

5 May 2022

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Peter Chaillé, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

RE: Undergraduate Certificate in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies

The following proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council or Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

You may read the full text of the program proposal, as well as Budget Committee comments, at the [Online Curriculum Management System \(OCMS\) Curriculum Dashboard](#).

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY FOR
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Undergraduate Certificate in
Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies**

Certificate Type

Undergraduate certificate: Earned at completion; admission to University required

Effective Term

Fall 2022

Overview of the Program

Certificate Vision Statement: To educate students in the comparative study of creative expression from different linguistic, cultural, and national backgrounds through literature, film, comic-book narratives, and other media, as well as through interdisciplinary study in the humanities and social sciences.

World Languages and Literatures (WLL) and English (ENG) offer bachelor's degrees for PSU students. Our combined faculty have training and expertise in literature, film, and other media forms (such as comic-book narratives) from an impressively diverse range of backgrounds. We also offer courses in literary theory and cultural studies. Building on our joint interest and expertise in language and literature, we propose a certificate that would allow students to do comparative studies of languages, literatures, and cultures. This new certificate would facilitate students from different programs or foci (such as, English literature, Japanese literature, French language, History, etc.) to engage in an interdisciplinary setting to learn together and share experiences and perspectives on the different cultures, languages, and artistic traditions they study.

The certificate program includes two WLL/ENG core courses: a theory course on the practices, methods, and materials of comparative literary and cultural studies; for their second core course, students can choose between a course on translation studies, in which students apply their second-language learning to their comparative work, or a course on the comparative study of literature, film, and comics. For the two remaining electives for the certificate, students can choose from a wide array of relevant courses from English, WLL, and other departments

(e.g., Anthropology, History, International Studies). The certificate is designed to be both focused and flexible.

The certificate will be housed administratively in WLL and co-owned by WLL and ENG, and its curriculum is bolstered by collaboration and support from other departments and disciplines.

Evidence of Need

Without a formal market analysis of the need for the certificate, we nonetheless can assert that there is a demand for the core classes that make up the certificate. Students at PSU are genuinely interested in learning about other cultures. As Portlanders, they are also quite fluent in a number of creative art forms and genres. Student enrollments in our piloted courses all show promising starts. We in WLL and ENG took over a year to plan these courses; then, we took another year to pilot five iterations of these courses to demonstrate solid interest in the courses. Because our courses are enrolling from 25 to 30 (and beyond that), we are confident that the piloted course enrollments accurately demonstrate the need for the certificate. Furthermore, students in these courses often took them back-to-back (sometimes two in the same quarter), which again demonstrates their interest in dovetailing their learning in comparative studies.

In the Portland metro area, only one institution (Reed College) has a program in comparative literature. The proposed Certificate in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies would make PSU one of only two institutions and the only public university in the Portland metro area to offer such a program of study. The University of Oregon in Eugene has a major and a minor in Comparative Literature; they do not offer a certificate program. Moreover, the proposed Certificate in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies at PSU is unique in emphasizing a multidisciplinary approach that allows students to combine interests in the humanities and social sciences.

Course of Study

The Certificate in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies is a multidisciplinary program that offers students the opportunity to study literature across linguistic and national borders as well as explore the intersections of literature with other forms of creative expression such as comics, film, the visual arts, and new media. The certificate also encourages students to contextualize literary study by investigating connections with other humanities and social science disciplines.

It is designed to fit into WLL and ENG major and minor programs as well as other fields, including History, Anthropology, and International Studies, and is especially suitable for students who have begun to achieve proficiency in a world language.

In addition to having completed the complete second-year cycle of their foreign language, students will take two required courses and two electives. Required courses include a core theory class on how to conduct comparative literary and cultural studies; for the second required course, students choose a topics course on either translation studies or comparative media/arts (film, literature, comic books). The two electives for the certificate consist of other ENG, WLL, HST, INTL, PHIL, ANTH options and more. Candidates may enroll as undergraduate or post-

baccalaureate students. Students will have an adviser for the certificate who will guide them through the coursework.

