

WORLD LITERATURE, BA

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More Information: <https://artsci.case.edu/world-literature>

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Major: World Literature

Program Overview

"I don't know what literature is exactly, but I know it makes me feel like I'm soaring." – Unknown

The study of world literature, traditionally called comparative literature, involves a global approach to the art of literature in all its forms. "Literature" is a unique way of using language that seeks to express human wants and needs through poetic techniques, whether in prose, poetry, drama, or song. Cultures have always turned to literature—whether in oral or written form—to express basic values, concerns, despairs, dreams, and hopes. Literature comments on what "is," and reaches for what "might be." Cultural identity is created in part through literature, and literature is used to question—at times even undermine—that identity. Literature may be a conservative force, emphasizing traditions, or a revolutionary force, provoking change from within.

The interaction of literatures from various regions of the world also transforms the art, as authors influence each other in what we might call a "global writing experiment." World Literature redefines the concept of "minor" or "third world" literatures, as it considers "marginal" artistic expressions to be as worthy of study as any classical tradition of the West or East.

The World Literature Program maintains the comparative spirit of the discipline, offering courses on individual authors, literary periods, regional literatures, themes, and schools of criticism.

The World Literature Program is fundamentally interdisciplinary. Courses come mostly from the Departments of Modern Languages and Literatures, Classics, and English, but students may also take approved courses from the Departments of Theater and Religious Studies. The major in World Literature requires reading in at least one language other than English, thus emphasizing that language and literature are imbricated.

Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Undergraduate Academics section of the General Bulletin.

Accelerated Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the Undergraduate Academics section of the General Bulletin.

Program Director

Margaretmary Daley, PhD
Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Program Faculty

Faculty in the Departments of Modern Languages & Literatures, English, and Classics participate as instructors in World Literature. The program director will guide students to specific faculty members based on the selection of 300-level courses in a language other than English and the particular interests within global literature that students develop.

Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the general requirements for bachelor's degrees and the Unified General Education Requirements. Students completing this program as a secondary major while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the school-specific requirements associated with this major.

The World Literature Program offers a major leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses:		
WLIT 211	World Literature I	3
WLIT 212	World Literature II	3
WLIT 387	Literary and Critical Theory	3
<i>Choose one of the following:</i>		3
WLIT/CLSC 203	Gods and Heroes in Greek Literature	
WLIT/CLSC 204	Heroes and Hustlers in Roman Literature	
WLIT 365Q	Post-Colonial Literature	
Literature Courses ^a		6
WLIT Courses ^b		12
Total Hours		30

a Courses must be at the 300-level in a language other than English

b Any WLIT course or cross-listed equivalent, or any non-English literature course at the 200-level or above.

All literature courses at the 200 and 300 levels offered by the Departments of Modern Languages and Literatures, Classics, and English are approved as World Literature courses.