

4-13-1978

Proposal for a B.A. Concentration in Comparative Literature Studies

University of Rhode Island Faculty Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, Rhode Island

FACULTY SENATE
BILL

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

TO: President Frank Newman

FROM: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

1. The attached BILL, titled Proposal for a B.A. Concentration in Comparative Literature Studies

is forwarded for your consideration.

2. The original and two copies for your use are included.
3. This BILL was adopted by vote of the Faculty Senate on April 13, 1978 (date).
4. After considering this bill, will you please indicate your approval or disapproval. Return the original or forward it to the Board of Regents, completing the appropriate endorsement below.
5. In accordance with Section 8, paragraph 2 of the Senate's By-Laws, this bill will become effective on May 4, 1978 (date), three weeks after Senate approval, unless: (1) specific dates for implementation are written into the bill; (2) you return it disapproved; (3) you forward it to the Board of Regents for their approval; or (4) the University Faculty petitions for a referendum. If the bill is forwarded to the Board of Regents, it will not become effective until approved by the Board.

April 14, 1978
(date)

Robert M. Gutchen
Chairman of the Faculty Senate

ENDORSEMENT

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: President of the University

1. Returned.
2. Approved _____ Disapproved _____
3. (If approved) In my opinion, transmittal to the Board of Regents is necessary.

(date)

President

(OVER)

ALTERNATE ENDORSEMENT 1.

TO: Chairman of the Board of Regents

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded.
2. Approved.

(date)

President

ENDORSEMENT 2.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Chairman of the Board of Regents, via the University President.

1. Forwarded.

(date)

(Office)

ENDORSEMENT 3.

TO: Chairman of the Faculty Senate

FROM: The University President

1. Forwarded from the Chairman of the Board of Regents.

(date)

President

Original received and forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate and Registrar for filing in the Archives of the University.

(date)

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

A. Program:

Comparative Literature Studies

The Department of English and the Department of Languages together offer the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Comparative Literature Studies. The choice of courses in a student's program of concentration and in the area of Special Interest must have both sufficient range (genre, period, and at least two literatures) and a specific focus. It must be approved by an advisor and the Comparative Literature Advisory Committee consisting of members of the Departments of English and Languages. Coordinators: (English) (Languages)

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credits in one of the three concentration options.

1. English and one foreign literature in the original language Required: 9 credits in English and American literature 300 level or above; 9 credits in one foreign literature at the 300-level or above; 3 credits in literary theory or criticism (CLS 350). The remaining credits to be taken from the Comparative Literature Core Courses or the literature courses in the Departments of English or Languages.
2. Two foreign literatures in the original language Required: 9 credits in each of two foreign literatures at the 300-level or above; 3 credits in literary theory or criticism (CLS 350). The remaining courses to be taken from the Comparative Literature Core Courses or the literature courses in the Departments of English or Languages.
3. World literature in English Translation Required: 3 credits in the nature of language from APG 200, 409; LIN 201, 202; or PHL 440; 3 credits in literary theory or criticism (CLS 350). The remaining credits to be taken from the Comparative Literature Core Courses and the literature courses in the Department of English and the Literature in English Translation courses offered by the Departments of English and Languages. In addition, a student choosing this option must have proficiency in a foreign language through the intermediate level (104 or equivalent).

B. Rationale:

1. Purpose

The Department of English and the Department of Languages propose to offer jointly the B.A. degree in Comparative Literature Studies (CLS). The purpose of the CLS program is to serve better the student interested in literature, to provide more diversity in undergraduate education, to foster an interdisciplinary approach to studies, and consequently to re-emphasize the importance of the humanities in general and the literatures in particular. It seeks to promote the exchange of ideas among faculty and to stimulate the intellectual atmosphere of the entire university.

The proposed program meets the standards as set forth in the report of the Committee on Undergraduate Programs in Comparative Literature published in the American Comparative Literature Association Newsletter (ACLA), Winter 1975. It enables the student to have a sufficient range to his studies to cover both various genre and historical periods and concentrate on at least two national literatures. It also provides through its Comparative Literature Core courses the training needed in the discipline.

- a) CLS expands the options of a student already interested in the study of literature. It provides a stronger and more flexible general background that is sought by business and professional leaders. This is particularly true if concentration options 1 or 2 are chosen, since the student is trained in two languages and literatures as opposed to just one.
- b) CLS encourages a student to pursue the study of literature by offering a program that is different and more challenging than just the study of one particular national literature. It encourages and also gives the opportunity to students with a native or acquired knowledge of a language to make use of it. For someone not interested in just a language major this would be a profitable and interesting way of using existing language skills.

2. Cost

The CLS Program requires no additional costs nor staff, since the courses (30 credits) for this concentration are to be chosen from:

- a) already existing literature courses in the Department of English and in the French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish Sections of the Department of Languages.
- b) already existing Literature in Translation Courses offered both by the Department of English and the Department of Languages
- c) courses in the nature of language available within the programs of Anthropology, Linguistics, and Philosophy
- d) three, open-ended, Comparative Literature Core Courses:

CLS 250 Themes and Myths
CLS 350 Literary Theory and Criticism
CLS 450 Studies in Comparative Literature

These courses will be taught in consecutive semesters and can easily be absorbed by the two departments as a result of a large pool of faculty.