

May 3rd, 2014
University of Oregon
Department of Comparative Literature
Learning Outcomes

1. **Foreign-language proficiency:** Majors are required to develop reading proficiency in at least one language other than English (many of our majors work in two). This requirement is fulfilled by the completion of three upper-division courses in that language.
2. **National-Linguistic Fields:** Majors are required to develop a familiarity with the literature and culture (including non-literary media and related cultural forms) in at least one national-linguistic tradition other than English (many of our majors work in two such traditions, though British or American literature is also fully acceptable as **one** of their two required fields). This requirement is satisfied by the completion of four upper-division courses in which materials are studied in the original language.

(Note: The courses that satisfy the above two requirements may overlap. Because these courses are taken under prefixes other than COLT, for example FR, IT, GER, SPAN, RUSS, JPN, success in these courses will reflect the learning outcomes developed by the home departments.)

3. **Critical and Interpretive Reading:** We endeavor to teach our students to read, not for merely plot or comprehension but with a heightened sensitivity to the ways in which literary works and related materials are informed by myriad linguistic ambiguities and shadings, by rhetorical and generic traditions, as well as by contexts that are themselves not “given” but are often only fully manifest in the texts they envelop.
4. **Theoretical Preparation:** Comparative Literature has been defined historically not only by its multi-linguistic, cross-national habit but also by its emphasis on theoretical approaches—doubly important within a field in which students working in a variety of traditions cannot be expected to have a common textual base. We expect our majors to become familiar with a range of literary-theoretical orientations and to be able to apply them in the analysis of literary, cinematic or related works.
5. **Analytical Writing:** Students are expected to be able to write probingly analytical essays that demonstrate not only a facility with various critical registers but which also demonstrate an ability to read carefully and closely.
6. **Interdisciplinarity:** Comparative analyses of literary and other works often hew closely to approaches developed in disciplines such as philosophy, linguistics, political thought, cultural history, religious studies, and more. Our

students are expected to demonstrate a working awareness of the inherent interdisciplinarity of our field. This is more explicit in the “disciplines in dialogue” track of our major, but it is true also of our “literature and culture track.”

7. **Diversity:** Diversity is “built in” to the structure of a field that, by definition, places different cultures in dialogue. Our program endeavors to extend our students’ awareness of diversity along multi-cultural axes.