

**Department of  
Cultural Studies  
and  
Comparative Literature  
Handbook**

**Fall 2016**

(11-29-16)

## Table of Contents

Introductions

Admissions

Faculty Affiliated

Faculty

Degree Requirements

Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Comparative Literature

Course Requirements

First-Year Evaluation

Satisfactory Progress Toward the M.A.

Foreign Language Requirements

M.A. Examination

Advisor and Mentor

Residency Requirement

Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Comparative Literature

Course Requirements

First-Year Evaluation

Satisfactory Progress Toward the Ph.D.

Foreign Language Requirements

Comprehensive Examination

Advancement to Candidacy

Dissertation

Teaching Assistantships

Advisor and Mentor

Residency Requirements

Comparative Literature (CLT) Course Listing

Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Cultural Studies

Course Requirements

First-Year Evaluation

Satisfactory Progress Toward the M.A.

Foreign Language Requirements

M.A. Examination

Advisor and Mentor

Residency Requirement

## Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Cultural Studies

Course Requirements First-Year

Evaluation

Satisfactory Progress Toward the Ph.D. Foreign

Language Requirements Comprehensive

Examination Advancement to Candidacy

Dissertation

Teaching Assistantships Advisor and

Mentor Residency Requirements

## The Cultural Studies Certificate Program Cultural Studies

(CST) Course Listing

# Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature (CSCL)

**Chair: Robert Harvey, 1055 Humanities Building (631) 632-7460**

**Graduate Program Director: Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood, 1067 Humanities Building (631) 632-7461** Graduate Program Coordinator: **Mary Moran-Luba, 1059 Humanities Building (631) 632-7456**

**Degrees awarded: M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies**  
**Certificate program in Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature**  
<http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/cscl/>

The Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences, offers the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies as well as an advanced graduate certificate in Cultural Studies.

## **Admission**

The M.A. and Ph.D. programs are distinct, with different requirements, and applicants must specify to which program they are applying, but students in one program may include the other as one of their primary fields of study.

To be considered for admission to Graduate Programs in Cultural Analysis and Theory, all applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a suitable overall grade point average and with a high average in a major field appropriate to study in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies.

1. B.A. or M.A. degree from a recognized institution in a suitable area of study;
2. An official graduate application including a statement of purpose and 3 letters of recommendation can be completed on-line at the following website: <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=sunysb-gs>
3. One official copy of any transcript from any undergraduate college or university attended, **from which a degree was conferred**. Applicants must submit one official copy of any transcript relating to any graduate level work undertaken, **regardless of whether or not a degree was earned**. (*If transcripts are in a foreign language, authoritative English translations are required in addition to the original documents. See Academic FAQs under Transcripts for a list of acceptable translation services.*)
4. For international students, proficiency in English as demonstrated by a minimum score of 550 (paper) or 213 (computer) is considered passing for TOEFL. For the iBT (internet) the score is 80 for general admission and 90 for admission to a doctoral program and to be eligible for consideration for TA/GA support.
5. Institution Code 2548

6. Any graduate student whose native language is not English must score 55 or above on the TSE or SPEAK test or obtain a score of 7.0 or better in the speaking component of the IELTS test. The website for ETS (TOEFL & GRE) is [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org);
7. An appropriate score on the Graduate Record Examination General Test (GRE) Code 2548
8. Two term papers or other writing samples (20-25 pages) in literature and cultural studies.(or a related field), depending on the track applied for.
9. An application fee of \$100.Admission to the Graduate Program: Degree in Comparative Literature

Applicants to the graduate programs in comparative literature are required to fulfill the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School. In addition, applicants are ordinarily required to hold a bachelor's degree in an appropriate field from a recognized institution. Furthermore, applicants to the graduate program in comparative literature are expected to demonstrate competence in one foreign language as well as in English. Adequate reading knowledge of a second foreign language is highly desirable.

Any deficiencies in these requirements shall not automatically bar admission, but it is understood that inadequacies in undergraduate preparation will normally require the student to take additional work, the amount to be determined by the graduate program committee and not to be used to fulfill any specific degree requirements.

In all cases, admission is by action of the graduate studies committee of the department under guidelines established by the Graduate School. Applicants are admitted on the basis of their total records, and no predetermined quantitative criteria by themselves ensure a positive or a negative decision.

Stony Brook's graduate program in comparative literature emphasizes developments in contemporary interpretive theory that have transformed disciplinary identities. It understands its "comparative" mission not only to encourage a global perspective on literature beyond narrow linguistic and cultural boundaries, but also to seek alternatives to established approaches to literary study. The program's faculty and students work closely with members of other programs in the humanities, arts, and social sciences in a collaborative effort to examine the role of literary expression as related to other forms of human activity. Students supplement their core study in comparative literature by designing individual programs with strong links to related fields. While providing students with the techniques required for advanced literary analysis, the program seeks to provide full appreciation of how those techniques interact with different modes of scholarly inquiry.

As an institution, Stony Brook is committed to increasing the opportunities for interdisciplinary activity crucial to the programs in comparative literature. The University's Humanities Institute is the most visible expression of a broad university commitment to bringing diverse scholars together for a common intellectual enterprise.

Applicants holding the M.A. degree in comparative literature from the graduate program in comparative literary and cultural studies from Stony Brook may, upon the advice of the graduate studies committee, be directly admitted to the Ph.D. program. Other applicants will be admitted to the program after review of their qualifications.

## **Admission to the Graduate Program: Degree in Cultural Studies**

Applicants to the graduate programs in cultural studies are required to fulfill the minimum admission requirements of the Graduate School. In addition, applicants are ordinarily required to hold a bachelor's degree in an appropriate field from a recognized institution. Furthermore, applicants to the graduate programs in cultural studies are expected to demonstrate competence in one foreign language as well as in English. Adequate reading knowledge of a second foreign language is highly desirable.

Any deficiencies in these requirements shall not automatically bar admission, but it is understood that inadequacies in undergraduate preparation will normally require the student to take additional work, the amount to be determined by the graduate program committee and not to be used to fulfill any specific degree requirements.

In all cases, admission is by action of the graduate studies committee of the department under guidelines established by the Graduate School. Applicants are admitted on the basis of their total records, and no predetermined quantitative criteria by themselves ensure a positive or a negative decision.

The graduate program in cultural studies is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental program based in the Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory. The cultural studies programs at Stony Brook are designed for students whose interests cut across traditional modes of study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Areas of emphasis include popular and mass culture, minority and diasporic cultures, visual culture, media and technology, cultural production, cross-cultural and transnational/global formations, as well as the study of elite, dominant, and national cultures. Course requirements are designed to build competence in interdisciplinary cultural studies theory and practice, maximize collegial interaction among students, and allow students to develop disciplinary fluency in a particular subfield.

The strengths of the Department of Cultural Analysis and Theory lie primarily in literary and cultural theory, cinema and media studies, visual culture studies, and cross-cultural studies, as reflected in the Department's popular undergraduate majors in Cinema & Cultural Studies (CCS) and Women's & Gender Studies (WaGS). Competence in languages other than English has also long been considered essential to the department's mission. A network of affiliated faculty represent a wide range of areas in disciplines including Africana studies, art history and studio art, Asian and Asian American studies, Digital Art, Culture and Technology (cDACT), English, European and Hispanic languages, history, music, and philosophy. Prospective students are encouraged to examine the list of faculty to see how their own interests may be served by the current faculty cohort both within and outside of CAT.

## Faculty

**Tim August**, *Assistant Professor* (Ph.D., 2014, University of Minnesota) World Literature; Postcolonial Theory and Criticism; Asian American Studies, Theories of Food and Eating; Diasporic Vietnamese Literature and Film

**Simone Brioni**, *Assistant Professor* (Ph.D., 2013, University of Warwick) Italian Studies; Postcolonial Theory and Criticism; Migration Studies; Film Studies and Filmmaking.

**Robert Harvey**, *Distinguished Professor* (Ph.D., 1988, University of California, Berkeley): Twentieth- century and contemporary literature in French and English; critical theory; film, relations between philosophy and literature.

**Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1995, Yale University): Russian and Polish literature; culture and film.

**Patrice Nganang**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1998, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main (Germany)): European philosophy; critical theory; African literature; cinema and colonialism; theories of violence; media theory; media theory; creative writing.

