COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (Fund Code 34228)

Collection Development Statement

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**Overview**

The Comparative Literature program at BYU has flourished for many years, with the HBLL’s corresponding collection development program for Comparative Literature providing materials for research and instruction. During the Spring of 2015, the Department of Humanities, Classics, and Comparative Literature (HCCL) – est. in 1978 – changed to the Department of Comparative Arts and Letters (CAL), and included both the Comparative Literature (BA) and Comparative Studies (MA) programs (the former focusing mainly on creative writings, and the latter allowing for more comparison with the other fine arts). The library seeks to support teaching and research in Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies through the Bachelor’s and Master’s levels.

In recent decades, new research interests and courses of study have included the topics related to transnational phenomena as literary or cultural periods and trends (Renaissance, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, Post-colonialism); genres and modes of discourse (tragedy, the novel, the sonnet, the grotesque, stream of consciousness); and theoretical perspective exploring such topics as poetics, narratology, fictional worlds, literary semantics, representation, language and epistemology, interpretation of texts, and history of literary theory. The library seeks to support research and teaching in Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies through targeted acquisitions, both of new materials and retrospectively.

**Degree Programs and Collecting Levels (Comparative Literature & Comparative Studies)**

* Bachelor of Arts, Comparative Literature Teaching Level
* Master of Arts, Comparative Studies Teaching Level

**Number of Degrees Awarded (Comparative Literature & Comparative Studies)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Bachelor’s** | **Master’s** | **TOTAL** |
| **2014-2015** | Comparative Literature 2 | Comparative Studies 6 | 8 |
| **2013-2014** | Comparative Literature 2 | Comparative Studies 7 | 9 |
| **2012-2013** | Comparative Literature. 4 | Comparative Studies 8 | 12 |
| **2011-2012** | Comparative Literature 4 | Comparative Studies 4 | 8 |

**Student Enrollment (Comparative Literature & Comparative Studies)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Undergraduate** | **Graduate** | **TOTAL** |
| **2014-2015** | Comparative Literature 9 | Comparative Studies 7 | 16 |
| **2013-2014** | Comparative Literature 7 | Comparative Studies 9 | 16 |
| **2012-2013** | Comparative Literature 10 | Comparative Studies 9 | 19 |
| **2011-2012** | Comparative Literature 12 | Comparative Studies 6 | 18 |

**Courses Taught (Comparative Literature)**

(individual courses offered, this does not reflect multiple sections of each individual course)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer** | **Fall** | **TOTAL** |
| **2015** | nd (ave. 10) | nd (ave. 7) | 5 | 10 | 32 |
| **2014** | 10 | 7 | nd (ave. 5) | 11 | 33 |
| **2013** | 10 | 7 | nd (ave. 5) | 10 | 32 |
| **2012** | 10 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 32 |

**Courses Taught (Comparative Studies)**

(individual courses offered, this does not reflect multiple sections of each individual course)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer** | **Fall** | **TOTAL** |
| **2015** | nd (ave. 4) | nd (ave. 2) | 2 | 5 | 13 |
| **2014** | 4 | 2 | nd (ave. 2) | 4 | 12 |
| **2013** | 4 | 2 | nd (ave. 2) | 4 | 12 |
| **2012** | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 12 |

**Faculty (Comparative Literature & Comparative Studies)**

* 13 full-time (all PhD’s)
* ? adjunct (? PhD’s)

**Research Interests**

The Comparative Literature faculty specialize in Romanticism, theory, interpretation and criticism of literature, interactions of literature with adjacent fields like visual and material culture, film, psychology, law, anthropology, and philosophy.

**Related Departments/Disciplines/Programs/Subject Areas**

The Comparative Literature collection provides background and context to inform and enrich the interests of many other departments and programs, including:

* Department of Anthropology
* Department of Communication
* Department of Comparative Arts & Letters
* Department of English
* Department of Fine Art
* Department of History
* Department of Linguistics and English Language
* Department of Psychology
* Department of Theater and Media Arts

And because Comparative Literature has cross-disciplinary implications, this collection also offers support for research and teaching in other Western European language and literature departments (e.g., French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, German) as well as area studies such as African Studies, Asian Studies, etc.

