

COMP LIT JUNIOR TUTORIAL WORKSHOPS

FALL 2026 & SPRING 2027

DANA-PALMER SEMINAR ROOM

Dr. Jacob Meister

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FALL 2026:

Exploring Junior Tutorial (Wednesday, September 2, 6-8 PM)

What does a Junior Tutorial in Comparative Literature look like? In this workshop, we'll explore how the open-ended and highly individualized structure of the Junior Tutorial in Comparative Literature allows concentrators to pursue diverse areas of intellectual interest and to hone their analytical skills through independent research. We'll look at past syllabi from the first semester of Junior Tutorial to get a sense of how our concentrators have deepened their comparative research across languages, literary traditions, and media.

Navigating Library Resources & Developing Research Skills (Wednesday, September 30, 6-8PM)

Rita Soenksen, Research and Pedagogy Librarian and Departmental Liaison, will join us for this workshop, designed to guide you through the craft of research your junior year. We will discuss how to construct a robust annotated bibliography and how to research in a second language: both essential components of the junior essay proposal.

Developing Research Skills: Research Questions and Working with Secondary Sources (Wednesday, October 21, 6-8 PM)

As you progress toward narrowing down a topic for your Junior Essay Proposal, which is due during reading period following the first semester of junior tutorial, you likely are developing an expansive array of texts and notes from primary and secondary literature. How might you strike a balance between acknowledging preexisting arguments in your area of interest and developing your own critical approach? Where and how does secondary literature enter into your own scholarship and criticism? To help you think through framing your project, you'll post a brief response on the discussion board that sketches out a provisional research question for the Junior Essay: give us a sense of the texts you would work with, the question you'd try to answer through them, and any additional texts (articles, book chapters) that might be helpful. In the workshop, you'll present your research question and get feedback from your peers through Q&A.

Writing the Junior Essay Proposal (Wednesday, November 11, 6-8PM)

How to write a proposal for the junior essay? To explore the process and to prepare for your upcoming deadline, we will study the genre by reading and dissecting proposals from previous years. In the second half of the workshop, you will draft an outline and first paragraph of the proposal, a revision of which will be shared for peer review on our Canvas discussion board.

Individual Consultation with Rita Soenksen (November 12 through December 4, 2026)

Sign up for a mandatory research consultation with Rita Soenksen before reading period as you begin to draft up your Junior Essay Proposal.

SPRING 2027:

Junior Essay Workshop (Wednesday, February 24, 6-8PM)

In this workshop, you will present your central research question and essay in progress. You will submit in advance an abstract of the essay to our discussion board, respond to your peers' work, and prepare to talk us through a verbal outline of five minutes, followed by Q&A.

Preparing for the Senior Thesis (Wednesday, April 7, 5:30-7PM)

How to write a preliminary senior thesis proposal? In this workshop, we will study the genre by reading and dissecting proposals from previous years. In preparation for your upcoming deadline, you will draft and submit one week in advance a tentative thesis title, a description outlining the proposed topic and works to be considered, and an annotated bibliography listing texts relevant to the project. Having shared your work on our discussion board, you will respond to one of your peers' posts with questions and suggestions. You will then give a short talk on your proposal, followed by Q&A.