

**Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Program Proposal – Revised 9-28-2011**

**PhD in Comparative Studies:
Cultures, Languages, and Literatures (CLL)**

Description

The Cultures, Languages & Literatures Program at Florida Atlantic University is designed as an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary course of study that enables doctoral students to develop expertise within traditional disciplines and across disciplinary and cultural boundaries. At the heart of our program is the recognition that cultures, languages, and literatures are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies.

This program will be both interdisciplinary (the integration of different fields) and multidisciplinary (the comparative analyses of different fields), consistent with the original approved design of the Ph.D. Program in Comparative Studies. Primary areas of strength for this broadly based program include studies of literature and migration, rhetoric and composition, U.S. multiethnic literatures, early modern literatures, gender, sexuality and embodiment, modernity and postmodernity in literature, space and place in literature, and postcolonial literature and culture. The curriculum also draws from such disciplines as Anthropology, Art History, Communication, History, Peace Studies, Philosophy and Religion, Political Science, Sociology, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, among others.

This program promotes interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work through a cohesive course of study. All students follow an interdisciplinary core curriculum before developing, in consultation with their advisory committees, areas of specialization which might themselves be multidisciplinary. We encourage students to address issues in cultures, languages and literatures from multiple perspectives and to seek the convergence of these perspectives through the insights of interdisciplinary approaches.

This program invites students to explore the interplay among cultures, languages & literatures, as well as theories and methodologies, technologies and pedagogies. Toward this end, students will be expected to attend PhD Colloquia, in addition to their formal coursework. While most graduates of the program will prepare for the challenge of the academy in an increasingly globalized society, others will prepare for a variety of non-academic positions in public and private organizations.

Curriculum

It is expected that students will enter the PhD program with an MA in hand. The PhD curriculum in Cultures, Languages & Literatures is organized as follows:

- a) **Two Theory and Criticism seminars** – these are non-sequential and focus on specific areas of theory and criticism such as Postcolonial Theory, Discourse Theory, Theory of Language, Feminist Theory, Marxist Cultural Theory, etc. The topics vary from year to year. These courses are designed to present intense and focused explorations of various critical models. Rather than an eclectic sampling of critical approaches, these courses aim to situate students immediately within the theoretical discourses addressing selected cultural formations.

CST 7309: Theory and Criticism (3 credits) (Variable titles and content, repeatable for credits)

- b) **Two Interdisciplinary Perspectives courses** – these courses vary from year to year and may include topics such as Perspectives on (New) Media, Perspectives on Postcolonial Literature: Text, Pre-Text, Context, etc. These courses are designed as an introduction to Comparative Studies, and thereby emphasize the interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary that are at the foundation of the Cultures, Languages & Literatures Program. While its content varies from semester to semester and instructor to instructor, these courses invariably serve to train students in approaching cultural texts and formations from more than a single disciplinary standpoint.

CST 7936: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (3 credits) (Variable titles and content, repeatable for credits)

- c) **A minimum of 8 additional graduate courses** at the 6000 or 7000-level (from at least two different college programs)
- d) **CST 7980** – Dissertation Credits (a minimum of 18 dissertation credits)

TOTAL CREDITS: a minimum of 54 credits

[a minimum 30 credits at 7000-level]

[a minimum of 36 credits of course work and 18 dissertation credits]

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: By the end of the second year of course work, the student will ask a faculty member to serve as his/her Major Professor for the dissertation. In consultation with the Major Professor, the student will ask two-three other faculty members to serve on his/her committee.

QUALIFYING EXAMS: The Qualifying Exam consists of a written and oral component. In Fall of Year 3 the student takes the Written Qualifying Examination in the 8th week of the semester, and the Oral Qualifying Examination in the 10th week of the semester. The Qualifying Examinations are administered and evaluated by the student's committee.

In consultation with the student, the committee will compile a reading list from which the exams will be constructed. This list will not be based solely on the student's coursework, but will include as well readings that the exam committee deems foundational for the student's program of study. The successful completion of this written component will be followed by an oral exam within two weeks. The oral exam examines, beyond the limits of the written exam, the extent of the student's mastery of the material.

Students who fail an exam may retake it one time only. Failure to pass the exam a second time results in expulsion from the program.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT: In a language other than English, the student must demonstrate working knowledge either by passing a written translation exam or by successfully completing (with a grade of B or better) a "reading for research" course at the graduate level, which does not count toward the required minimum of 54 credits for the Ph.D.

SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A DISSERTATION: The student will defend his/her Dissertation Prospectus at the beginning of Spring in Year 3. The dissertation, an original research project, will be defended before the student's committee and others. Only the committee will vote on approval.



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DATE: August 31, 2012

SUBJECT: PhD Proposal: Literatures, Languages, and Culture (LLC)

FROM: Wenying Xu, Interim Associate Dean

Department of English and Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature have spent the past eight months revitalizing the existent LLL program, and the fruit of their work is this new configuration of LLC, which builds upon the strength of LLL. This track is envisioned to be only one track and not to preclude the possibility of other tracks.

Both departments are giving up some instructor lines to fund the program, and in addition, Dr. Shusterman and Peace Studies have committed financial support. Furthermore, Dean Coltman is actively seeking external funding such as Lifelong Learning Society (Boca and Jupiter) and donors.