Students are required to take a total of 16 credits including two required WLL/ENG Comparative Studies courses and two electives from the list below. Students are expected to have an intermediate language proficiency, demonstrated by completing the second-year language sequence at PSU (201-202-203) or its equivalent or one language course at the 301 level or higher.

Prerequisites (World Language): a complete 201-202-203 sequence in a foreign language (AR, FREN, JPN, etc.) either as 12 or 15 credits (depending upon the language); alternatively, students with at least one foreign language course at 301 or above (minimum 4 credits) can satisfy this requirement. Students can complete the language requirement while taking courses towards the certificate.

Core (8 credits)

Students will take two courses from among the following core requirements:

- WLL 380/Eng 380 Introduction to Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (4 credits)

and

- Either WLL 381 /Eng 381 Topics in Translation Studies or WLL 383U/Eng 383U Topics in Comparative Literature, Film, and Comics.

Electives (8 credits)

For the two electives, students will take two courses of their choice from the following list. WLL 381/Eng\ 381 and/or WLL 383U /Eng 383U can be chosen if not being applied to one of the two core classes.

Electives List

- WLL 381/Eng 381 Topics in Translation Studies (*if not used in core requirements)
- WLL 383U/Eng 383U Topics in Comparative Literature, Film and Comics (*if not used in core requirements) (** can be repeated if title is different and not in core requirements)
- Anth 300U The Modern World in Anthropological Perspective
- Anth 330U Anthropology of Folklore
- Anth 357U Archaeology in Pop Culture
- Anth 435 Visual Anthropology
- Eng 318U The Bible as Literature
- Eng 325U Postcolonial Literature
- Eng 330U Jewish and Israeli Literature
- Eng 332U History of Cinema and Narrative Media I
- Eng 333U History of Cinema and Narrative Media II

- Eng 335U Topics in Literature and Film
- Eng 368U Literature and Ecology
- Eng 372U Topics in Literature, Gender, and Sexuality (This is cross-listed with WGSS as WS 372U)
- Eng 373U Topics in Literature, Race, and Ethnicity
- Eng 420 Caribbean Literature
- Eng 422 African Fiction
- Eng 449 Advanced Topics in Cultural Studies
- Eng 491 History of Literary Criticism and Theory I
- Eng 492 History of Literary Criticism and Theory II
- FILM 487 Topics in International Cinema
- Hst 322U Modern East Asia
- Hst 354U Early Medieval Europe
- Hst 355U Late Medieval Europe
- Hst 356U Renaissance and Reformation Europe
- Hst 382U Palestine and Israel
- Hst 384U Ottoman World
- Hst 385U Late Imperial Middle East
- Hst 386U The Middle East in the Twentieth Century
- Hst 390U Comp. Social Revolutions
- Hst 390U World Religions
- Hst 390U Global History of Warfare
- Hst 390U China, Japan, and Korean Relations in a Global Context
- Hst 422 Wartime and Postwar Japan
- Hst 490 Comparative World History
- Intl 314U Global City in Film (cross-listed as USP 314U)
- Intl 350U The City in Europe
- Intl 360U Bollywood Cinema
- Intl 380U Globalization and Difference in the Media
- Intl 391U Media and International Relations
- NAS 351 Indigenous Philosophy
- NAS 410 Introduction to Indigenous Literary and Cultural Studies
- Phl 319U Introduction to Asian Philosophy

- Wr 431 Adv. Topics in Tech Writing Technologies: Tools for Translation and Localization
- WS 372U Bodies, Power, and Places (cross-listed as ENG 372U Topics in Literature, Gender, and Sexuality)

The 16 credits towards the certificate must be taken from the above lists.

All courses used to satisfy certificate requirements must be passed with a grade of C or higher. (C- and P are not acceptable.)