**Nikos Panou**, *Assistant Professor and Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professor in Hellenic Studies* (Ph.D. 2008, Harvard University) Reception studies; Byzantine and Modern Greek literature and culture; Orientalism; Mediterranean studies; history of emotions.

**Sophie Raynard-Leroy**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D. 1999, Columbia University): 17<sup>th</sup>- & 18<sup>st</sup>-century literatures in French, fairy-tale studies, and women's studies. Children's literature and culture, adaptation studies.

**Mireille Rebeiz**, *Assistant Professor* (Ph.D., 2012, Florida State University) Colonial & Postcolonial Francophone Literatures and Cultures of the Maghreb and the Mashreq; Arabic Contemporary Literature; Women's War Narratives; Feminism; Disability Studies; Trauma Studies; Law and Literature.

**E.K. Tan**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 2007, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign): Modern and Contemporary Chinese Literature, Sinophone Literature, Chinese Language Cinema, Film Theory, Diaspora Theory, Globalization Theory, Psychoanalytical Theory, Translation Theory.

**Timothy Westphalen**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1991, Harvard University): Russian and Polish poetry; Russian Symbolism; verse theory; Bakhtin and cultural theory; Czech Structuralism and reception theory; orientalism.

**Affiliated Faculty:** (N.B. More faculty will no doubt be affiliated to the new department in the course of the Fall 2016 semester)

**Ruth B. Bottigheimer**, *Research Professor* (D.A., 1981, University at Stony Brook): Tale collections, children's literature, fairy tales; socio-cultural analysis of literature.

**Edward S. Casey**, *Distinguished Professor* (Ph.D., 1967, Northwestern University): Phenomenology, philosophical psychology, aesthetics, theory of psychoanalysis. Recent research includes investigations into place and space; landscape painting and maps as modes of representation; ethics and the other; feeling and emotion; philosophy of perception (with special attention to the role of the glance); the nature of edges.

**Iona Man-Cheong**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1991, Yale University): Chinese history, culture and society, particularly Qing dynasty; women, gender and sexuality in China.

**Adrián Pérez-Melgosa**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1995, University of Rochester): Cinema and the novel in the Americas; cultural studies.

**Mary C. Rawlinson**, *Professor* (Ph.D., 1978, Northwestern): Aesthetics, literature, and philosophy; Proust, mystery, and detective fiction; 19<sup>th</sup>-century Philosophy (esp. Hegel); philosophy of medicine.

**Michael Rubenstein**, *Assistant Professor* (Ph.D., 2003, Rutgers State University): James Joyce; 20th-Century Irish Literature; 20th-Century British and Anglophone Literature; Postcolonial Literature; Modernism; Psychoanalysis; The Novel; Film; Environmentalism and the Humanities.

**Kathleen M. Vernon**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1982, University of Chicago): Contemporary Spanish and Latin American cinema and cultural studies; gender and popular culture; contemporary Hispanic literature.

**Tracey Walters**, *Associate Professor* (Ph.D., 1999, Howard University): African American literature; Black British literature and culture.

## **Emeritus Faculty**

**Krin Gabbard**, *Professor* (Ph.D., 1979, Indiana University-Bloomington): Film theory and history, jazz, interrelations of literature, art, music, and film, comparative literature methodology, psychoanalytic approaches to the arts; ancient Greek literature, drama, and literary theory.

**Sandy Petrey**, *Professor Emeritus* (Ph.D., 1966, Yale University): 19<sup>th</sup>-century fiction, theories of the novel; contemporary criticism.



**Ilona N. Rashkow**, *Associate Professor Emerita* (Ph.D., 1988, University of Maryland): Hebrew Bible, Judaic studies, religious studies, feminist literary criticism; psychoanalytic literary theory, women's studies, literary theory, comparative literature.

**Louise O. Vásvari**, *Professor Emerita* (Ph.D., 1969, Berkeley): Medieval literature, literature and folklore, literature and linguistics, translation theory, Romance philology, semiology, art and literature, sexuality and literature.

***Number of teaching, graduate, and research assistants, fall 201: 29***

### **Registration**

All students enrolled in the Graduate School in any program, whether in residence or absentia, must register each fall and spring for at least one graduate credit until all degree requirements have been met. A student is not considered to have registered until enrollment is posted on the University system, SOLAR, and arrangements regarding tuition and fees have been made with the Bursar's Office. Students who hold a TA, GA, RA, fellowship, or tuition scholarship must be registered as full-time students by the fifteenth day of classes each semester. Students failing to register before the first day of classes or before late registration begins may still register during the first 15 days of the semester, but will be charged a late fee of \$40. Students who have not been granted an official Leave of Absence by the Dean of the Graduate School and have not yet registered will be considered to have withdrawn from the University.

Students are responsible for making sure they are registered on time. Programs or individual faculty members do not have authority to waive these rules.

## **Degree Requirements**

### **Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Comparative Literature**

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

#### **A. Course Requirements**

The minimum course requirement for the M.A. degree is 30 graduate credit hours (including no more than three credits of CLT 599 Independent Studies). An M.A. candidate is expected to take:

1. CLT 501: *Theories of Comparative Literature*
2. CLT 509: *History of Literary Criticism*
3. Three CLT/CST courses numbered 600 and higher

The remaining courses may be distributed among graduate offerings in comparative literature, English, foreign languages, philosophy, history, art criticism, theatre, music, and

other appropriate fields. A student must achieve a 3.5 overall grade point average for all graduate courses taken at Stony Brook to receive a degree.

### **B. First-Year Evaluation**

In the middle of the student's second semester of graduate work, the director of graduate studies prepares a file for the student's first-year evaluation. It consists of (1) the student's grades and (2) letters from the professor in all of the student's classes. Students may submit any other relevant material such as a seminar paper or original essay. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the dossier and decide whether the student should be encouraged to continue in the program.

### **C. Satisfactory Progress Toward the M.A.**

Because so many factors depend on satisfactory progress toward the degree, it is important for students to be aware of and monitor their own progress. The following define the minimum limits for satisfactory progress for full-time students:

1. Maintain a 3.5 average, with no course below B-, in each semester of graduate study, as well as complete all incomplete grades by the first deadline. Students who fail to fulfill these requirements in any semester will be automatically placed on probation during the following semester and will be subject to possible dismissal.
2. Receive an acceptable first-year evaluation in the spring semester of the first year of study.

### **D. Foreign Language Requirements**

Entering students are expected to have a good command of one and preferably two foreign languages. Students must ultimately be competent in one major and one minor language (non-native speakers of English may offer English as one of the two languages).

All students must have passed the language requirements before they are allowed to take the M.A. examination. To demonstrate competence in the major language, students must take for credit, and earn a grade of B or better in, at least one graduate or advanced undergraduate literature course conducted in the language (final papers may be written in English).

Competence in the minor language can be demonstrated by (1) earning a grade of B or better in a graduate translation course or (2) passing a CLT examination to be taken with a dictionary

### **E. M.A. Examination Examination:**

The student will take a two-hour oral examination in the second year of graduate study or submit a master's thesis. The exam measures the student's knowledge and mastery of literary theory and its history, familiarity with the major texts of world literature, and ability to compose a competent stylistic analysis of literary texts. The master's examination committee consists of three members of the faculty, at least two of whom are members of the CAT graduate faculty.

### ***Reading List for the Examination:***

The student, in consultation with the examination committee, prepares a list of works in each

of the following three areas: 1) history of literary theory from the Greeks to the present; 2) a literary genre; and 3) a literary period. The list for (1) is set. Each of the other reading lists will consist of 15 to 20 primary texts.

(The number of required titles for the genre will be increased if the student chooses short works; whatever the genre, the reading required should approximate that imposed by 15 to 20 novels.) The student's examination committee will review and approve the exam lists before the student submits the signature sheet to the Director of Graduate Studies for final pre-examination review of requirements. At the two-hour oral exam at least two of the three members of the examination committee must be present.

### **Thesis Substitute for Master's Examination**

Instead of taking the M.A. examination, students may substitute a thesis for the exam. The thesis must be on a substantive topic in comparative literature requiring original research. The student will form a committee of three faculty, at least two of whom must be from the comparative literature graduate faculty, who will supervise the project and give final approval.

