Why Comparative Literature at Brandeis?
Discover the joy of beauty in your intellectual life. Learn what it really means to be “cultured.” Realize your power to define your own cultural identity, rather than let others do it for you. Find out why the social sciences are just now discovering what we already know: you can learn the most about both individuals and societies through their cultural products of expression. Learn about the roles of literature and the arts in analyzing and mediating social conflicts. Study novels, poetry, films, painting, photographs, music, religious texts, essays, plays, and other social discourses and practices in their national, historical, and social contexts. Learn how artists both reflect and influence social categories such as language, gender, race, and ethnicity. Learn what terms like multiculturalism, bilingualism, and globalism really mean. Participate mindfully in the construction of your generation’s culture(s).

Curriculum Overview
The major in comparative literature requires nine semester courses, including:
• European Cultural Studies Proseminar on Modernism
• Three literature courses taught in a language other than English
• Four electives to be chosen in conjunction with your advisor in the program
• Senior Essay (COML 97a or b) or Senior Thesis (COML 99d) for students who wish to graduate with honors

A minor in comparative literature requires the following:
• European Cultural Studies Proseminar on Modernism
• Four electives, two of which are taught in a language other than English

Who Majors in Comparative Literature?
Students who choose to study comparative literature at Brandeis University know what college is for. They have a great deal of freedom in choosing their own courses; they undertake independent research, know and respect one another, meet frequently with professors outside of class, and are encouraged to study abroad.

Comparative literature is one of the most multicultural programs on campus. We are constantly shaping our curriculum to fit the interests and needs of the changing student body and encourage student input at all levels of program planning.
Faculty

Following is a list of core faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Richard Lansing**, chair and undergraduate advising head
  Medieval Italian literature, Dante, comparative Renaissance literature, epic and romance

- **Roxanne Dávila**
  Nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American literature, travel literature, anthropology and literature, pre-Columbian studies, Mexican and Central American literature

- **Dian Fox**
  Early modern Spanish drama, poetry, and prose; women’s and gender studies

- **Jane Hale**
  French, education, and comparative literature, contemporary French fiction and drama, Samuel Beckett, Raymond Queneau, literature and painting, Francophone literature and culture of Africa and the Caribbean, portrayals of literacy in literature

- **Edward Kaplan**
  French romanticism, Michelet, Hugo, modern French poetry and theory, Baudelaire, Bonnefoy, religion and literature, translation

- **Susan Lanser**
  Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British and French studies, women writers, the novel, women’s studies and lesbian/gay studies, comparative literature

- **James Mandrell**
  Modern and contemporary Spanish and comparative literature, film, and culture; U.S. popular culture; gender and sexuality

- **Michael Randall**
  Late medieval and Renaissance poetry, prose, and philosophy

- **Esther Ratner**
  French and Spanish language

- **Lucia Reyes de Deu**
  Latin American indigenous novel and the configuration of national and ethnic identities in the Andes