**Subject Librarian Annual Collection Reports**

**2015**

**Electronic Resources.** Of the many electronic resources added during 2015 in my subject areas, those pertaining to Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies included:

* *Oxford Handbooks Online: Linguistics*. Review essays by leading linguistics scholars that evaluate the current thinking in the field, and make an original arguments about future directions. Includes monthly updates.
* *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Ben Jonson Online*. The texts of all of Ben Jonson's plays, masques, poems, letters, and criticism in an interactive digital format.
* *Drama Online*. Complete digital library of the most studied and performed plays from the last 2,500 years. Scholarly notes, annotated texts, contextual information, synopsis, biographical entries, and material on acting, directing, and lighting.
* *Sunday Times Digital Archive* (1822-2006). Thoughtful analysis and commentary on the week's news and society at large (since 1822). “Murder, theatre, sport and politics, all collide in these pages in an abundance of glorious narrative detail” (I wish I’d been the one to write that).
* *Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture* (1790-1920). Broad history of crime in the long 19th century derived from French, German, Spanish, Australian, British and U.S. sources. The collection includes trial transcripts, court proceedings, police and forensic documents, photographs, true crime literature and detective novels, and newspaper accounts. (I’m also using “copy” here, but without the quotes.)
* *Oxford Bibliography: British and Irish Literature*. (Here’s another description I wish I’d have written myself) “ . . . offer[s] a trustworthy pathway through the thicket of information overload.” Editor in Chief, Andrew Hadfield, professor of English at the University of Sussex.
* *Oxford Bibliography: Victorian Literature*. Editor in Chief, Juliet John, Hildred Carlile Chair of English Literature at Royal Holloway, University of London, and previously Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Liverpool.

**New Serials Subscriptions.** During 2015, I offered serials cancellation money to my teaching faculty to start subscriptions for requested journals we lacked (and / or to purchase needed back issues, restart cancelled subscriptions, etc.). Those that support Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies included:

* *Current Issues in Language Planning.* Bill Eggington, Linguistics and English Language Department, requested the journal *Current Issues in Language Planning*; however, after we had a subscription, Bill and his students couldn’t seem to find it in the HBLL homepage . . . working with the Serials Department and Virginia Watson, we got the journal to properly display throughout the Library homepage.
* *Milton Studies.* During Spring-Summer terms I worked with Jason Kerr, English Department, and our Serials Department, to restart our print subscription to *Milton Studies* that had fallen through the cracks of a large electronic journal-package.
* *Literature Criticism Online (LCO).* During 2015, we (that is, Mary Chapman) discovered that we were missing large numbers of volumes from our original print versions of the (10) criticism sets that comprise *LCO*: for example, *Shakespearean Criticism*; *Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism (NCLC)*; etc. The complete reason for this oversight would require the (re-)telling of a long, long story but, suffice it to say that (as part of the *LCO* subscription) *Gale* decided to cancel our print subscriptions to these sets, while we (Mary and I) were under the impression that we were to go on receiving them (as we did for a time). And as these sets are irregular(ly published) serials, we weren’t alarmed when they didn’t appear on a regular basis. That is, until we realized something was wrong, and that we had fallen behind. Since Mary and I agreed that *Shakespearean Criticism (SC)* was the most important set of the (10) sets for use in Humanities Reference, I got a standing order re-started for it, and I used some funds that I had remaining at the end of the year (2015) to buy the back issues (around 25 volumes) of *SC*, and bring us up-to-date in that set. The other sets will have to wait, and possibly be filled in one set at a time, year by year.

**Collaboration on Science Fiction Titles for “Sampler.”** During Fall semester 2015, I collaborated with Rebecca Boughan, who produced a list of (over 100) current science fiction titles needed for “Sampler.” I funded the purchase from my “Fiction” budget, and after two years these volumes will move from Sampler into the general science fiction stacks collection in PZ 4.