### **F. Advisor and Mentor**

The Graduate School requires all students to have an advisor. The director of graduate studies serves as advisor to all entering students during their first year and helps them plan their programs. Before the end of the first academic year, full-time students should choose one, or preferably two, official graduate advisors from the comparative literature graduate faculty. Advisor and student meet regularly to discuss the student's progress and program. Advisors are normally chosen for one year, but students are, of course, free to change advisors and are encouraged to consult with all members of the faculty.

### **G. Residence Requirements**

The University requires that students receiving a M.A. must take at least two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study, this usually means 12 credits per semester.

## **Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Comparative Literature**

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

### **A. Course Requirements**

1. CLT 501: *Theories of Comparative Literature*
2. CLT 509: *History of Literary Criticism*
3. CLT 680: Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies *Research Seminar*
4. CLT/CST 698: *Teaching Practicum*
5. Twelve additional graduate courses, at least three of which must be CLT/CST/WST courses numbered 600 or higher

A minimum of 48 credits of graduate work is required for the Ph.D. Students who hold an M.A. in comparative literature or a related discipline can request that their transcripts be

evaluated by the graduate studies committee and may receive a maximum of 30 credits toward their Ph.D.

All students seeking the Ph.D. must take the required courses listed above, unless the graduate program committee accepts comparable courses taken previously. All Ph.D. students must acquire a minimum of one semester of formal teaching experience (even if they are unsupported or are on a fellowship requiring no teaching duties) and must concurrently take the formal teaching practicum, CLT 698.

In their first year students will take the Teaching Practicum CLT 698. The Practicum will include information about Stony Brook undergraduate requirements and the various undergraduate programs administered by CAT, data on Stony Brook undergraduates, analyses of practical pedagogical issues, consideration of the aims of education and the social role of the university, and teaching observations. The Practicum also provides students with the opportunity to develop a syllabus for an undergraduate course. The Practicum meets roughly every two weeks during both semesters of the first year. The Practicum Director serves as an advisor to first year students, prior to their selection of individual faculty advisors in the second semester.

Students must take the required courses when they are offered, and cannot replace them by Independent Study course CLT 599, except in the most unusual circumstances and by petition to the director of graduate studies at the beginning of the term the course is offered. The petition has to be signed by the person directing the Independent Study and must be approved by the graduate studies committee.

Students taking any Independent Study or Directed Reading course will do so under the departmental rubrics, CLT 599 and CLT 690. Under exceptional circumstances, the director of graduate studies may approve Independent Study under another department's designator, contingent on proper comparative literature procedures being followed. A maximum of six credits of CLT 599 Independent Study courses, is applicable to the degree requirements for the Ph.D. All such courses must be approved by the director of graduate studies before the end of the add/drop period of the semester during which they are to be taken. All students taking Independent Study or Directed Reading courses must file a detailed description, for which forms are available in the Department office. Failure to have these courses approved in a timely fashion will result in de-registration or in denial of credit for the courses.

### **B. First-Year Evaluation**

In the middle of the student's second semester of graduate work, the director of graduate studies prepares a file for the student's first-year evaluation. It consists of: 1) the student's grades, 2) letters from the professor in all of the student's classes, and, if the student is a teaching assistant, 3) a letter of evaluation from appropriate faculty, and 4) student evaluations. Students may submit any other relevant material such as a seminar paper or original essay. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the dossier and decide whether the student should be encouraged to continue in the program.

In May of the second year, and each year following, the student will complete a report on progress in the program, including specific progress towards degree (coursework, qualifying

exams, dissertation prospectus, and dissertation) and other achievements (funding, research, presentations, publications).

They will then meet with the director of graduate studies or dissertation advisor to discuss their progress in the program. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the report and decide whether the student should be encouraged to continue in the program.

### **C. Satisfactory Progress Toward the Ph.D.**

In addition to requirements above, Ph.D. students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Maintain at least a 3.5 average, with no course below B-, in each semester of graduate study. There is a one year maximum limit on incompletes. A student may accumulate no more than two incomplete grades in any one semester or he/she will no longer be considered a Student in Good Standing, a prerequisite to continue in the program. As a result, the student will lose his or her T.A. line as well as face likely dismissal from the program;
2. Receive a satisfactory first-year evaluation in the spring semester of the first year of study;
3. Satisfy at least one language requirement in each year of residence until all language requirements are met. All language requirements must be completed at least three months before the comprehensive examination;
4. Complete all core courses in the first two years of full-time study and all 48 credits for the Ph.D. in three years;
5. Take the comprehensive examination no later than one year after completion of coursework;
6. Submit a dissertation prospectus in the semester following satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination.

By rules of the Graduate School, students must satisfy all requirements for the Ph.D. within seven years after completing 24 credits of graduate work in the Stony Brook department in which they are registered. In rare instances, the Graduate School will entertain a petition to extend this time limit, provided it bears the endorsement of the department. The program may require evidence that the student is still properly prepared for completion of the degree. In particular, the student may be required to pass the comprehensive examination again in order to be permitted to continue work.

### **D. Foreign Language Requirements**

Entering graduate students are expected to have a good command of at least one, and preferably two, foreign languages. Candidates for the Ph.D. will eventually demonstrate competence in two or three foreign languages, depending on which of the two options outlined below the student chooses. All language requirements must be met three months before students sit for the comprehensive examination.

Non-native speakers of English may choose English (but not their native language) as one of their foreign languages. All students are of course required to demonstrate full command of written and spoken English, the language of instruction in most comparative literature courses.

Whenever possible, language exams for comparative literature students will be given by core or affiliated faculty in CAT. Each exam will be read by two faculty members.

The options for fulfilling the language requirement are as follows:

**Option A:** The student offers two principal foreign languages. A principal language is defined by the student's demonstrating a high degree of competence in the language, i.e., the ability to understand lectures given in the language and to read it with facility.

Students may demonstrate this degree of competence by taking for credit, and by earning a grade of B or better in at least one graduate or advance undergraduate course in the lettered humanities conducted in the language. This course must have been taken within five years of matriculating to Stony Brook and must have been taken at an accredited University. Final papers may be written in English. In special cases, students may substitute an advanced language examination of three hours in lieu of course work.

The examination consists of three sections: a) oral comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and summarize in English the contents of two graduate level lectures conducted in the foreign language;

b) written comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and answer questions on a moderately long (approximately ten pages) theoretical, critical, or scholarly article; c) translation skills, shown through translating into English an advanced-level literary passage. The student is permitted to use a dictionary for part c but not for part b. If the principal foreign language being examined is a Classical language (e.g., Classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Greek), the three-hour test will consist of translations at an appropriately advanced level.

**Option B:** The student offers one principal language and two secondary languages. Demonstration and competence in the principal language will be the same as outlined for Option A.

Competence in the secondary languages can be demonstrated in either of the following ways:

1. By earning a grade of B or better in a graduate translation course taught by one of the foreign language departments at Stony Brook. Credits for a graduate translation course do not count toward the total credits required for the Master's or the Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature.
2. By passing a departmental examination consisting of two parts, each one hour long, to be taken with a dictionary: a) a short theoretical, critical, or scholarly article

that the student is required to summarize and discuss in English; b) a translation of a short literary prose passage of medium difficulty.

## **E. Comprehensive Examination**

### **Comprehensive Examination in Comparative Literature**

Full-time students who are candidates for the Ph.D. will normally take their comprehensive examination no more than one year after completing their course work. Completing the language requirement is a prerequisite for sitting for the examination.

**Committee for the Examination:** The student, in consultation with their adviser, will select three additional faculty members to serve on their examination committee. At least three of the four faculty members of the examination committee must be members of the CAT graduate faculty (including affiliates). At least three members of the committee must be physically present at the examination.

**Reading List:** A reading list for all parts enumerated below will be compiled by the student with the help of the examination committee. The student's examination committee will review and approve the exam lists before the student submits the signature sheet to the Director of Graduate Studies for final pre-examination review of requirements. Students should submit a description of the special area, related to the dissertation, along with the reading list.

**Examination:** The examination is oral, with the duration to be determined by the members of the committee but not shorter than two hours and not longer than three. Questions posed by examiners will be based on the reading list for the examination. The examination may be passed, passed with distinction, failed, or failed in part. In case of failure, the examination may be retaken once, but no later than the end of the semester following the time when it was initially scheduled. In case of partial failure, the second examination will cover only the area(s) on which the candidate's performance was inadequate.

