

# HONORS IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE GUIDELINES

## Eligibility

Honors candidates must normally earn more A's than B's in courses taken as part of the Comparative Literature concentration (or receive the equivalent faculty evaluation on a Course Performance Report for courses taken S/NC).

## COLT 1990 “Senior Thesis Preparation”

Students normally enroll in COLT 1990 in either or both semesters of their senior year. We recommend that students register S/NC in the first semester.

These courses are in addition to the 10 required courses of any of our concentration tracks and may not be used to satisfy the standard requirements for a concentration.

## REGISTERING FOR A SECTION OF COLT 1990

On the course search page, <https://cab.brown.edu>

Check “Include Independent Study” in your search for COLT courses

You will see a list of sections for COLT 1990 (Senior Thesis Preparation).

- If you have already identified a thesis director, register for his or her section
- If your thesis director does not have a section of the course, email the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) and we will have the Registrar set up one right away
- If you have not yet identified a thesis director, register for the DUS's section

## Thesis Readers

Students are expected to have two readers for the honors thesis: a director and a second reader. One of them needs to be a member of the Comparative Literature faculty [see the faculty page on our website]. <https://www.brown.edu/academics/comparative-literature/faculty>

## Thesis Evaluation

Completing a thesis in any track—including in Track 3 where a thesis is required of all students—does not guarantee departmental honors. Honors are granted upon the recommendation of the two thesis readers.

## Thesis Forum

At the end of the Spring semester honors thesis writers will present their research results at the Comparative Literature Thesis Forum, to which all faculty and students will also be invited.

## Thesis expenses

The department may be able to provide some funds for thesis-related expenses (for research materials and photocopying). Please check with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

## Honors Thesis guidelines

**Track 1-2 theses** are analytical studies of literary topics, comparative in nature, based upon research, and usually between 50 and 100 pages. They are usually composed 3 chapters, with an introduction and conclusion [as part of chapters or separate]; they are cross-cultural, involving texts in all your languages for the concentration.

It is anticipated that a **significant amount of research** will go into this project. Students are expected normally to choose a topic that involves work in each of the literatures they have presented for their degree; materials are to be dealt with (i.e., read and cited) in the **original language**, even though the thesis itself is **generally written in English**. It is also anticipated that the project itself is to be of a **comparative nature**.

In some cases, it may be possible for a student to devise a thesis project that meshes the thesis investigation with creative writing.

**Track 3 theses** consist of:

1. A substantial work in translation (length will vary depending on language and genre); no prescriptions as to length of work translated because challenge-level of texts varies. Expectation: substantial chunk of a novel, selection of short stories, corpus of poems.
2. A critical introduction outlining the method used and specific problems encountered, and commenting on the history of the original work together with other translations, if any.

### Thesis Format

Citations: all parenthetical references, footnotes, and bibliography must follow the MLA or the Chicago Style sheets.

Literary texts that are the subject of the thesis must be quoted in their original language. English translations should be provided (after the quotations or in footnotes).

### Final Copy will include:

- a title page (see template on departmental website)
- an abstract of about 60 words
- a table of contents

(Past senior theses archived in the departmental library are available for consultation).

## SUBMISSION OF THESIS

### To your readers:

You may submit your thesis to your readers in hard copy and/or electronically. Consult your readers about their preferences.

### To the department:

1. One printed, bound copy of your thesis with a clear plastic cover.
2. One electronic copy in a single MS word document. Title the document: "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, Thesis."

Electronic versions of the thesis will only be used for internal purposes in Comparative Literature and will **not** be otherwise circulated or available to the public.

### To the Brown Digital Repository (BDR):

Students are encouraged to archive their theses in the BDR. Theses in the BDR receive a permanent link that can be added to a CV or personal website, cited in future research, or shared with collaborators, family, and friends. Archived theses will also be discoverable in Google searches.

Students may select Public or Brown-only access and may request that their theses be removed from public view at any time. All students retain the copyright to their work.

To upload your Senior Thesis, visit: <http://brown.edu/go/theses>