Proposed Change to an Existing Degree: Academic Component

Please answer all relevant questions below. Consultation with the appropriate Associate Provost on a draft of the proposal is recommended.

Using the relevant template, please submit a budget even if no additional resources are needed.

Title of Degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):

Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

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617-358-5032

2. Please describe briefly the proposed change to the existing degree:

This revision makes the comp lit major simpler and more flexible:

- Total requirements reduced to 11 courses from 12
- New Intro and Capstone Courses, in common with all WLL majors: XL100 Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature and XL 479 WLL Senior Seminar.
- XL 222-225 (Regionally-based Comparative Literature survey) requirement reduced to 2 courses from 3
- Students can choose a two-literatures option or theory option: EITHER 3 courses each in 2 literatures (one can be English) as before, OR three courses in one non-English literature and three 300+ XL courses (this is new).
- One language course beyond 212 or course taught in the original now built into requirements (no hidden prerequisite).
- Simplified and clarified requirements to make advising easier

3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed change to the existing degree:

This proposal to revise the existing major in Comparative Literature is part of a department-wide initiative to update all WLL majors in response to our internal assessment process, to the advice of the external committee in WLL’s 2015 APR report, and to feedback from students. The revisions have the following goals:

- to encourage students to identify not just as students of comparative literature, but as part of a larger departmental culture through taking courses with and getting to know faculty and students working in the language majors.
- to make it more feasible for students to enter and complete the Comp Lit major
- to attract more double majors (including with WLL’s language majors) by reducing total requirements
- to simplify and streamline student advising
- to encourage the development of more explicitly comparative courses to serve as WLL breadth electives

4. Please describe how the proposed change(s) advances the Strategic Plans of the department, of the school/college, and of the University:

WLL’s 2015 updated strategic plan sets the goal, recommended by our APR report from 2015, to articulate a “more engaging and cohesive vision” of our collective mission to “develop students’ understanding of how language, culture, and thought interrelate in societies past and present—through the study of literature.” The first step in this process was to rename the department “World
Languages & Literatures.” These major revisions, meant to integrate the majors within a larger context of the study of World literature, are the second step.

The revisions also reduce and streamline requirements to make advising less complicated and more effective, another goal mentioned in WLL’s 2015 strategic plan. We anticipate increases in number of majors and in student identification with WLL as a department, which should make for stronger connections among the student body and set the foundation for stronger ties to alumni—a goal that is set out in the CAS Strategic plan and one that is crucial for WLL as a relatively new Department. The major’s increased flexibility and reduced requirements will make room for more interdisciplinary work.

5. Please list all the program requirements for the current and revised programs so that review committees can easily see the changes: (expand the table as needed and denote new courses in bold print)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current program</th>
<th>Revised program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Gateway Course: XL 100: Explorations in World Literature</td>
<td>One Gateway Course: XL 100: Explorations in World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE regional courses chosen from XL 222 (Western Literature), 223 (Middle Eastern), 224 (East Asian), 225 (South Asian)</td>
<td>TWO courses XL 222-225</td>
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<tr>
<td>THREE courses in one non-English literature</td>
<td>THREE courses in one non-English literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>THREE courses in another literature, English or non-English</td>
<td>THREE courses in another literature, English or non-English, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO XL electives 300+</td>
<td>THREE XL courses numbered above 300</td>
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<tr>
<td>sixth-semester proficiency in one language (not counted in course requirements)</td>
<td>ONE language course beyond the fourth-semester level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE Capstone seminar or XL 540</td>
<td>ONE Capstone Course: XL 479 Senior Seminar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
6. Is this change a result of program learning outcomes assessment and/or academic program review? If yes, please describe:

Yes! The APR process conducted in 2015 reaffirmed that WLL's greatest resource is its rich diversity in course offerings and faculty expertise; it also noted that students are not availing themselves of the opportunities this presents. The APR committee described our majors’ course requirements as “punitive.” At the same time, our own learning outcomes assessment process found that graduating seniors felt strongly identified with their majors but much less so with the department (then called MLCL). We had neglected to foreground our departmental identity and to spell out a learning outcome implicitly obvious to the faculty (but never explicitly described in our documents or explained to the students): all WLL majors should develop intercultural literacy and should graduate with a global perspective on their language and culture of specialization, a knowledge of its place in the world.

These five revised majors are our response. We have streamlined and simplified as described above. We anticipate this new shared structure, with joint freshman seminar and capstone, will encourage students to identify with the department as a whole and to take more courses beyond their specialization. We have worked to create a more cohesive and appealing major, where the learning objectives are clear to students from day one. We believe this will lead to an increase in number of majors and double majors (including within WLL), to higher overall enrollments, and to an even more dynamic and diverse intellectual culture in the department.

7. Please list learning outcomes for the revised program:

Students graduating with a major in Comparative Literature at BU should be able to:

1) demonstrate a general orientation in world literature and a broad familiarity with the literary traditions of at least two of the following regions: Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia;

2) read, discuss, and analyze literary and cinematic texts in at least two languages (non-English language/s should be mastered at a minimum level of ACTFL intermediate-low)
3) compose lucid, well-researched, and well-argued critical essays about literary texts;

4) analyze texts in comparative perspective; understand how specific literary works respond to their literary, cultural, historical, and political contexts; and trace the transformations and travels of literary genres and texts across historical periods, borders, and languages;

5) apply a variety of critical approaches and interpretive methods to the study of particular literary and/or cinematic texts, including translations.