### **The Comparative Literature comprehensive examination will consist of four parts:**

1. **History of Literary Criticism.** Students will be examined on the history and theory of literary criticism, from Classical antiquity to the present. The reading list will be based in part on material covered in CLT 509. Works pertinent to the student's special interests may be added. Part A of this section includes works from Plato to the early twentieth century. Because of the immense variety of theoretical approaches in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Part B will consist of at least three sub-sections, each devoted to specific areas of contemporary literary theory. These areas include but are not limited to Psychoanalysis, Marxism, New Criticism, phenomenology, hermeneutics, structuralism, post-colonialism, deconstruction, feminist analysis, queer theory,

gender studies, New Historicism, translation theory, science studies, and popular culture studies. The student should obtain the latest version of Ph.D. Reading List for Literary Theory and Criticism available in the Department office or on the website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/complit/new/literary\\_theory.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/complit/new/literary_theory.html)

2. ***A literary genre.*** Possible options include comedy, novel, short narrative, romance, autobiography, epic, film, essay, or other categories approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. A knowledge of the historical development of the genre will be expected, and the reading list should include, in addition to relevant primary texts, a selection of major critical and theoretical works about the chosen genre (which may include its relation to other forms of expression such as music, art, film and philosophy). The list must include works from at least three language traditions.
3. ***A period in literary history.*** Possible options include Classical antiquity, Medieval, Renaissance, baroque and neo-classical, later eighteenth century, romanticism, modernism, etc. Literary traditions from other cultures may also be included. The student will be expected to know the history and the social and intellectual background of the period and to demonstrate a knowledge of the major genres produced during that period in at least three language traditions.
4. ***A special area of a comparative nature,*** defined as a broad subject related to the student's more specific projected dissertation topic. The student will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the history and scholarship that inform the background of the dissertation project.

For Parts 2, 3, and 4 of the comprehensive examination, the reading list submitted must include primary texts in at least two languages other than English. Reading lists in these areas are not intended to be exhaustive, but they should provide coverage of the field that adequately prepares the student to teach courses in the areas of the examination. Guidelines for the preparation of the reading lists can be obtained in the Department. Parts 2 and 3 normally include 35-45 primary texts and 12-15 secondary works.

#### **F. Advancement to Candidacy**

Advancement to candidacy is granted by the Graduate School upon recommendation of the director of graduate studies after a successful comprehensive examination. Again, all other requirements must have been met before the student sits for the comprehensive examination. Advancement must be 1 year prior to defense.

Students who have passed their Ph.D. oral comprehensive exam will be deemed to have passed the equivalent of the master's exam and be granted a M.A. degree unless they already have a master's degree in comparative literature from another institution. The student must file appropriate papers with the department.



## **G. Dissertation**

The dissertation represents the culmination of the student's degree program and should be a serious contribution to scholarship.

Within three months of passing the comprehensive examination, the student must be prepared to schedule the Dissertation Prospectus Review.

As soon as possible, after the Comprehensive Examination, the candidate should choose a dissertation director, as well as the two CAT readers of the dissertation. (The reader outside CAT may be chosen nearer to the defense date, at the discretion of the dissertation director.) The director of the dissertation must be a member of the CAT core faculty. Affiliates may co-direct dissertations with a core faculty member. In consultation with the dissertation director and the readers, the candidate drafts a dissertation prospectus

The dissertation prospectus, which must be appropriate to comparative literature, should be between 2,000 and 3,500 words, not counting footnotes or bibliography, and should include the following:

- Title of the dissertation;
- Description of the topic and its appropriateness for comparative literature in focus and method;
- The rationale behind the choice of topic, and the anticipated contribution of the proposed research to knowledge;
- A discussion of the argument your dissertation will advance;
- Current state of research on the topic and a basic bibliography;
- Method of work, including the general approach (e.g., historical, generic, thematic, structural) and an outline of chapters.

When the director and readers have approved the prospectus, the student and the director will schedule a Dissertation Prospectus Review to be attended by the student, the director, and all other members of the dissertation committee. Faculty and/or graduate students may be invited to the review at the discretion of the student. The review should be no less than one hour in length. The director, the readers, and others in attendance will discuss the prospectus with the student in order to insure that the student is ready to proceed in the project. When the director and the readers agree that the student is ready, they will sign off on the prospectus and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies. The candidate then proceeds to the dissertation.

### **Guidelines for Dissertation Prospectus Review**

- The student will circulate her or his prospectus to all members of the committee three weeks prior to the review.
- The student will begin the review with a summary of the project in less than five minutes. She or he should clearly communicate the core thesis of the prospective dissertation.
- The members of the committee will then ask questions and make suggestions.

- The student should take notes during the meeting and make sure that she or he understands what the committee is suggesting.
- At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room so that the members of the committee can discuss whether or not they are ready to sign off on the prospectus. If the members of the committee are satisfied that the student is prepared to begin writing the dissertation, they will sign off on the document and send it to the DGS.
- In some cases the committee may decide not to sign and request a revised prospectus. If the members of the committee are satisfied with the revised prospectus, there is no need for a second dissertation prospectus review. In some cases, however, the committee may decide that a second review is necessary.

Although there are no strict regulations on length, dissertations will normally be between 200 and 400 pages, not including bibliography and other supplemental material. The dissertation committee may, in special cases and with justification, allow a student to submit a shorter or longer dissertation.

When the dissertation has been completed in accordance with guidelines published in Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations, legible copies of the complete dissertation must be given to all committee members at least one month in advance of the scheduled defense.

All dissertation defenses shall take place on campus and require the full attendance of the dissertation examining committee. Any exceptions from this practice will require approval from the Dean of the Graduate School. Campus Audio/Visual Services can be employed in the event that either a committee member or the defending student cannot be on the premises due to extenuating circumstances. While the examining committee may wish to hold the committee examination of the defense in private, the public presentation of the defense will be open to the university community and should be advertised campus-wide three weeks prior to the scheduled date. A minimum of three weeks prior to the dissertation defense, the dissertation abstract, approved by the student's advisor and director of graduate studies, must be submitted to the Graduate School with details of the time and location for the defense. The [Doctoral Defense Announcement form](#) is available on the [Graduate School](#) Web site. The Graduate School will be responsible for advertising the defense to the university community.

The dissertation examining committee will set up the ground rules for the defense, which always involves the student giving a short précis of the research problem, the research method, and the results. This is followed by questions from the Committee and, if the committee so desires, from the audience.

The dissertation examining committee will be convened by a Chair of the Defense, who will begin the event by introducing the candidate, stating the dissertation's title, introducing the members of the committee, and stating the structure of the defense: a) a 15-20 minute opening statement by the candidate (overview, problematic, methodology, argument, etc.); b) comments and questions from examiners (order: chair of defense, committee members,

advisor) – approximately 20 minutes each; c) questions or comments from the public in attendance; d) candidate dismissed while committee confers; e) candidate invited back in order that chair announce committee's decision; f) signing of the dissertation cover sheet.

## **H. Teaching Assistantships**

For Ph.D. students awarded teaching assistantships, four years of full support is the department's norm. Awards are renewable annually, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic progress towards the degree and performs teaching duties appropriately (see above, Satisfactory Progress). Students (other than Turner fellows) should not count on assistantship resources beyond the fourth year of study.

During their first year, Ph.D. students will normally be placed as teaching assistants in CAT large lecture courses and either conduct a recitation or serve as a reader/grader. During their third and fourth year's, they will serve as instructors of stand-alone CAT courses. While placements will vary according to student and program needs and constraints, every effort will be made to provide each student with the available range of teaching experiences.

Graduate students in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies have the opportunity to teach a wide variety of courses. Their teaching obligation may be fulfilled in several ways depending on departmental needs:

1. Assisting an instructor in a large lecture course;
2. Teaching a small section of a literature course under the supervision of the CAT faculty;
3. Participating in the basic language course in a foreign language department or in a composition course in the English department.

T.A. assignments differ, but the amount of work required cannot exceed 20 hours per week. T.A.s will usually:

1. Hold office hours to review course materials, assist in grading, and discuss other course-related issues with undergraduates;
2. Attend classes (graduate courses will be scheduled to minimize interference with T.A. assignments) and read all required entries on the syllabus;
3. Lead discussion groups;
4. Grade exams, homework, and other written material.

