

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