

Comparative Literature Thesis Guidelines and Deadlines

(DRAFT_revised 2/24/20)

Link to CMLT Senior Thesis Declaration Form:

http://www.middlebury.edu/system/files/media/CMLT_Thesis%20Declaration%20Form%2020200.docx

1. Overview

All CMLT majors will write a 35-page (article length) comparative essay in English, firmly situated in literary analysis (CMLT 0700). The thesis/essay can be written either in one term or over two terms: Fall & Winter terms or Winter & Spring terms.

To start the process of fulfilling the CMLT thesis requirement, students must complete and submit the “Thesis Declaration Form for CMLT” no later than the last week of classes in the preceding term.

2. Advising and Registration

The advising and registration procedures are as follows:

- a) Before the last week of classes (in the preceding term) the student should submit the *completed* Declaration Form in person or via email to CMLT coordinator (in Chellis House).
- b) Once the director has reviewed and approved the declaration form, the CMLT academic coordinator will email you with the CMLT 0700 CRN to register for the course (via ADD card).

3. Length

The thesis should be no more than 35 double-spaced pages with normal margins. This does not include your bibliography or illustrations.

For guidelines on Submitting the Final CMLT Thesis:

http://www.middlebury.edu/system/files/media/Submitting%20a%20CMLT%20Thesis_2020_0.docx

Prospectus and Bibliography

The prospectus and bibliography are due no later than 3 p.m. on the Friday of the 3rd week of classes during the first semester of the thesis. Students writing Winter-Spring theses should submit their prospectuses and bibliography by 3 p.m. on the Wednesday of the 2nd week of Winter term. Copies of the prospectus and bibliography must be delivered to the two thesis advisors.

A prospectus should be 1500-2000 words long and should a) define the research question(s) to be answered in the thesis; b) explain the intellectual importance of the thesis; and c) outline how the project will be completed, i.e., sources and methodology.

4. **Deadlines**

See above for the *Declaration Form* and the *Prospectus and Bibliography* deadlines. Be sure to confirm all dates with your primary advisor.

5. **One-Semester Theses:** Final thesis due to readers by 4pm on the Friday before finals week.

6. **Fall-Winter Term Theses**

Final thesis due to advisors by 4pm on the Friday BEFORE the last week of Winter term classes. The thesis student will organize the oral defense (if applicable), during the last week of Winter Term. For students graduating in February, a different deadline may be agreed upon between the advisors.

7. **Winter and Spring Term Theses**

Final thesis due to advisors by 4pm on the Monday BEFORE the final week of Spring classes.

8. **Citation Style**

MLA or Chicago style

9. **Honors**

To be eligible for “honors” students must have a departmental GPA of 3.7 and earn a B+ or above on their essay. Students with eligible honors theses, will also give an oral presentation and have a defense before the last day of exams. Honors will be awarded to students with a departmental GPA of 3.7 and a thesis grade of B+, high honors to students with a GPA of 3.7 and a thesis grade of A-, and highest honors to students with a GPA of 3.7 and a thesis grade of A.

10. **Oral Defense**

For “honors” eligible theses, shortly after the submission of the thesis, an oral defense will be scheduled with the two advisors and the 3rd reader. The purpose of the defense is twofold: to demonstrate verbal command of the thesis material and arguments and to clarify information or points in the thesis. Excellent performance on the defense cannot increase the thesis grade by more than one-third of a grade. Similarly, poor performance on the defense cannot reduce the thesis grade by more than one-third of a grade. Failure to appear for the defense may result in a failing grade for the thesis.

All senior essays are written in English.

11. **Submission**

By the last day of exams the student must submit the *final corrected copy* of the thesis (**PDF version via email to vluksch@middlebury.edu**), including the title page and the honor code page.

For the specific requirements, please [click here](#).