Literature (WL).

The Program in Comparative and World Literature offers both undergraduate and graduate programs leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy, and is designed to provide a systematic study of subjects and problems common to several literatures and cultures. Its purpose is to enable students to gain appropriate linguistic competence and preparation to explore national literatures in a larger framework, including: world literature; literary theory and criticism; the theory and practice of cross-cultural comparison; translation studies; national literatures in their historical development; and the relations between literature and the other arts.

Founded in 1967 as a graduate program, the undergraduate major in Comparative Literature was established in 1977, built around four core courses (Early Masterpieces of Western Culture (241), Modern Masterpieces of Western Cultures (242), Comparative Lit Studies (201) and Literature and Ideas (202), which mirrored the analogous courses at the graduate level). The concentration in World Literature was added in the 1990s and reflected a new emphasis on cross-cultural studies, world literature, and translation. Over the last decade, enrollments in the major have fluctuated, with 21 majors in 2009-2010, to a low of 4 in 2014-2015. Since then, the numbers have been steadily going up, with 11 students currently majoring in Comparative Literature (both concentrations), plus about a handful of minors, and a few double majors and double degree students. With the proposed revisions, we expect the major to stabilize at 15 students per year, with the reduction in the

number of hours aimed at making it easier to combine the major in CWL with another major or minor.

This proposal outlines revisions for the BALAS in Comparative Literature. The main components to the revision are:

- 1) The name of the major is being revised from Comparative Literature to Comparative and World Literature. The configuration of the major will also be revised, from a major (Comparative Literature) and one concentration (World Literature) to two concentrations – the first in Comparative Literature, the second in World Literature. To simplify the discussion of the other revisions to the overall major, the following will be used in this document: Comparative Literature (refers to current major and proposed concentration); World Literature (current and proposed concentration).
- 2) The degree requirements are being reduced from 48 hours to 39 hours in the Comparative Literature concentration and 33 hours in the World Literature concentration. This reduction makes reflects national trends in the discipline and brings the major in line with the total number of hours required for similar degrees at other institutions, and within Humanities fields at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.
- 3) CWL 201 is being eliminated as a core required course for both concentrations. This is because the methods work previously done in CWL 201, prior to revisions to the course over the last several years, has now shifted to CWL 202, which remains a core requirement. CWL 201 has been repositioned as a course option in the pool of core courses.
- 4) The 9 hours of core courses for both concentrations has been increased to 15, and now stipulates that students take at least two 300- or 400-level courses in methods. Previously the methods courses were only required for the World Literature concentration.
- 5) A CWL course in pre-1800 literature has been added to the 15 hours of electives in the core; this ensures that students take at least one course in a pre-modern period, which is consistent with similar requirements for literature majors, both at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and at peer institutions. This requirement also adds historical breadth to the curriculum.
- 6) The hours required in literature in the original language have been reduced from 15 to 9 for the Comparative Literature Concentration, but we have added 6 hrs of advanced language coursework that will count toward the concentration.
- 7) The hours required for literature courses in two national traditions has been reduced from 18 to 9 hours in the World Literature Concentration. This change allows for more degree flexibility, and should attract new students to the CWL major.
- 8) In the Comparative Literature Concentration, the 9-hour single national literature requirement has been eliminated; it is now one of four possible areas of focus in the CL concentration (the others are: another discipline, cultural studies, and area studies). This is consistent with current directions in the field and in Comparative Literature majors at peer institutions.
- 9) Finally, in the World Literature concentration, the Area/Culture Concentration has been reduced from 9 hours to 6 hours, in either another discipline, cultural studies, or area studies.

JUSTIFICATION: The Comparative Literature major has not been revised since the introduction of the World Literature Concentration in the late 1990s and no longer reflects national trends or shifting student demand. Currently, the major requires 48 credit hours, one of the highest at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and among national peers. Fewer requirements and a more flexible structure will make it possible for more students to major and double major in CWL.

There are two degree options in the current major, which will remain in the revision but encoded as two concentrations. Those are first, the Comparative Literature Concentration, which requires literatures to be studied in the original language. This concentration emphasizes historical depth and requires advanced language proficiency. Second, there is the World Literature Concentration, which echoes the same approach as the Comparative Lit concentration, but allows courses be taken from multiple literatures taught in translation, emphasizing global breadth rather than historical depth, and cross-cultural analysis.

