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. Think about why people in prison write poetry. 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).

Are you just looking for a good course to take? Try our program for your electives! We have satisfied students and award-winning teachers.

We welcome students of all majors and levels to enroll in our courses. They are some of the most popular and well-liked electives in the University curriculum. Try one and we know you’ll be back for more.

What will your curriculum look like?
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.

How can you learn more?
Please visit the program website at www.brandeis.edu/departments/rocl/comparativeLiterature.html, or contact the program chair, Professor Jane Hale, at jhale@brandeis.edu.