

**Metrics Report: Comparative Literature**  
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**I. Program Overview:**

**A. Department Profile**

Comparative Literature involves the study of literature from an international perspective. The Comparative Literature Department at Emory offers a comprehensive curriculum which addresses literary disciplines across national traditions and in the theoretical and critical exploration of literature and language. These explorations cross disciplinary boundaries such as psychoanalysis and philosophy and recognize the crucial significance of engaging “languages” more broadly defined, including, for instance, those languages or symbolic systems that are central to developments in the sciences and in technology.

Students choose a focus in at least two national literary traditions, as well as an area of theoretical or conceptual interest. Candidates are encouraged to pursue theoretical interests in one or more of the five areas that cross disciplinary boundaries: 1) Trauma, Psychoanalysis and Testimony; 2) Comparative Literature and Religion; 3) Politics and Global Culture; 4) Literature and Aesthetics; 5) Literature, Technology and Human/Post-Human Studies; 6) Literature and Philosophy. Certificates are available in English, French, Spanish, Philosophy, and Women’s Studies. There is the additional option of a Minor in Psychoanalytic Studies,

The department has 19 faculty from 10 different areas: Classics, English, French & Italian, German, History, Institute of the Liberal Arts, Latin American & Caribbean, Middle Eastern Studies, Religion, Russian, and Theatre Studies

All undergraduate students must take an introduction to literary studies, combined with an intensive writing approach. From the broad perspective of world literature, consideration of topics such as desire, language, and identity. They also take courses on Ancient to Medieval, Renaissance to Modern, and literary works of ethnic minorities or non-Western writers. Undergraduate to read literature from a theoretical viewpoint, its formal properties, distinctive features, origins, purposes, and mode of existence. Finally, they learn about the connection to other disciplines (e.g. literature and psychoanalysis, literature and philosophy, literature and law, and literature and religion).

**B. Coordination/ Cooperation / Collaborative Relationships:**

Classics, English, French & Italian, German, History, Institute of the Liberal Arts, Latin American & Caribbean, Middle Eastern Studies, Religion, Russian, and Theatre Studies, Psychoanalytic Studies Program, Political Science, the Graduate Division of Religion, the Program in Violence Studies, and Women Studies.

## II. Description of Material Collected:

### A. Scope of the Collection

1. **Subject Areas:** The Library of Congress **P** class primarily deals with literature in its many subclasses using arrangements of national literatures, literary genres, and literary theory. Classics, French Language and Literature, German Literature, Classical Greek and Latin Languages and Literatures, Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures, Italian Language and Literature, and Russian Language and Literature all have the potential of being studied in the Comparative Literature programs. The cross-disciplinary focus of many Comparative Literature courses brings in subjects from other classes. For example, **B** brings in materials for comparison in religion, philosophy, and psychoanalysis, and **N** includes classifications that bring in aesthetics and arts.

2. **Chronology:** Coursework in Comparative Literature covers all periods of creation from the ancient through modern periods.

3. **Language:** Materials are collected in both the original language as well as in translation.

4. **Date of Publication:** While there is emphasis on providing recently published works, it is likely that some retrospective purchases of older material takes place.

5. **Geographic Areas:** A variety of national literatures taught in other campus departments supports Comparative Literature's programs.

### B. Formats and Publication Type

**1. Monographs and Texts:** Monographs are acquired through individual orders, the Yankee approval plan, and a variety of approval plans for foreign imprints from Europe and Latin America. Most acquisitions would be for new belles-lettres and critical material but texts considered part of the canon of any national literature or critical theory are also routinely acquired. Translations are also purchased to support study of several foreign literatures.

**2. Serials:** Woodruff Library has an extensive collection of print and online journals that support Comparative Literature from a variety of national literatures and literary genres.

**3. Electronic Publications:** The databases that follow are examples of both periodical indexes and full-text collections that support Comparative Literature:

FRANCIS  
German Literature Collections  
Hispanic American Periodicals Index

Index to Social Sciences and Humanities Proceedings / ISI Web of Knowledge  
JSTOR (Full Text Resource)  
Literature Resource Center (Gale)  
MLA International Bibliography index to languages and literature articles  
Periodicals Contents Index (PCI)  
Project MUSE (Full Text Resource)  
ProQuest Gateway

**4. Microforms:** Microform collections with an emphasis on primary documents are acquired as needed.

**5. Multimedia:** The Music and Media Library collects films on video and dvd that can fit into the program's emphasis on other formats.

**6. Government Publications:** Government publications would have some cultural items of interest to Comparative Literature.

**7. Exclusions:** Textbooks and juvenile literature are generally not purchased.