ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What is comparative literature and culture? This major is about crossing boundaries and encountering other ways of thinking and living. It emphasizes a way of approaching literature, rather than a specific body of knowledge about literature. We explore literature and other art forms beyond and across the boundaries of single nations, languages and cultures, often in conjunction with the historical, political and social realities that lend life and variety to any art form. The comparative approach embraces world literature and culture in all periods of history. Our program is highly interdisciplinary, which allows students to explore a wide variety of interests.

What makes the program distinctive?

“Comparing Literatures: Theory and Practice,” the program’s core course, introduces students to the diversity of approaches possible within the field. Uniquely, the course focuses on acquiring the research and writing skills specific to the comparative study of literature. Comparative literature is inherently multicultural and dynamic. 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.

FAST FACTS

Number of faculty: 18

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major:
The program’s core course is the jumping-off point for students’ exploration of literature and culture from across the globe, from a wide variety of perspectives.

Popular second majors:
European cultural studies, international and global studies

Website:
brandeis.edu/programs/coml
“It was nice to see how all the assignments were designed to build on one another. I saw my short writing pieces evolve into a writing- and research-intensive final paper. So it made writing research papers significantly less daunting and actually exciting to write. I will definitely save the pieces I wrote for this class, because I want to remember this class as a steppingstone in my college writing career!”

Student evaluation of COML 100a