8. **How does the change place your program in the context of programs at peer institutions?**

   It is hard to find a “peer” program to ours, promoting both rigorous language study and a broad world literature outlook. Some departments even see these two goals as incompatible. One comparable program might be Tufts’ apparently cumbersome International Literary and Visual Studies major, which requires eighth-semester proficiency in a foreign language plus twelve courses divided among literature, film, and visual studies emphasis (no freshman seminar, no integrated senior seminar).

   We are distinguished from other “peer” programs chiefly by the huge and diverse selection of languages and literatures we offer within the department, with a center of gravity far to the east of Western Europe. In practice, however, many of our Comparative Literature students have used French or Spanish as one of their literatures, and we expect this will continue.

9. **How does the change affect other academic units and existing programs at the University?**

   The revised Comp Lit requirements will make it easier to double major in, for instance, CIMS, English, Romance Studies, Classics, or the Pardee School’s regional studies majors. Otherwise, we do not anticipate an effect on other departments.

10. **How will you notify current students of the proposed changes and implement the requirements? How will you assure that current students are able to complete their programs under the requirements that were in place at the time of their matriculation?**

    The XL course offerings will remain largely unchanged, allowing current students to complete their major, and the new major can be easily served by the same course offerings, including some cross-
listed in from other departments. The capstone seminar will first be offered in Fall 2018. Students will be notified by email, by flyer posting (for reaching potential students not yet in the major), and during academic advising. The Department website will be updated to promote and highlight all new majors in WLL, including Comparative Literature.

11. Please document any implications that the change has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

None

12. If the change includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member’s course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course:

The major requires no new courses

13. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

None.

14. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed change will have:

None.

15. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it should appear) related to the proposed change, including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, learning outcomes)[NOTE: this bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed]:

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The major in Comparative Literature is designed to foster intercultural literacy and critical acumen and to nourish students whose interest in literature extends beyond the borders of a single language. Majors learn to read literature in one or more foreign languages and to trace the transformations and travels of literary genres and texts across languages, borders, and historical periods. They explore the connections of literature with history, philosophy, politics, and literary theory, and learn how literature intersects with other cultural forms such as film, drama, the visual arts, music, and new media. This flexible 11-course program works well as a second major alongside a language major, an English or History major, or one of the regional studies majors offered in the Pardee School.

Like all WLL majors, Comparative Literature majors begin with XL100: Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature, a team-taught course in which students meet the WLL faculty through guest lectures and get oriented in the rich diversity of the world’s literary traditions. Courses at the 200 level (XL 222, XL 223, XL 224, and XL 225) introduce Western, Middle Eastern, East Asian, and South Asian regional literary traditions. Students take at least two of these courses, acquiring a comparative perspective on the global diversity of literary forms and genres.

Choosing two literatures to focus on from those taught in WLL, Romance Studies, Classics, and English, Comparative Literature majors take three courses in each. Another option is to emphasize only one non-English literature along with three upper-level XL courses focused on or on literary theory or on comparing literary works across languages. A language course beyond the CAS requirement level is built into the major, ensuring some ability to encounter literary texts in the original language. Most of our students undertake advanced-level language study, and many study abroad. The elective XL 540, BU’s legendary seminar in literary translation, gives Comparative Literature majors the opportunity to interact with important literary translators and to hone their own translation practice. Finally, in the capstone seminar XL 479, Comparative Literature majors reconvene with all senior WLL majors, sharing the expertise they have gained and working with a faculty mentor on a final project: a scholarly paper, a translation, a creative work in a foreign language, or another project at a similar level.

A major in Comparative Literature prepares students to work in any field that calls for critical insight, powerful writing, competence in a foreign language, and a sophisticated understanding of cultural difference and diversity. The BA is also an excellent foundation for further study at the graduate level and for practical translation work.

Many Study Abroad courses may count for the Comparative Literature major and minor.
Required Courses:

Eleven 4-credit courses with a grade of C or higher are required.

- CAS XL 100 Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature

- Two courses chosen from
  - CAS XL 222 Introduction to Western Literatures
  - CAS XL 223 Introduction to Middle Eastern Literatures
  - CAS XL 224 Introduction to East Asian Literatures
  - CAS XL 225 Introduction to South Asian Literatures
  These may be taken in any order. CAS CC 101 and 102 together may be substituted for CAS XL 222.

- Three courses in a single non-English-language literary tradition, normally in the Department of World Languages & Literatures (Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Hebrew, Hindi/Urdu, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish literature), Romance Studies (French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish), Classical Studies, or related study abroad programs. Courses must focus principally on literary topics. They may be taught in English or in the original language.

- One language course beyond the fourth-semester level in a language of the student’s foreign literature of specialization, or a literature or culture course taught entirely in the language.

- Three literature courses in a second tradition, English or non-English, OR three XL courses numbered above XL 300.

- XL 479 WLL senior capstone seminar

Honors in the Major:

To graduate with honors, students will maintain a GPA in the major of at least 3.4 and will take two additional courses above the 11 required for the major:

- one additional literature course chosen with the advisor’s approval.
• either XL 540 (translation seminar) or XL 401 or 402 (continuation of the thesis begun in the capstone seminar).

**The following questions relate to a change in the delivery format of an existing degree.**

16. For proposed changes to delivery format of existing programs, please provide an indication of non-standard scheduling for the proposed format:

N/A

17. Please provide information on a marketing plan and partner for the proposed changed delivery format:

N/A

18. If applicable, please provide a request for non-standard tuition rates for the proposed changed delivery format:

N/A

19. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured?

N/A