Regardless of which concentration a student chooses, he or she takes 18 hours of core courses that channel students into broadly comparative courses taught in the department by core faculty, and that provide a shared experience for students across the two concentrations.

These curricular changes will have the following effects:

- 1) The name change for the major will align with the name of the Program and therefore less confusing to students and faculty.
- 2) Reduce the number of required courses bringing into alignment the number of credit hours required for a CWL major with other similar humanities programs on campus and at our peer institutions. Currently, the major requires 48 hours, the highest number at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and among national peers. At Illinois, these programs are: German 31, French 37, Portuguese 42-45 (including language), Slavic 30, East Asian 33-57 depending on language level, English 42 (to be reduced to 39). At peer universities, these programs in CompLit are: Michigan 33, Penn State 36, Indiana 33, UCLA 30, Princeton 27, Berkeley 32 (which was recently reduced from 35-40).
- 3) Help students move through the curriculum in a timely and productive manner: fewer required courses and more flexibility should make it possible for students to complete the major more efficiently, as well as to combine it with a second major or minor. Currently, students in related fields (national literature programs such as English, French, German, for example, but also: Communications) choose CWL as a minor or second major; while students in fields such as music choose CWL as a second degree. According to DMI, we currently have 2 double degree/ double majors, and 4 minors. We would like to increase these numbers by making the CWL major more accessible to students from other disciplines.
- 4) Provide an opportunity for students to focus in a second discipline or geographical area that will make a CWL degree more marketable, while still

allowing for the rigorous preparation required for admission to graduate programs in Comparative Literature and related fields. In past years, CWL majors have gone on to law school, graduate programs in Comparative Literature, or graduate programs in film studies, national literature departments, and Religion. Allowing students to focus on cultural studies, area studies, and other disciplines in addition to literature will give them a broader cultural foundation and more flexibility on the job market (academic or otherwise).

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The proposed changes to the BALAS degree will not require additional staffing or other expenditures.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

Given that this revision involves a reduction in hours required coupled with a hopeful small increase in enrollments, the two should balance out. Any new students in the major will be able to be accommodated, and CWL will be able to support all existing programs and functions without creating additional capacity, or surplus.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

We are not seeking any campus or other external resources at this time.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

No financial arrangements are needed.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

None. The revision of the major will not require any internal reallocation of resources. It will also not result in changes to class size, teaching loads, or adversely affect the student / faculty ratio.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

None. A reduction in the number of required hours for the major does not impact any other unit. An increase in the number of majors should balance out the drop in the number of courses they need to take in other departments.

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library

None. A reduction in the number of required hours for the major should have no impact on the University Library.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

None. We do not anticipate that a reduction in the number of required hours for the major will have any impact on technology or space (such as computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.).

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2020

STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

Overview TAB

Lilya Kaganovsky

3080 Foreign Languages Building, 707 South Mathews, Urbana

PH: (217) 333-4987

<http://www.complit.illinois.edu/Welcome.html>

The Program in Comparative and World Literature sponsors a major with concentrations in Comparative Literature (literatures studied in the original language) and World Literature (literatures in translation). The Program also sponsors a minor in World Literature.

A student who elects Comparative and World Literature as a major must complete 33-39 hours, including at least 12 hours in courses numbered 300 or above.

The student who chooses the Comparative Literature Concentration must have sufficient linguistic skills in at least two languages (one of which may be English) to participate in 200- to 400-level literature courses offered by the various languages and literatures departments.

No foreign language training beyond the General Education requirement is required for the World Literature Concentration.

MAJOR TAB

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

E-mail: complit@illinois.edu

Students must select one of the following in consultation with an advisor.

- [Major in Comparative & World Literature](#), Comparative Literature Concentration
- [Major in Comparative & World Literature, World Literature Concentration](#)

Comparative Literature Concentration website:

Comparative Literature Concentration

<https://complit.illinois.edu/>

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Comparative & World Literature, Comparative Literature Concentration

E-mail: complit@illinois.edu

The Major in Comparative & World Literature, Comparative Literature Concentration provides an engagement with two or more literary and cultural traditions, studied in historical depth, in their original languages (6 hours of advanced foreign language required).