The performance of teaching assistants is monitored by evaluation forms given to undergraduate students at the end of each semester, as well as by faculty members who visit certain classes taught by the T.A. and submit a written evaluation. Stipends of teaching assistants may be terminated if (on the basis of these evaluations and other relevant criteria) the graduate studies committee judges that they have been deficient in carrying out their teaching duties. Superior work as a T.A. is highly valued by the CAT faculty and by the Graduate School. In the past, several T.A.'s from CAT have won the President's Award for

Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student. This and other prizes for which T.A.'s are eligible carry a cash award.

### **I. Advisor and Mentor**

The Graduate School requires all students to have an advisor. The director of graduate studies serves as advisor to all entering students during their first year and helps them plan their programs. Before the end of the first academic year, full-time students should choose one, or preferably two, official graduate advisors from the CAT graduate faculty. Advisor and student meet regularly to discuss the student's progress and program. Advisors are normally chosen for one year, but students are, of course, free to change advisors and are encouraged to consult with all members of the faculty.

### **J. Residence Requirement**

The University requires that students receiving a Ph.D. must take at least two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study. For those entering without prior graduate study or with fewer than 24 graduate credits, this usually means 12 credits per semester; for those entering with more than 24 graduate credits or with advanced standing provided by prior graduate work, this would mean 9 credits per semester.

## **CLT Graduate Courses:**

### **CLT 501 Theories of Comparative Literature**

This course provides a survey of literary theory and its role in the formation of comparative literature as a discipline.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

### **CLT 509 History of Literary Criticism**

A history of literary theory from classical Greece to Freud. 3 credits, letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

### **CLT 597 Directed Readings for M.A. Students**

Directed Readings must be approved in writing by the Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, and the supervising professor. 1-3 credits each semester, repetitive credit, S/U grading.

### **CLT 598 Thesis Research**

Research and writing of M.A. thesis supervised by faculty advisor.

Fall, Spring, Summer, 1-3 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 599 Independent Study**

A student and faculty member agree on a topic not offered in any seminars and a reading list to study at weekly or biweekly meetings. A final research paper or major annotated bibliography will be required. The syllabus must be filed with the program's form before the

add/drop period ends. Fall and Spring, 1-3 credits, ABCF grading. May be repeated for credit.

Only three credits of Independent Study may be counted toward the M.A. requirements, and a maximum of six toward the Ph.D

### **CLT 600 Seminar in Stylistics**

Changing topics in the study of stylistic and structural elements of the literary text. 3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 601 Seminar in Literary Theory**

Changing topics in the specialized examination of recent or historical trends, such as semiotics, Marxism, reader-response, psychoanalysis, hermeneutics, deconstruction. Recent topics have included "Film History, Theory, and Criticism", "Contemporary Issues in Literary and Cultural Studies", "Translation Theory", "Deconstruction and Cultural Theory: Derrida/Kristeva/Lyotard", and "Theoretical Approaches to Andre Malraux"  
3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 602 Interdisciplinary Seminar**

Specific problems in the relations between literature and other disciplines. Recent topics have included "Word, Testament and Will: Postcoloniality and the questions of the "Premodern", "Premodern", "The Witness, Now", Trauma, Performing Age and the Body", "Postmodernism/Imaging in the Millennium", "Postmodernism," "On the Sublime in Arts and Literature," "History and Literature," "Literature and Philosophy", and "Literature and Psychoanalysis".  
3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 603 Comparative Studies in Literary History**

Changing topics in the study of literary periods and styles. Recent topics addressed in this course have included "Prehistory of the Novel" "European Realism", "Postmodernism", "Modernism and the City", and "Postmodern Theories of Culture and Politics".  
3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 604 Comparative Studies in Genre**

Changing topics in the study of the history and theory of literary genres. Recent topics have included "The Melancholy Novel: (Re)membering the Abject Body", "From Realism to Modernism", and "Challenges to Realism".  
3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 607 Major Authors in Comparative Context**

Critical and comparative examination of two or more major figures from different literary or other aesthetic traditions. Recent topics have included "Kristeva", "Dostoevsky and the West", and "European Realisms".  
3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 608 Cross-Cultural Perspectives**

Key topics in genre, literary criticism and method from a cross-cultural perspective. Emphasis will be placed on an examination of differences as well as similarities. Presuppositions of specific literary traditions will be questioned within the broader perspective of philosophical and religious valences.

Recent Topics have included “Memory, Bodies, and Languages”, “Trauma, Cinema and Postcolonialism”, “Postcolonial Theory and Transculturalism in Visual Culture”, and “Literature and Culture of the Americas: US Latino/a”.

3 credits, letter graded (A, A-,B+, etc.) May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 609 Advanced Topics in Comparative Literature**

A variable topics seminar in Comparative Literature. Course may be repeated as topics vary 3 credits, (A, A-, B+, etc.). *May be repeated for credit.*

### **CLT 680 Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies Research Seminar**

In addition to readings on issues, debates, and problems within the profession and field of Cultural Studies students will develop research for publication while engaging with practices of professionalization.

Spring 3 credits, (A, A-, B+, etc.). May be repeated once for credit

### **CLT 690 Directed Readings for Doctoral Candidates**

A student and faculty member agree on a corpus of texts to read and discuss at weekly or biweekly meetings. The reading list must be filed with the program’s form before the add/drop period ends. Fall and Spring, 1-12 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

### **CLT 696 Self-Directed Readings**

For doctoral students who have completed all course requirements and wish to dedicate themselves to full- or part-time preparation for the Comprehensive Examination. Fall and Spring, 3, 6, or 9 credits, for a maximum of 18 credits. S/U grading.

### **CLT 698 Practicum in Teaching**

All doctoral students in CAT take the Teaching Practicum in their first year. The Practicum familiarizes students with the Stony Brook undergraduate curriculum and data on Stony Brook undergraduates. It covers practical pedagogical issues, as well as theoretical and policy issues concerning the aims of education and the social role of the university. Student will develop a syllabus for an undergraduate course. Students will also observe others teaching and reflect on these experiences with the class. The Practicum Director serves as an advisor to first year students, prior to their selection of advisors in the second semester.

Fall semester, 3 credits, *Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)*

### **CLT 699 Dissertation Research - On Campus**

Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G-5).

A portion of dissertation research must take place on SBU campus. Fall, Spring, Summer

1-9 credits each semester, repetitive credit, S/U grading.

**CLT 700 Dissertation Research - Domestic (U.S.)**

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5).

Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor.

Fall, Spring, Summer 1 - 9 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

**CLT 701 Dissertation Research - International**

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5).

Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX.

International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed.

International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes.

The charge will only be removed if other plan is deemed comparable.

All international students must received clearance from an International Advisor.

Fall, Spring, Summer 1 - 9 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

**CLT 800 Summer Research**

May be repeated for credit.

**CLT 850 Summer Teaching**

May be repeated for credit.

Please note: Students must take the required courses when they are offered, and cannot replace them by Independent Study courses, except in the most unusual circumstances and by petition to the director of graduate studies before the beginning of the term the course is offered. The petition has to be signed by the person directing the Independent Study and must be approved by the director of graduate studies and director of CAT. A student may take no more than one Independent Study in a given semester. A maximum of six credits will count toward the Ph.D.

**Requirements for the M.A. Degree in Cultural Studies**

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

**A. Course Requirements**

The M.A. in Cultural Studies requires 30 credits of graduate work. At least 15 credits must be taken within the department (including no more than three credits of CST 599 Independent Studies). The following courses must be taken by all M.A. students

1. CST 502: *Theories in Cultural Studies*
2. CST 510: *History of Cultural Studies*
3. CST 609: *Advanced Topics in Cultural Theory*
4. Two CLT/CST courses numbered 600 and higher

### **B. First-Year Evaluation**

In the middle of the student's second semester of graduate work, the director of graduate studies or director of cultural studies prepares a file for the student's first-year evaluation. It consists of: 1) the student's grades and (2) letters from the professors in all the student's classes. Students may submit any other additional relevant material they choose. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the dossier and decide whether the student should continue in the program.

### **C. Satisfactory Progress for the M.A.**

Because so many factors influence students' satisfactory progress towards the degree, it is important for students to be aware of and to monitor their own situation. The following define the minimum limits for satisfactory progress for full-time students:

1. Maintain a 3.5 grade point average, with no course below B-, in each semester of graduate study. There is a one-year maximum limit on incompletes. A student may accumulate no more than two incomplete grades in any one semester or she/he will no longer be considered a Student in Good Standing, a prerequisite to continue in the program. As a result, the student will likely face dismissal from the program.
2. Receive a satisfactory first-year evaluation in the spring semester of the first year of study.

