

MIT SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

LITERATURE GRADUATE PROGRAM: 2-Year Master's Curriculum

Building Critical Excellence from Theory to Practice

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FIRST YEAR: Foundation in Literary Theory and Critical Methods

First Semester (Weeks 1-15): Literary Theory Foundations

- Week 1-3: Introduction to Literary Theory and Critical Methods
- Week 4-6: Classical and Medieval Literature Studies
- Week 7-9: Renaissance and Early Modern Literature
- Week 10-12: Enlightenment and Romantic Literature
- Week 13-15: Research Methods and Academic Writing

Second Semester (Weeks 16-30): Modern Literary Movements

- Week 16-18: Modernist Literature and Theory
- Week 19-21: Postcolonial and World Literature
- Week 22-24: Contemporary Critical Approaches
- Week 25-27: Digital Humanities and Literary Technology
- Week 28-30: First Year Research Project

SECOND YEAR: Specialization and Advanced Research

Third Semester (Weeks 31-45): Advanced Critical Studies

- Week 31-33: Advanced Theoretical Frameworks
- Week 34-36: Genre Studies and Comparative Literature
- Week 37-39: Interdisciplinary Approaches
- Week 40-42: Contemporary Literature and Culture
- Week 43-45: Thesis Proposal Development

Fourth Semester (Weeks 46-60): Master's Thesis and Professional Development

- Week 46-48: Thesis Research and Writing
- Week 49-51: Advanced Seminars and Specialization
- Week 52-54: Professional Development and Academic Career Preparation

- Week 55-57: Thesis Completion and Defense Preparation
- Week 58-60: Final Defense and Portfolio Presentation

CORE COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED

Critical Analysis and Theory

- Advanced literary theory application
- Comparative literary analysis
- Cultural and historical contextualization
- Interdisciplinary critical approaches

Research and Methodology

- Primary and secondary source research
- Digital humanities tools and methods
- Archival research techniques
- Bibliographic and citation mastery

Writing and Communication

- Academic writing and argumentation
- Conference presentation skills
- Teaching and pedagogy
- Professional publication preparation

Cultural and Global Perspectives

- World literature and translation studies
- Postcolonial and multicultural literatures
- Gender, race, and class in literary studies
- Contemporary global literary movements

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Continuous Assessment (60%)

- Weekly reading responses and discussion participation
- Critical analysis papers and essays
- Research projects and presentations
- Peer review and collaborative work

Major Projects (40%)

- Semester research papers
- Comprehensive examinations

- Master's thesis
- Professional portfolio development

CAREER PREPARATION

Academic Track

- PhD program preparation
- Teaching assistant experience
- Conference presentation opportunities
- Publication and research experience

Professional Track

- Editorial and publishing skills
- Cultural institution preparation
- Writing and communications careers
- Digital media and content creation

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Digital Libraries and Archives

- MIT Libraries special collections
- Digital humanities platforms
- International literary databases
- Open access scholarly resources

Technology Integration

- Text analysis software
- Digital publishing tools
- Online collaboration platforms
- Multimedia presentation technologies