**OUTREACH: English Department Reading Series (ERS).** I continued to work with the English Department to produce the weekly English Department Reading Series (now in its 12th+ year). This weekly event brings in creative writers (fiction writers, poets, essayists) from the BYU English Department, as well as from outside the University to read in the Library auditorium. Following the reading, an author reception and book-signing is held in the Special Collections classroom. Generally, attendance at the readings is over 120, an at the author reception and book signing, from 50-80. Also, one of the readings each semester is devoted to a student writing contest, wherein a student poet, essayist, and fiction writer is chosen to read at the weekly series. The weekly series has become so popular that several year ago it was “official-ized” into a for-credit course: ENGL 321R that has, typically, from 40-70 students enrolled each winter and fall semester.

**2014**

**Electronic Resources.** Of the many electronic resources added during 2014 in my subject areas, those pertaining to Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies included:

* *Dictionary of American Regional English* (DARE). Focuses on the regional aspects of American English, documenting words, phrases, and pronunciations.
* *Partridge Slang Online*. The first authoritative slang dictionary online. Acknowledged to be the most authoritative and comprehensive dictionary of slang in the world. Contains over 60,000 entries, dating back to the 1600's.
* *Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics*. Key areas in Linguistics, including Language Learning and Teaching, Bilingual and Multilingual Education, Assessment and Testing, Corpus Linguistics, Conversation Analysis, Discourse, Cognitive Second Language Acquisition, Language Policy and Planning, Literacy, and Technology and Language.
* *BBC Shakespeare Plays*. 37 Shakespeare plays performed by some of the most distinguished and recognized Shakespearean actors. Closed captioned, and chaptered by acts within each play. Able to stream to mobile devices.
* *Punch Magazine Archive*. The complete 1841 to 1992 run of the world's most celebrated magazine of humor and satire.
* *Travel Writing, Spectacle and World History*. Hundreds of accounts by women of their travels across the globe from the early 19th century to the late 20th century.
* *Jewish Life in America*. From the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, the history of Jewish communities in America from their first arrival in New York in 1654 up through 1954.
* *First World War: Visual Perspectives and Narratives*. Primary source material from the Imperial War Museum in London. Main themes include the role of women during the war, the Home Front and international perspectives.
* *American History from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*. American History from the earliest settlers in 1493 to the mid-twentieth century 1945.
* *American Consumer Culture: Market Research and American Business, 1935-1965.* A look at the American consumer boom of the mid-20th century through access to the complete market research reports of Ernest Dichter.
* *Popular Culture in Britain and America, 1950-1975.* Music, politics, fashion, and youth culture during the period 1950 to 1975. Includes printed and manuscript sources, visual material, ephemera and video clips.
* also, two small collections from Gale’s *Archives Unbound*: the “Rastafari Collection” and “Mountain People: Life and Culture in Appalachia.”

**ASSESSMENT: California Preservation Program (CALIPR).** During Winter semester 2014, I worked with Christina Thomas and Kohleen Reeder (of the Conversation Lab), under the direction of Scott Duvall, on a CALIPR assessment of the Lee Library’s PZ 4 (Science Fiction) collection. The objective of the CALIPR assessment was to determine the best way to preserve and maintain this heavily-circulating collection. I gathered physical data on the collection (amount of shelving, number of volumes, etc.), we ran a software program that determined the survey sample we would take, and finally from the sample, a student and I entered data about the condition of each volume. From there, Christina and Kohleen took the sample of PZ 4 volumes for needed repair. This was the first time a CALIPR assessment had been conducted in the HBLL, and this “pilot” will provide insights into how to use CALIPR for future collection assessments.

**DISCOVERY: Library Collections Forums (LCF).** I participated (with other Lee Librarians) in two LCF’s during 2014, highlighting and demonstrating databases and / or HBLL collections:

* “Resources For Studying WWI” on April 3rd.
* and “Graphic Novels” on November 6th.

