

Comparative Literature

Learning Goals

1. To attain proficiency in at least two languages and the ability to work with original texts from two linguistically distinct cultures.
2. To gain the ability to design independent projects.
3. To develop sensitivity to cultural differences.
4. To attain the mastery of complex conceptual tools, theories, and methodologies of the comparative method.
5. To be able to create sophisticated oral and written analysis of literary and artistic works.
6. To gain an understanding of cultural aspects that can be studied across cultures, such as artistic movements, texts, ideas.
7. To develop an appreciation and respect for the diversity of artistic creativity.

About the major

The mission of the comparative literature program is to establish a strong common framework for all students of literature at Middlebury College by facilitating cooperation and communication among scholars and teachers of literature in all departments and programs involved. Comparative literature differs from other approaches to literature in that it prepares students to focus on the comparative study of national literatures. In particular, students receive training in at least two of these literatures in the original language along with comparative methodology.

The comparative literature program offers a core course on world literature, cross-lists several literature and culture courses with other departments and programs, and encourages students to consider the many Middlebury courses on English-language literature and on world literature in the original languages and in English translation.

Introduction to World Literature, our core course, is the first of a series of courses that center on the study of literature across cultures, times, and languages. The staff for each year's version of the course, normally offered in the spring semester, is drawn from at least three departments and programs.

Reasons you might choose this major

- You are interested in literature. Beyond just the literature of your native language, however, you are looking to explore world literatures.
- You have an interest in learning another language, and in being able to analyze a body of work in that language.
- You are looking to explore literature from multiple angles and perspectives, across both time and geographic regions.
- You are potentially looking to develop or continue to develop your own interest in writing.
- You are looking for a solid foundation in literature, theory, and interdisciplinarity that will set you up for a variety of paths and outcomes in life.



Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

Critical Thinking: Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Oral/Written Communications: Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

Teamwork/Collaboration: Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

Global/Intercultural Fluency: Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

Digital Technology: Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

Career Management: Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

Where comparative literature majors go

Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

Centre for the Book	Scholastic Inc.
Seaport Global Securities LLC	The Office of Senator Patrick Leahy
Status Audio Journal (with additional self-designed component)	Knopf Doubleday Publishing
Boston Center for the Arts	Addison Independent
U.S. Department of Education	Emerging Asia Consulting Group
Carolyn Jenks Literary Agency	The Berry Center
The Gambia-Vermont Collaborative	Women's Health
Wheelhouse Creative	The National Archives and Records Administration
Vermont Public Radio	The Vermont Folklife Center
Random House Inc.	Bookreporter.com

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. go/midd2midd

<i>Rolling Stone Magazine, Managing Editor</i>	Crisis Commander U.S.A. Inc., CEO
<i>Panna, Head of Content Strategy and Development</i>	Conde Nast Publications, Senior Fashion Editor
<i>Keen Consulting, Founder, Principal</i>	350.org, Policy Director
<i>Archaeological Investigations Northwest Inc., Senior Geoarchaeologist</i>	Metropolitan Museum of Art, Paintings Conservator
<i>PBS Newshour, Reporter, Producer</i>	Common Good Virginia, Finance Director
<i>Google, Managing Director, Brand Solutions</i>	Credit Suisse, Vice President, Corporate Communications
<i>Harper Collins Publishers Inc., Vice President</i>	Bon Appetit, Special Products Editor
<i>Discovery Communications Science Channel, Senior Manager of Development</i>	HBO, Vice President, Corporate Affairs
<i>Fairbanks Museum, Director, External Relations</i>	Bloomsbury Children's Books, Editor, Children's Books
<i>CBS News, Producer</i>	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Economist
<i>Oxford University Press, Vice President</i>	Pineapple Street Media, Managing Editor
<i>Harvard University, Director, Risk Management</i>	Uber, Technical Recruiting Coordinator