



EMORY  
LANEY  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL



## HUMANITIES

# COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

The Comparative Literature Department at Emory offers Ph.D. students a wide-ranging theoretical and interdisciplinary curriculum that prepares them to engage in research and teaching across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

### RIGOR AND INNOVATION

Comparative Literature at Emory reflects the strengths of a distinguished group of faculty internationally recognized for their literary scholarship as well as for their theoretical work.

- Comparative Literature at Emory brings the traditional aims of a Comparative Literature degree—the comparison of literatures across national boundaries—into constellation with the aims of other disciplinary formations such as Philosophy and Psychoanalysis.
- We encourage innovative theoretical reflection informed by vigilant attention to the intricacy and performative power of language.
- We recognize the crucial significance of engaging “languages” more broadly defined, including, for instance, languages or symbolic systems central to development in the sciences and technology.

Students who wish to pursue in-depth training in a particular literary tradition may study toward Certificates in English and French. Certificates are also offered in Philosophy, Film Studies, and Women’s Studies. An additional option is a Minor in Psychoanalytic Studies, which provides courses both in the University and in the Emory Psychoanalytic Institute.

### INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY

The graduate program in Comparative Literature involves not only formal scholarly training but also intellectual activities guided and hosted by graduate students, including a series that brings speakers to Emory specializing in theoretical, literary and comparative topics, and a bi-annual conference on cutting-edge theoretical and literary concerns central to students in the program.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Laney Graduate School offers a range of programs that encourages students to develop their professional skills, engage with broader professional communities, and prepare for their careers.

VISIT [GS.EMORY.EDU](https://gs.emory.edu) TO LEARN MORE.

Speakers in the lecture series have included Cynthia Chase, Ross Chambers, John Felstiner, Adrian Johnston, Jacques Lezra, Avital Ronell, Jean-Michel Rabaté, Elaine Scarry, and Andrzej Warminski.

Topics of the conferences have included “Violence and Representation,” “Literature on Trial,” “Literature and Democracy,” “Encountering Infancy,” “The Event of War: Intervention in the 20th and 21st Centuries,” “Constellations: Of Comparative Literature and the New Humanities,” “Comparative Caribbeans,” “Traversals of Affect: On Jean-François Lyotard” and “New Materialisms and Economies of Excess”.

Students have also produced mini-seminars and the Department as a whole regularly brings in visiting faculty for lectures and seminars on major writers and theorists as well as topics such as the Holocaust, Trauma Studies, Ethics, Psychoanalysis, Globalization, Political Theory, Aesthetics, and Poetics.

## CURRICULUM

The curriculum in Comparative Literature asks students to focus on a range of literary and theoretical areas of inquiry.

Students choose one primary and one secondary body of literature representing different traditions along with a set of defined theoretical, critical and/or historical areas of inquiry pursued within the framework of their chosen literatures.

In developing their program, candidates are encouraged to pursue one or more of five theoretical areas that cross disciplinary boundaries:

- A. Psychoanalysis, Trauma and Testimony;
- B. Deconstruction and Philosophy;
- C. Aesthetics, Politics and Global Cultures;
- D. Literary Theory and Religious Discourse;
- E. Media, Technology and Human/Posthuman Studies.

These fields represent the scholarly expertise of the Comparative Literature faculty as well as the interdisciplinary emphasis of the University.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to take a core course entitled “Literary Theories” and two courses to prepare them for teaching: “The Teaching of Literature” and “Composition Theory” or a course that prepares them for language teaching. Other courses are chosen according to a student’s selected course of study. Courses are offered on a rotating basis, and students may choose courses outside of Comparative Literature as appropriate to their fields of study. (The Comparative Literature website archives past courses with course descriptions, events organized by faculty and graduate students, and faculty listings which offer an idea of faculty interests and strengths).

In addition to coursework, students must

- Demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language and a good reading knowledge in a second foreign language.
- Pass a qualifying examination and a Ph.D. examination.
- Write a doctoral dissertation.

For a detailed list of degree requirements, please visit our website, [www.comparativelit.emory.edu](http://www.comparativelit.emory.edu).

## CERTIFICATE OPTIONS FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

### PH.D. CANDIDATES

Certificate options available to graduate students in Comparative Literature include the certificates offered through the Emory University Department of Philosophy, Department of English, Film Studies, Department of French and Italian, and the Department of Women’s Studies.