### **D. Foreign Language Requirements**

Candidates for the MA are required to demonstrate competence in either *one principal foreign language* (that is, any language that is of principal importance to the student's course of study) or *two secondary languages*. English may count as a principal language for non-Native speakers.

To demonstrate competence in the *principal foreign language*, students must take for credit and earn a grade of B or better in at least one graduate or advanced undergraduate literature course conducted in the language (final papers may be written in English). Or, students may enroll in an independent study. In special cases, students may substitute an advanced language examination of three hours in lieu of course work. The examination consists of three sections: a) oral comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and summarize in English the contents of two graduate level lectures conducted in the foreign language; b) written comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and answer questions on a moderately long (approximately ten pages) theoretical, critical, or scholarly article; c) translation skills, shown through translating into English an advanced-level literary passage.



The student is permitted to use a dictionary for part c but not for part b. If the principal foreign language being examined is a Classical language (e.g., Classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Greek), the three-hour test will consist of translations at an appropriately advanced level.

Competence in the *two secondary languages* can be demonstrated by: 1) earning a grade of B or better in a graduate translation course or 2) passing a translation examination to be taken with a dictionary.

### **E. Master's Examination**

The student will take a two-hour oral examination in the second year of graduate study or submit a master's thesis. The Master's examination committee consists of three members of the faculty, at least two of whom are members of the CAT core faculty. The student's advisor normally chairs the Committee, and the other two members are chosen by the director of graduate studies in consultation with the student and his/her advisor.

### **Reading List for the Examination:**

The student, in consultation with the examination committee, prepares a list of works in each of the following three areas: A) History and theory of cultural studies; B) A cultural phenomenon; C) a historical period. Each of the other reading lists will consist of 15-20 primary texts. The student's examination committee will review and approve the exam lists before the student submits the signature sheet to the Director of Graduate Studies for final pre-examination review of requirements. At the two-hour oral exam at least two of the three members of the examination committee must be present.

### **Thesis Substitute for Master's Examination**

Instead of taking the M.A. examination students may substitute a thesis for the Master's examination. The thesis must be on a substantive topic in cultural studies requiring original research. The student will form a committee of three faculty, at least two of whom must be from the CAT core faculty, who will supervise the project and give approval.

### **F. Advisor and Mentor**

The Graduate School requires all students to have an advisor. The director of cultural studies serves as advisor to all entering students during their first year and helps them plan their programs. Before the end of the first academic year, full-time students should choose one official graduate advisor from the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies graduate faculty. Advisor and student meet regularly to discuss the student's progress and program. Advisors are normally chosen for one year, but students are, of course, free to change advisors and are encouraged to consult with all members of the faculty.

Incoming students are also urged to choose a faculty member to serve as a mentor who can meet with the student to discuss a variety of concerns not necessarily involving course work.

### **G. Residence Requirement**

The University requires that students receiving a M.A. must take at least two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study, this usually means 12 credits per semester.

## Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Cultural Studies

In addition to the minimum requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

### A. Course Requirements

1. CST 502: *Theories in Cultural Studies*
2. CST 510: *History of Cultural Studies*
3. CST 680: *Cultural Studies Research Seminar*
4. CLT/CST 698: *Teaching Practicum*
5. Twelve additional graduate courses, at least three of which must be CLT/CST/WST courses numbered 600 or higher

To ensure disciplinary fluency in a more traditional sense, students are strongly recommended to take at least three of these courses in a single discipline (outside the core cultural studies sequence), and to include at least one faculty member from that field on the Ph.D. oral exam and dissertation committees.

A minimum of 48 credits of graduate work to be completed before the comprehensive exam is required for the Ph.D. Students who hold an M.A. in cultural studies can transfer up to 30 credits at the discretion of the director of graduate studies and director of cultural studies. If students enter the program with an

M.A. in some other discipline (e.g., Anthropology, Art, English, Film Studies, History, Media Studies, etc.), the director of graduate studies and director of cultural studies may grant them up to 18 credits. It will be the prerogative of the graduate studies committee to grant additional credits to such students, up to a maximum of 30 credits.

Please note: Students must take the required courses when they are offered, and cannot replace them by Independent Study courses, except in the most unusual circumstances and by petition to the director of graduate studies before the beginning of the term the course is offered. The petition has to be signed by the person directing the Independent Study and must be approved by the director of graduate studies and director of cultural studies. A student may take no more than one CST 599 Independent Study in a given semester. A maximum of six credits of CST 599 Independent Study courses, is applicable to the degree requirements for the Ph.D.

All students seeking the Ph.D. must take the required courses listed above, unless the graduate program committee accepts comparable courses taken previously. All Ph.D. students must acquire a minimum of one semester of formal teaching experience (even if they are unsupported or are on a fellowship requiring no teaching duties) and must concurrently take the formal teaching practicum, CST 698.

All doctoral students in CAT take the Teaching Practicum in their first year. The Practicum familiarizes students with the Stony Brook undergraduate curriculum and data on Stony Brook undergraduates. It covers practical pedagogical issues, as well as theoretical and policy issues concerning the aims of education and the social role of the university. Student

will develop a syllabus for an undergraduate course. Students will also observe others teaching and reflect on these experiences with the class. The Practicum Director serves as an advisor to first year students, prior to their selection of advisors in the second semester.

### **B. First-Year Evaluation**

Following the student's second semester of graduate work, the director of graduate studies or director of cultural studies will prepare a file for the student's first-year evaluation. It consists of: 1) a qualifying paper, usually the paper produced for a core seminar; 2) the student's grades, 3) letters from the professors in each of the student's classes, and, if the student is a teaching assistant, 4) a letter of evaluation from appropriate faculty, and 5) student evaluations. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the dossier and decide whether the student should be encouraged to continue in the program.

In May of the second year, and each year following, the student will complete a report on progress in the program, including specific progress towards degree (coursework, qualifying exams, dissertation prospectus, and dissertation) and other achievements (funding, research, presentations, publications).

They will then meet with the director of graduate studies or dissertation advisor to discuss their progress in the program. The graduate studies committee will evaluate the report and decide whether the student should be encouraged to continue in the program.

### **C. Satisfactory Progress Toward the Ph.D.**

In addition to requirements listed above, Ph.D. students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Maintain at least a 3.5 average, with no course below B-, in each semester of graduate study. There is a one year maximum limit on incompletes. A student may accumulate no more than two incomplete grades in any one semester or he/she will no longer be considered a Student in Good Standing, a prerequisite to continue in the program. As a result, the student may lose his or her T.A. line and face possible dismissal from the program;
2. Receive a satisfactory first-year evaluation in the spring semester of the first year of study;
3. Satisfy the foreign language requirement at least three months before the comprehensive examination;
4. Complete all core courses in the first two years of full-time study and all 48 credits for the Ph.D. in three years;
5. Take the comprehensive examination no later than one year after completion of coursework;
6. Submit a dissertation prospectus in the semester following satisfactory

completion of the comprehensive examination.

By rules of the Graduate School, students must satisfy all requirements for the Ph.D. within seven years after completing 24 credits of graduate work in the Stony Brook department in which they are registered. In rare instances, the Graduate School will entertain a petition to extend this time limit, provided it bears the endorsement of the department. The program may require evidence that the student is still properly prepared for completion of the degree. In particular, the student may be required to pass the comprehensive examination again in order to be permitted to continue work.

#### **D. Foreign Language Requirements**

Ph.D. students may choose to demonstrate competence in either *one principal foreign language* (that is, any language that is of principal importance to the student's course of study) or *two secondary languages*. English may count as a principal language for non-Native speakers.

To demonstrate competence in the *principal foreign language*, students must take for credit and earn a grade of B or better in at least one graduate or advanced undergraduate literature course conducted in the language (final papers may be written in English). Or, students may enroll in an independent study. In special cases, students may substitute an advanced language examination of three hours in lieu of course work. The examination consists of three sections: a) oral comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and summarize in English the contents of two graduate level lectures conducted in the foreign language; b) written comprehension, defined as the ability to understand and answer questions on a moderately long (approximately ten pages) theoretical, critical, or scholarly article; c) translation skills, shown through translating into English an advanced-level literary passage. The student is permitted to use a dictionary for part c but not for part b. If the principal foreign language being examined is a Classical language (e.g., Classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Greek), the three-hour test will consist of translations at an appropriately advanced level.

