

Sample major proposal – Literature Track

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

I would like to study the rise of the novel in early modern France and Spain. With that objective in mind, I propose to examine the development of the *picaresque* novel in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spain and its influence on the evolution of the comic novel in early to mid-seventeenth-century French prose. I am particularly interested in comparing *Lazarillo de Tormes*, *El Buscón*, *Don Quijote*, *L'Histoire comique de Francion*, and *Le Roman comique*. As a second possible topic, I would consider comparing the early modern French *nouvelle* and the Spanish *novela* traditions, focusing on the works of Marguerite de Navarre, Jean Scarron, María de Zayas, and Miguel Cervantes.

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 plan to follow the literature track for the Comparative Literature major. I will make Spanish literature my primary literature and French literature my secondary literature. The Comparative Literature major will allow me to take classes in both the Spanish and French departments and to write a thesis that engages with primary sources from both national traditions. I plan to take classes that either cover the historical period of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries or that cover the genre of the novel. I would also like to take an introduction-to-the-novel class in the English department.

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

List of classes that I have taken:

Spanish 210
French 320
Spanish 331
French 351
CMPL 201

Classes I plan to take (my choice will depend on when these are offered):

French 332: Early Modern Prose
French 341: French Narrative and the Novel Prior to Realism
Spanish 343: *Don Quixote* and Narrative Theory
Spanish 350: Golden Age Spanish Theater
Lit 400: Introduction to Theory