

## **Sample major proposal—Allied Field Track**

### **Paragraph 1: What topic or topics do you propose to study for your major and ultimately for your thesis?**

I want to explore the role of Marxism in twentieth-century literary studies. My focus will be on Georg Lukács' theory of the novel and on the several generations of responses to it, including texts by Theodor W. Adorno, Ernst Bloch, and Fredric Jameson. I plan to consider the virtues and limits of Lukács' privileging of epic by analyzing so-called "encyclopedic" fictions of the interwar period, including Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Musil's *The Man Without Qualities*, and Mann's *The Magic Mountain*. Alternatively, I could consider how the modern concept of the metropolis is crucial for the understandings of mass culture that emerge in Marx and his inheritors. This line of inquiry could include texts by Kafka, Rilke, and Joyce.

### **Paragraph 2: What track for the Comp Lit major will you follow? How does this allow you to do something that standing majors don't allow you to do?**

I will be following an interdisciplinary track, reading English and German novels in conjunction with an allied field made up of courses in Anthropology, History, and Political Science. Since the theory of the novel Lukács advances is international in essence, it will be vital for me to work in more than one national canon. My allied field will be crucial in allowing me to develop a richer understanding of Marx and Marxism.

### **Paragraph 3: What coursework will you complete (or have you completed) to allow you to study this topic/topics?**

I have taken:

- Anthropology 311
- English 203 History of Rhetoric and Literary Theory
- English 205 The History of the Novel
- German 311 and German 312

I plan to take:

- Anthropology 380 Anthropology of Class
- English 333 Encyclopedic Fictions
- German 365 City, Space, Memory
- German 392 Introduction to Critical Theory
- German 392 Revolutions in Poetic Language
- History 350 Marxism after Marx
- Lit 400 Introduction to Literary Theory
- Political Science 403 Hegel and Marx