Study abroad and work across cultures and disciplines is strongly encouraged. The distribution of course work allows for considerable flexibility. The concentration in Comparative Literature can be easily combined with a major or minor in any national literature, classics, global studies, area studies, ethnic studies, gender and women's studies, or majors and minors in anthropology, art history, cinema and media studies, history, music, philosophy, world religion, the visual arts, or with a certificate in translation studies.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your advisor.

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Minimum required major and supporting course work equate to 39 hours with at least 18 hours of Comparative Literature courses.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Students will complete 40 hours of upper division coursework (these hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree).

Departmental distinction. To be eligible for distinction, a student must have at least a 3.25 cumulative grade- point average and a 3.75 grade-point average in departmental courses, complete a senior thesis ([CWL 493](#)), and receive the approval of the departmental honors committee. The departmental honors committee will determine the level of distinction to be awarded.

Comparative Literature Courses	
Language: A minimum of 6 hours of advanced language at the 200-400 level (may be satisfied with a proficiency exam)	6
CWL 202 Literature and Ideas	3
Five core CWL courses chosen from broadly comparative courses, from the following: CWL 114- Global Consciousness and Lit CWL151- Cross-Cultural Thematics CWL189- Lit of Asia & Africa I CWL 190- Lit of Asia & Africa II CWL 201- Comparative Lit Studies CWL 241- Early Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 242- Modern Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 395- Special Topics Comp Lit I CWL 441- Themes in Narrative CWL 461- Lit Genres and Forms CWL 471- International Lit Relations CWL 496- Special Topics in Comp Lit II. At least two courses must be at the 300-400 level. At one course at the must be in a period prior to 1800 and one course in a period since 1800.	15
Major Literature Coursework- Three courses in a major literature, taught in the original language, at 200-400 level. No more than 2 courses at the 200-level. ¹	9
Focus Areas Coursework- At least two courses from one of the following focus areas, at 200-400 level. No more than 1 course at the 200-level.	6
Minor Literature: courses in a second national literature, taught in the original language ²	

Interdisciplinary: courses in another discipline, such as philosophy, cinema, art history, fine arts, music, religion, science, medical humanities, law, creative writing

Cultural studies: courses with a focus on race, gender, class, postcolonialism, environmental studies, or the like

Area studies: courses in a geographical area related to major literature (Africa, Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, Eastern Europe, the European Union).

39

Total Hours

- ¹ *Literature in the Original Language is defined by what is currently offered by the University (i.e. English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, etc.). Literatures generally taught in translation (including, but not limited to, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish) may be chosen in consultation with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.*
- ² *If one of the literatures studied is English, a student who continues in a graduate program in comparative literature will be required to acquire a reading knowledge of a second foreign language (i.e., one foreign language for the B.A., two foreign languages for the M.A., three foreign languages for the Ph.D.).*

World Literature Concentration

World Literature Concentration

<https://complit.illinois.edu/>

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Comparative & World Literature, World Literature Concentration

E-mail: complit@illinois.edu

The Major in Comparative & World Literature, World Literature Concentration focuses on breadth in the study of literatures and cultures from around the globe, read in English translation (no foreign language required beyond the General Education requirement). This concentration can be easily combined with a certificate in Translation Studies, a major or minor in Global Studies, Area Studies, Ethnic Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, or majors and minors in anthropology, cinema and media studies, history, music, political science, philosophy, world religion, the visual arts, and related fields.

General education: Students must complete the [Campus General Education](#) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60 - 75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum required major and supporting course work equate to 33 hours with at least 18 hours of Comparative Literature courses.

Twelve hours 300 or 400-level courses in the major must be taken on this campus.

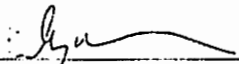
Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours. Students will complete 40 hours of upper division coursework (these hours can be drawn from all elements of the degree).

Departmental distinction. To be eligible for distinction, a student must have at least a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average and a 3.75 grade-point average in departmental courses, complete a senior thesis ([CWL 493](#)), and receive the approval of the departmental honors committee. The departmental honors committee will determine the level of distinction to be awarded.