Competence in the *two secondary languages* can be demonstrated by: 1) earning a grade of B or better in a graduate translation course or 2) passing a translation examination to be taken with a dictionary.

#### **E. Comprehensive Examination**

Students who are candidates for the Ph.D. will normally take their comprehensive examination no more than one year after completing their course work. Completing the language requirement is a prerequisite for sitting for the examination.

***Committee for the Examination:*** The student, in consultation with their adviser, will select three additional faculty members to serve on their examination committee. At least three of the four faculty members of the examination committee must be members of the CAT graduate faculty (including affiliates). At least three members of the committee must be physically present at the examination.

#### ***Reading Lists***

A reading list for all parts enumerated below will be compiled by the student with the help of the examination committee. The student's examination committee will review and approve the exam lists before the student submits the signature sheet to the Director of Graduate Studies for final pre-examination review of requirements. Students should also submit a description of the special area, related to the dissertation, along with the reading list.

### ***Examination***

The examination is oral, with the duration to be determined by the members of the committee but not shorter than two hours and not longer than three. Questions posed by examiners will be based on the reading lists for the examination. The examination may be passed, passed with distinction, failed, or failed in part. In case of failure, the examination may be retaken once, but no later than the end of the semester following the time when it was initially scheduled. In case of partial failure, the second examination will cover only the area(s) on which the candidate's performance was inadequate.

The Cultural Studies comprehensive examination consists of four parts:

1. ***Cultural Theory***. Students will be examined on a combination of cultural theory pertinent to their research and from the Cultural Theory Reading List. The historical, geographic, and thematic aspects of the list will be determined in consultation with the student's examining committee.
2. ***An in-depth Study of a Cultural Phenomenon***. Knowledge of the historical development and context (social, economic, etc...) of the phenomenon will be expected, and the reading list should include, in addition to relevant primary texts, a selection of major critical and theoretical works.
3. ***An historical Period***. Demonstration of historical breadth. Possible options include classical antiquity, Medieval, baroque and neo-classical, romanticism, modernism, and postmodernism as well as unique historical moments chosen by the student, such as the time between the two world wars or the last two decades of the twentieth century. Other traditions outside the West may also be included. The student will be expected to know the history and the social and intellectual background of the period.
4. ***Area of Specialized Interest***. Defined as a focused subject, issue, debate, or problem related to the student's projected dissertation topic. The student will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the history and scholarship that inform the background of the area.

Each part of the examination should include at least 40 works. Half of the list for Part 1 will be composed of books from the Cultural Theory Reading List and the student's research interests. The Cultural Theory Reading List is available from the CAT office. There is no standard list of required works for parts 2-4, although committee members may insist on including certain texts at their discretion. All parts of the reading lists must include texts in at least two languages other than English (translations are acceptable). Reading lists in these

areas are not intended to be exhaustive, but they should provide coverage of the field that adequately prepares the student to teach courses in the areas of the examination. Guidelines for the preparation of the reading lists can be obtained in the Department.

### **F. Advancement to Candidacy**

Advancement to candidacy is granted by the Graduate School upon recommendation of the director of graduate studies after a successful comprehensive examination. Again, all other requirements must have been met before the student sits for the comprehensive examination.

Students who have passed their Ph.D. oral comprehensive exam will be deemed to have passed the equivalent of the master's exam and be granted a M.A. degree unless they already have a master's degree in cultural studies from another institution. The student must file appropriate papers with the department.

### **G. Dissertation**

The dissertation represents the culmination of the student's degree program and should be a serious contribution to scholarship.

Within three months of passing the comprehensive examination, the student must be prepared to schedule the Dissertation Prospectus Review.

As soon as possible, after the Comprehensive Examination, the candidate should choose a dissertation director, as well as the two CAT readers of the dissertation. (The reader outside CAT may be chosen nearer to the defense date, at the discretion of the dissertation director.) The director of the dissertation must be a member of the CAT core faculty. Affiliates may co-direct dissertations with a core faculty member. In consultation with the dissertation director and the readers, the candidate drafts a dissertation prospectus

The dissertation prospectus, which must be appropriate to cultural studies, should be between 2000 and 3500 words, not counting footnotes or bibliography, and should include the following:

- Title of the dissertation;
- Description of the topic and its appropriateness for cultural studies in focus and method;
- The rationale behind the choice of topic, and the anticipated contribution of the proposed research to knowledge;
- A discussion of the argument your dissertation will advance;
- Current state of research on the topic and a basic bibliography;
- Method of work, including the general approach (e.g., historical, generic, thematic, structural) and an outline of chapters.

When the director and readers have approved the prospectus, the student and the director will schedule a Dissertation Prospectus Review to be attended by the student, the director, and all other members of the dissertation committee. Faculty and/or graduate students may be invited to the review at the discretion of the student. The review should be no less than one

hour in length. The director, the readers, and others in attendance will discuss the prospectus with the student in order to insure that the student is ready to proceed in the project. When the director and the readers agree that the student is ready, they will sign off on the prospectus and submit it to the Director of Graduate Studies. The candidate then proceeds to the dissertation.

### **Guidelines for Dissertation Prospectus Review**

- The student will circulate her or his prospectus to all members of the committee three weeks prior to the review.
- The student will begin the review with a summary of the project in less than five minutes. She or he should clearly communicate the core thesis of the prospective dissertation.
- The members of the committee will then ask questions and make suggestions.
- The student should take notes during the meeting and make sure that she or he understands what the committee is suggesting.
- At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room so that the members of the committee can discuss whether or not they are ready to sign off on the prospectus. If the members of the committee are satisfied that the student is prepared to begin writing the dissertation, they will sign off on the document and send it to the DGS.
- In some cases the committee may decide not to sign and request a revised prospectus. If the members of the committee are satisfied with the revised prospectus, there is no need for a second dissertation prospectus review. In some cases, however, the committee may decide that a second review is necessary.

Although there are no strict regulations on length, dissertations will normally be between 200 and 400 pages, not including bibliography and other supplemental material. The dissertation committee may, in special cases and with justification, allow a student to submit a shorter or longer dissertation.

When the dissertation has been completed in accordance with guidelines published in Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations, legible copies of the complete dissertation must be given to all committee members at least one month in advance of the scheduled defense.

All dissertation defenses shall take place on campus and require the full attendance of the dissertation examining committee. Any exceptions from this practice will require approval from the Dean of the Graduate School. Campus Audio/Video Services can be employed in the event that either a committee member or the defending student cannot be on the premises due to extenuating circumstances. While the examining committee may wish to hold the committee examination of the defense in private, the public presentation of the defense will be open to the university community and should be advertised campus-wide three weeks prior to the scheduled date. A minimum of three weeks prior to the dissertation defense, the dissertation abstract, approved by the student's advisor and director of graduate studies, must be submitted to the Graduate School with details of the time and location for the defense.

The [Doctoral Defense Announcement form](#) is available on the [Graduate School](#) Web site. The Graduate School will be responsible for advertising the defense to the university community.

The dissertation examining committee will set up the ground rules for the defense, which always involves the student giving a short précis of the research problem, the research method, and the results. This is followed by questions from the Committee and, if the committee so desires, from the audience.

The dissertation examining committee will be convened by a Chair of the Defense, who will begin the event by introducing the candidate, stating the dissertation's title, introducing the members of the committee, and stating the structure of the defense: a) a 15-20 minute opening statement by the candidate (overview, problematic, methodology, argument, etc.); b) comments and questions from examiners (order: chair of defense, committee members, advisor) – approximately 20 minutes each; c) questions or comments from the public in attendance; d) candidate dismissed while committee confers; e) candidate invited back in order that chair announce committee's decision; f) signing of the dissertation cover sheet.

#### **H. Teaching Assistantships**

For Ph.D. students awarded teaching assistantships, four years of full support is the department's norm. Awards are renewable annually, provided the student maintains satisfactory academic progress towards the degree and performs teaching duties appropriately (see below, Satisfactory Progress). Students (other than Turner fellows) should not count on assistantship resources beyond the fourth year of study.

During their first year, Ph.D. students will normally be placed as teaching assistants in CAT large lecture courses and either conduct a recitation or serve as a reader/grader. During their third and fourth year's, they will serve as instructors of stand-alone CAT courses. While placements will vary according to student and program needs and constraints, every effort will be made to provide each student with the available range of teaching experiences.