**2013**

**Electronic Resources.** Of the many electronic resources added during 2013 in my subject areas, those pertaining to Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies included:

* *Illustrated London News* (1842-2003). The full-run of the world's first fully illustrated weekly newspaper.
* *International Women’s Periodicals, 1786-1933: Social and Political Issues*.
* *19th Century U.K. Periodicals Series 1: New Readerships: Women's, Children's, Humor and Leisure/Sport*.
* *Women, War & Society 1914-1918*. A digital archive collected from the “Women at Work Collection” at the Imperial War Museum.
* *Queen Victoria Journals (1832-1901)*. For the first time, the entire 141 volumes (approx. 33,000 pages) from her first journal entry at 13-years old to her death in 1901.

∙ *World War I Trench Journals.* Primary source periodicals written by and for servicemen and women of all nations during the First World War.

∙ *First World War: Propaganda and Recruitment*. Posters, photographs, leaflets, etc.

∙ *Leeds Literary Manuscripts*. Complete facsimile images of 190 manuscripts of 17th and 18th century verse held in the Brotherton Collection at the University of Leeds.

∙ *John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera*. Items selected from the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera, offering unique insights into the changing nature of everyday life in Britain in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries.

**New Serials Subscriptions.** During 2013, I used serials cancellation money I’d amassed / earned to start subscriptions for requested journals we lacked (and / or to purchase needed back issues, restart cancelled subscriptions). Titles included:

* *Emblematica*
* *Religion in the Age of Enlightenment*
* *London Review of Books*
* and the oft-requested – and for some reason canceled (by someone outside our Humanities Department) – *Literary Market Place*
* and *International Literary Market Place*, both needed items in our reference collection
* *The Normal School*
* *Fourth Genre*
* and *Creative Nonfiction*

**2012**

**Electronic Resources.** Of the many electronic resources added during 2012 in my subject areas, those pertaining to Comparative Literature and Comparative Studies included:

* *London Low Life*
* the *Berg Literary Collection* (famous Victorian Collection from NYPL)
* *World War I Personal Histories*
* *19th Century British Library Newspapers* part II (we have part I)
* and *19th Century UK Periodicals* part I
* *Feminism in Cuba, 1898-1958*
* *German Folklore and Popular Culture*
* *Orlando: Women's Writings in the British Isles From the Beginning to the Present*
* *Nineteenth Century Collections Online* (NCCO)
* *Defining Gender, 1450-1910*
* *Eighteenth-Century Journals Portal, Section V: The Lady’s Magazine and Other Titles, 1712-1835*
* *Literary Encyclopedia*
* *The Lily: A Temperance and Feminist Newspaper, 1849-1856*
* *Victorian Popular Culture IV: Moving Pictures, Optical Entertainments and the Advent of Cinema*
* and from of *Gale*’s “Archives Unbound”:
* *Papers of Amiri Bakara, Poet Laureate of the Black Power Movement*
* *Psychological Warfare and Propaganda in World War II*
* and, as part of the “*Gale* Virtual Reference Library” I purchased:
* *Twenty-First Century Drama: The First Decade*
* *The Literature of Autobiographical Narrative*
* *The Literature of Propaganda*
* *The Manifesto in Literature*
* ***Emily Dickinson Lexicon / Webster’s 1844 ed.***During Summer term and Fall semester 2012, I worked with Cynthia Hallen, English Language & Linguistics, and Brian Rennick, HBLL Web Programming & Design Manager, to propose and arrange for the hosting of Professor Hallen’s *Emily Dickinson Lexicon* ([http://edl.byu.edu/]((http://edl.byu.edu/)) and *Webster’s 1844 ed.* ([http://edl.byu.edu/webster]((http://edl.byu.edu/webster)) databases at the HBLL.
* **DISCOVERY: Collaboration on Comparative Literature subject guide.** During 2012, I worked with Mary Ann Maxwell (Bob’s wife, a PhD in Comparative Literature, and an adjunct faculty in BYU Comparative Literature program), during her internship with the Humanities Department, to revise and publish a new-and-(much)improved “Comparative Literature” *LibGuides* subject page.