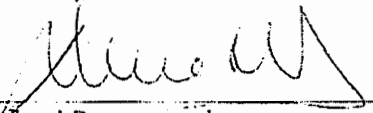
<u>CWL 202</u> Literature and Ideas	3
Five core CWL courses chosen from broadly comparative courses, from the following: CWL 114- Global Consciousness and Lit CWL151- Cross-Cultural Thematics CWL189- Lit of Asia & Africa I CWL 190- Lit of Asia & Africa II CWL 201- Comparative Lit Studies CWL 241- Early Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 242- Modern Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 395- Special Topics Comp Lit I CWL 441- Themes in Narrative CWL 461- Lit Genres and Forms CWL 471- International Lit Relations CWL 496- Special Topics in Comp Lit II At least two courses must be at the 300-400 level. At least one course must be in a period prior to 1800 and one course in a period since 1800.	15
World Literature Coursework- Three courses from at least two national traditions at 200-400 level. No more than 2 courses at the 200-level. Chosen from any literature courses offered by the following departments: African American Studies; American Indian Studies; Asian American Studies; Gender & Women's Studies; Classics; EALC; English; French & Italian; Germanic Lang & Lit; Jewish Culture & Society; Latino/Latina Studies; Slavic Lang & Lit; Spanish & Portuguese	9
Area / Cultural Studies Coursework - Two courses at 300-400 level in any literature or in one of the following fields: Another discipline: e.g. philosophy, cinema, art history, fine arts, music, religion, science, medical humanities, law, creative writing Cultural studies: e.g. race, gender, class, postcolonialism, environmental studies Area Studies: Africa, Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, Eastern Europe, the European Union	6
Total Hours	33

CLEARANCES:

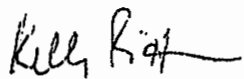
Signatures:



Unit Representative:



School Representative:



College Representative:

Nov 9, 2016

Date:

11/13/18

Date:

2-28-19

Date:

Appendix A:
Comparative Table of Proposed Changes – Part I

Current Major in Comparative Literature and Proposed Comparative Literature Concentration

Current Requirements	Current Hours	Proposed Requirements	Proposed Hours
<i>Core Courses</i>			
CWL 201	3	Advanced foreign language	6
CWL 202	3	CWL 202 (Literature & Ideas)	3
The remaining hours should be selected from different types of courses (e.g., CWL 114 , CWL 189 , CWL 190 , CWL 208 , CWL 241 , CWL 242 , CWL 441 , CWL 461 , CWL 471).	9	Five core CWL courses on broadly comparative topics, from the following. Two must be at the 300 or 400 level, At one course at the must be in a period prior to 1800 and one course in a period since 1800. CWL 114- Global Consciousness and Lit CWL151- Cross-Cultural Thematics CWL189- Lit of Asia & Africa I CWL 190- Lit of Asia & Africa II CWL 201- Comparative Lit Studies CWL 241- Early Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 242- Modern Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 395- Special Topics Comp Lit I CWL 441- Themes in Narrative CWL 461- Lit Genres and Forms CWL 471- International Lit Relations CWL 496- Special Topics in Comp Lit II	15

<p>One Literature in the Original Language (minimum of 15 hours required): Ancient or modern (including Far Eastern and African) 12 hours of which are at the 200-level or above, studied in depth and in its historical development. (Normally this is the primary literature of the student's educational background.)</p>	15	<p>Major Literature Coursework- Three courses in a major literature, taught in the original language, at 200-400 level. No more than 2 courses at the 200-level. ¹</p>	9
<p>Second Literature in the Original Language (minimum of 9 hours required): ¹ 200-level or above courses in a second literature in the original language. With the assistance of the adviser, these courses should be carefully chosen so as to correlate meaningfully with the student's primary literature. A student may center his or her interest on a cultural period such as medieval, Renaissance, neo-classical and enlightenment, or modern (nineteenth and twentieth centuries), or on genres, relations, or critical theory. ²</p>	9	<p>Focus Areas Coursework- At least two courses from one of the following focus areas, at 200-400 level. No more than 1 course at the 200-level.</p> <p>Minor Literature: courses in a second national literature, taught in the original language²</p> <p>Interdisciplinary: courses in another discipline, such as philosophy, cinema, art history, fine arts, music, religion, science, medical humanities, law, creative writing</p> <p>Cultural studies: courses with a focus on race, gender, class, postcolonialism, environmental studies, or the like</p> <p>Area studies: courses in a geographical area related to major literature (Africa, Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, Eastern Europe, the European Union).</p>	6
<p>Single National Literature (minimum of 9 hours required) or</p>	9		