Graduate students in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies have the opportunity to teach a wide variety of courses. Their teaching obligation may be fulfilled in several ways depending on departmental needs:

1. Assisting an instructor in a large lecture course;
2. Teaching a small section of a literature course under the supervision of the CAT faculty;
3. Participating in the basic language course in a foreign language department or in a composition course in the English department.

T.A. assignments differ, but the amount of work required cannot exceed 20 hours per week.

TA's will usually:



1. Hold office hours to review course materials, assist in grading, and discuss other course-related issues with undergraduates;
2. Attend classes (graduate courses will be scheduled to minimize interference with T.A. assignments) and read all required entries on the syllabus;
3. Lead discussion groups;
4. Grade exams, homework, and other written material.

The performance of teaching assistants is monitored by evaluation forms given to undergraduate students at the end of each semester, as well as by faculty members who visit certain classes taught by the T.A. and submit a written evaluation. Stipends of teaching assistants may be terminated if (on the basis of these evaluations and other relevant criteria) the graduate studies committee judges that they have been deficient in carrying out their teaching duties. Superior work as a T.A. is highly valued by the CAT faculty and by the Graduate School. In the past, several T.A.'s from CAT have won the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student. This and other prizes for which T.A.'s are eligible carry a cash award.

### **I. Advisor and Mentor**

The Graduate School requires all students to have an advisor. The director of cultural studies serves as advisor to all entering students during their first year and helps them plan their programs. Before the end of the first academic year, full-time students should choose one official graduate advisor from the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies graduate faculty. Advisor and student meet regularly to discuss the student's progress and program. Advisors are normally chosen for one year, but students are, of course, free to change advisors and are encouraged to consult with all members of the faculty.

Incoming students are also urged to choose a faculty member to serve as a mentor who can meet with the student to discuss a variety of concerns not necessarily involving course work.  
Residence Requirement

The University requires that students receiving a Ph.D. must take at least two consecutive semesters of full-time graduate study. For those entering without prior graduate study or with fewer than 24 graduate credits, this usually means 12 credits per semester; for those entering with more than 24 graduate credits or with advanced standing provided by prior graduate work, this would mean 9 credits per semester.

## **The Graduate Certificate Program In Cultural Studies**

Students who complete the Cultural Studies Certificate Program will, upon completion of their home department's Ph.D. program, be awarded the Ph.D. in "[home department] and the certificate in cultural studies." Ph.D. students from all departments at Stony Brook are

eligible; M.A./M.F.A. students may also apply and be admitted by the director of cultural studies.

### What Is Cultural Studies at Stony Brook?

The cultural studies program at Stony Brook is designed for students whose interests cut across traditional modes of study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Areas of emphasis include popular and mass culture, minority and diasporic cultures, visual culture, media and technology, cultural production, cross-cultural and transnational/global formations, as well as the study of elite, dominant, and national cultures.

### The Certificate Program

The Cultural Studies Certificate program is designed for graduate students whose interests are not fully served by traditional Humanities and Social Science departments but who seek to be employed by such departments as they continue to adapt and evolve in a changing disciplinary and interdisciplinary landscape. The certificate is administered through the Department of Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CAT), in conjunction with the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook. CAT's strengths lie primarily in literary and cultural theory, cinema and media studies, visual culture studies, and cross-cultural studies, as reflected in the Department's popular undergraduate major in Cinema and Cultural Studies. A network of Cultural Studies affiliated faculty represent a wide range of areas in disciplines including Africana Studies, Art History and Studio Art, Asian and Asian American Studies, Digital Art, Culture and Technology (cDACT), English, European and Hispanic Languages, History, Music, Philosophy, and Women's and Gender Studies. The Certificate Program is open to students enrolled in any of Stony Brook's Ph.D. programs. M.A./M.F.A students may be admitted on approval of the Director of Cultural Studies, who will advise students in tailoring the program to their specific needs. The Certificate will be awarded upon completion of the 15-credit sequence (two core courses and three electives), which may also be counted toward the Ph.D. in the student's home department.

### Course Requirements:

1. CST 502: *Theories in Cultural Studies*
2. CST 510: *History of Cultural Studies*
3. CST 698: *Teaching Practicum in Cultural Studies*

Two 3-credit *CST elective courses are also required*. These will normally be included in a list of electives published in the semester prior to their being offered (available in the CAT Department). Students may request that other relevant courses be approved to count as electives by contacting the director of cultural studies. Please be aware that a maximum of 6 graduate credits earned prior to the student being matriculated into the secondary program can be applied to the secondary program.

For more information, contact the Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory

2048 Humanities  
Building SUNY  
Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY  
11794-5355 (631)  
632-7460

## **CST Graduate Courses**

### **CST 502 Theories in Cultural Studies**

This course examines the role of theory in the practice of cultural studies. Course may be repeated as topics vary.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.) *May be repeated for credit.*

### **CST 510 History of Cultural Studies**

This course will examine the intellectual and disciplinary stakes of raising the question, “What is Cultural Studies?” The intention is not so much to define Cultural Studies as to study the polemics and histories that sparked its delineations.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.) May be repeated 1 time for credit

### **CST 597 Directed Readings for M.A. Students**

Directed Readings must be approved in writing by the Advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, and the supervising professor. 1-3 credits each semester, repetitive credit, S/U grading.

### **CST 598 Thesis Research**

Research and writing of M.A. thesis supervised by faculty advisor.

Fall, Spring, Summer, 1-3 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

### **CST 599 Independent Study**

A student and faculty member agree on a topic not offered in any seminars and a reading list to study at weekly or biweekly meetings. A final research paper or major annotated bibliography will be required. The syllabus must be filed with the program’s form before the add/drop period ends. Fall and Spring, 1-3 credits, ABCF grading. May be repeated for credit. Only three credits of Independent Study may be counted toward the M.A. requirements, and a maximum of six toward the Ph.D

### **CST 609 Advanced Topics in Cultural Studies**

A variable topics seminar in Cultural Studies. Course may be repeated as topics vary.

3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.) *May be repeated for credit.*

### **CST 680 Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies Research Seminar**

In addition to readings on issues, debates, and problems within the profession and field of Cultural Studies students will develop research for publication while engaging with practices of professionalization.

*Spring 3 credits, (A, A-, B+, etc.) May be repeated once for credit*

### **CST 690 Directed Readings for Doctoral Candidates**

A student and faculty member agree on a corpus of texts to read and discuss at weekly or biweekly meetings. The reading list must be filed with the program's form before the add/drop period ends. Fall and Spring, 1-12 credits, S/U grading. May be repeated for credit.

### **CST 696 Self-Directed Readings**

For doctoral students who have completed all course requirements and wish to dedicate themselves to full- or part-time preparation for the Comprehensive Examination. Fall and Spring, 3, 6, or 9 credits, for a maximum of 18 credits. S/U grading.

### **CST 698 Teaching Practicum**

All doctoral students in CAT take the Teaching Practicum in their first year. The Practicum familiarizes students with the Stony Brook undergraduate curriculum and data on Stony Brook undergraduates. It covers practical pedagogical issues, as well as theoretical and policy issues concerning the aims of education and the social role of the university. Student will develop a syllabus for an undergraduate course. Students will also observe others teaching and reflect on these experiences with the class. The Practicum Director serves as an advisor to first year students, prior to their selection of advisors in the second semester. Fall semester, 3 credits, *Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)*

### **CST 699 Dissertation Research on Campus**

Prerequisite: Advancement to candidacy (G5).

*A portion of dissertation research must take place on SBU campus. Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1 - 12 credits, S/U grading May be repeated for credit.*

### **CST 700 Dissertation Research off Campus - Domestic**

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor.

*Fall, Spring, Summer Prerequisite: G5 Standing 1 - 9 credits, S/U grading May repeated for credit.*

### **CST 701 Dissertation Research off Campus - International**

Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX. International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by the second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if other plan is deemed comparable.

*All international students must have received clearance from an International Advisor. Fall, Spring, Summer*

*Prerequisite: G5 Standing 1 - 9 credits, S/U grading, May be repeated for credit.*

**CST 800 SUMMER RESEARCH** *May be repeated for credit.*

**CST 850 SUMMER TEACHING** *May be repeated for credit.*