A certificate is available to graduate students in Comparative Literature through the Psychoanalytic Studies Program.

## TRAINING IN TEACHING

At Emory, all doctoral students receive training in pedagogy and other elements of teaching, through the Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity Program (TATTO) administered by the Graduate School. The program includes a summer workshop that covers broadly applicable issues and skills, a course on pedagogical issues in comparative literature, and teaching opportunities that provide a mentored and progressive development of teaching skills and experience.

Graduate students have a unique opportunity to participate in the undergraduate program and to enhance their teaching and mentoring skills by leading an undergraduate theory reading group, undergraduate coffee hours and an undergraduate colloquium. This collaboration has proved highly successful in bolstering intellectual community in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.



## STUDENTS

There are currently 24 doctoral students in the Comparative Literature program. They are working in a variety of languages and literatures including French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, among others. Students create their own scholarly itineraries and final projects according to their languages, conceptual frameworks and theoretical and disciplinary interests. Recent and current dissertations include

- *A Path Through the Abyss: Re-inventing Testimony Through Post-Holocaust Survivor Poetry, Memoir and Video Oral Histories*
- *Errant Grounds: Eco-epic Textures in Contemporary Caribbean Literature*
- *Une Autre Oreille: Staging Difference in Henry James and Marguerite Duras*
- *Mnemotechnologies: Memory and Experience in Late 20th-century Philosophy and Literature*
- *Reading Now: Historical Danger in Spanish Caribbean Literary Modernism*
- *All Access: YouTube, the History of the Music Video, and Its Contemporary Renaissance*
- *The Rest of the World: Inoperative Modernism and the Conditions of Translatability*

**FACULTY**

Comparative Literature at Emory is known nationally and internationally for its stellar scholars and cutting-edge research and teaching in fields such as deconstruction, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, trauma studies, ethics, new media studies, post-colonial theory, and queer theory. Our faculty are recognized worldwide for their leadership in theoretical and interdisciplinary innovation as well their outstanding skills in the teaching of close reading in a variety of textual genres.

The Comparative Literature program has 18 core faculty members, some of whom have appointments in French, English, German, Film Studies, Classics, Philosophy, Russian and East Asian Languages and Literatures, Religion, and Spanish. The program also has a number of associated faculty members from across the university.

Our website has a complete list of both core and associated faculty members, with information about research interests and publications.



**ADMINISTRATIVE FACULTY**

**GEOFFREY BENNINGTON**  
CHAIR

*D.Phil., Oxford University, 1984*

Asa G. Candler Professor of Modern French Thought and Professor, French and Comparative Literature. Modern French literature and thought; Eighteenth century Novel; literary theory; deconstruction.

**WALT REED**

**DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

*Ph.D., Yale University, 1969*

William R. Kenan, Jr. University Professor. Romantic literature; history and theory of the novel; the Bible as literature; literature and psychology.

**SEAN MEIGHOO**

**DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

*Ph.D. York University, 2005*

*Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature.*

Twentieth-century continental philosophy and literary theory; race and postcolonial theory; feminism and queer theory; posthumanism and animal studies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

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[comparativelit.emory.edu](http://comparativelit.emory.edu)



**LANEY GRADUATE SCHOOL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Anthropology	<i>Genetics and Molecular Biology</i>	Biomedical Engineering	Development Practice	Health Services Research and Health Policy	Nutrition and Health Sciences
Art History	<i>Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis</i>	Biostatistics	Economics	Islamic Civilizations Studies	Philosophy
Behavioral Sciences and Health Education	<i>Microbiology and Molecular Genetics</i>	Business	English	Mathematics	Physics
Bioethics	<i>Molecular and Systems Pharmacology</i>	Chemistry	Environmental Health Sciences	MD/PhD	Political Science
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	<i>Neuroscience</i>	Clinical Psychology	Environmental Sciences	Music	Religion
<i>Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology</i>	<i>Population Biology, Ecology, and Evolution</i>	Cognition and Development (Psychology)	Epidemiology	Neuroscience and Animal Behavior (Psychology)	Sociology
<i>Cancer Biology</i>		Comparative Literature	Film and Media Studies	Nursing	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
		Computer Science and Informatics	French		
			History		