<p>several national literatures including comparative literature; or in other humanistic fields, such as history, philosophy, speech, art, music, psychology, sociology, theatre, anthropology, and Asian studies. Because some of the courses in these subjects are more suitable than others to balance a student's individual major in comparative literature, the student must follow the guidelines set by his or her adviser.</p>			
<p>¹ <i>Literature in the Original Language is defined by what is currently offered by the University (i.e. mostly English, French, German and Spanish). Literatures generally taught in translation (including, but not limited to, Bengali, Chinese, Hebrew, Japanese, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish) may be chosen in consultation with the Undergraduate Advisor.</i></p> <p>² <i>If one of the literatures studied is English, a student who continues in a graduate program in comparative literature will be required to acquire a reading knowledge of a second foreign language (i.e., one foreign language for the B.A., two foreign languages for the M.A., three foreign languages for the Ph.D.).</i></p>			
<p>Total hrs</p>	<p>48</p>	<p>Total hrs</p>	<p>39</p>

Appendix A:
Current World Literature Concentration and Proposed World Literature Concentration

Current Requirements	Current Hours	Proposed Requirements	Proposed Hours
CWL 201	3		
CWL 202	3	CWL 202 Literature & Ideas	3
The remaining hours should be selected from four of the following 100-or 200-level courses: CWL 114 , CWL 151 , CWL 189 , CWL 190 , CWL 208 , CWL 241 , CWL 242 .	12	<p>Five core CWL courses chosen from broadly comparative courses, from the following:</p> <p>CWL 114- Global Consciousness and Lit CWL151- Cross-Cultural Thematics CWL189- Lit of Asia & Africa I CWL 190- Lit of Asia & Africa II CWL 201- Comparative Lit Studies CWL 241- Early Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 242- Modern Masterpieces of Western Culture CWL 395- Special Topics Comp Lit I CWL 441- Themes in Narrative CWL 461- Lit Genres and Forms CWL 471- International Lit Relations CWL 496- Special Topics in Comp Lit II</p> <p>At least two courses must be at the 300-400 level. At least one course must be in a period prior to 1800 and one course in a period since 1800.</p>	15
One of the following upper-level methodology courses CWL 395 Special Topics Comp Lit I	3		

<p>CWL 441 Themes in Narrative</p> <p>CWL 461 Lit Genres and Forms</p> <p>CWL 471 International Lit Relations</p> <p>CWL 496 Special Topics in Comp Lit II</p>			
<p>Area/Literature Concentrations: Courses must be chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor and selected from the approved list of courses housed in the department advising office. All courses chosen must be at the 200 level and above.</p> <p>Two courses in the literatures of Europe and the Americas</p> <p>Two courses in the literatures of Asia and Africa</p> <p>Two courses chosen from the two literature groups above</p>	18	World Literature Coursework- Three courses from at least two national traditions, taught in the original language or in translation, at 200-400 level. No more than 2 courses at the 200-level. Chosen from any literature courses offered by the following departments: African American Studies; American Indian Studies; Asian American Studies; Gender & Women's Studies; Classics; EALC; English; French & Italian; Germanic Lang & Lit; Jewish Culture & Society; Latino/Latina Studies; Slavic Lang & Lit; Spanish & Portuguese	9
<p>Area/Culture Concentrations: 3 courses, also at the 200 to 400-level, chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor, in other disciplines related to the student's area of concentration (e.g., anthropology, area studies, art history, cinema studies, history, music history, philosophy, religious studies, women's studies). Language courses beyond the fifth semester of study may also be used to satisfy this requirement.</p>	9	<p>Area / Cultural Studies Coursework - Two courses at 300-400 level in any literature or in one of the following fields:</p> <p>Another discipline: e.g. philosophy, cinema, art history, fine arts, music, religion, science, medical humanities, law, creative writing</p> <p>Cultural studies: e.g. race, gender, class, postcolonialism, environmental studies</p> <p>Area Studies: Africa, Middle East, Latin America, South Asia, East Asia, Eastern Europe, the European Union</p>	6
Total hrs	48	Total hrs	33

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Office of the Dean
2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801

February 28, 2019

Kathryn Martensen
Associate Provost
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
207 Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

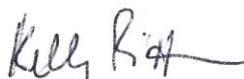
Dear Kathy:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula on behalf of the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

Revision and Renaming of the BALAS in Comparative Literature

This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2019.

Sincerely,



Kelly Ritter
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Lilya Kaganovsky