

ITALIAN STUDIES (ITAL)

ITAL 1101 (c) Elementary Italian I

Alejandro Cuadrado.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

This course is an introduction to the Italian language through the context of Italian geography and society. Students master basic grammar constructions and vocabulary and communicate about their lives, Italy, and the world. Students access numerous forms of media from literature to news feeds, music, visual art, film, and television. Three class hours per week and weekly conversation session in small groups with teaching assistants. Offered every fall.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ITAL 1102 (c) Elementary Italian II

Anna Rein.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

This course is a continuation of Italian Studies 1101. Students expand their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills through more complex language structures and vocabulary. Students continue to access an expanded range of media from literature to news feeds, music, visual art, film, and television. Three class hours per week and weekly conversation session in small groups with teaching assistants. Offered every spring.

Prerequisites: ITAL 1101 or Placement in ITAL 1102.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ITAL 1103 (c) Accelerated Elementary Italian

Alejandro Cuadrado.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Puts students' existing knowledge of a Romance language to good use in an accelerated approach to Italian, covering in just one semester what is typically covered in the two-semester 1101-1102 sequence. Authentic materials and audiovisual resources such as music, films, television series, and news articles immerse students in contemporary Italian culture and society. Prior experience with the principal grammatical elements of French, Spanish, or another Romance language allows students to move quickly through the study of present, future, and past tenses and other key aspects of basic Italian. Three class hours per week and weekly conversation session in small groups with the Italian teaching fellow. Offered every spring.

Prerequisites: Placement in HISP 2305 or Placement in ITAL 1103 or Placement in FRS 2203/2305 or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in HISP 2409 or 2410 or FREN 2305 or higher or SPAN 2305 (same as LAS 2205) or higher or FRS 2305 or higher or HISP 2305 (same as LACL 2205) or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ITAL 2100 (c, IP) Digital Florence

Crystal Hall.

Every Other Spring. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 35.

Asks what a digital representation of a city could and should be, particularly in a moment when travel is limited, using Florence, Italy as a case study. Examines digital image, text, and spatial data about the city, juxtaposing it against non-digital primary sources, secondary critical readings, reflections on experiences of urban and other spaces, and data that we will create in class. Emphasizes shifting definitions across time, language, and digital artifacts of what and who is Florentine in these representations. Coursework happens in three phases: going "under the hood" of the popular digital artifacts that provide an experience of Florence in order to evaluate strengths and weaknesses of representation; expanding our definition of Digital Florence to find local perspectives on what the essential features of the city could be; and proposing a digital intervention that better reflects the values we have identified throughout the semester. Assumes no programming knowledge. Taught in English. (Same as: DCS 2100, URBS 2100)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

ITAL 2203 (c) Intermediate Italian I

David Gavioli.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

The intermediate sequence develops communicative proficiency of Italian language and culture by improving upon the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competency. Building on existing skills in Italian, it introduces students to new and more complex grammar and communicative structures. Students continue to study Italian culture, geography, and literature and explore crosscultural similarities and differences between Italy and the United States using a variety of digital, literary, and visual texts. The goal of third-semester Italian is to further improve students' ability to speak and understand Italian, to become familiar with the use of different tenses and moods (compound tenses, imperative, conditional, subjunctive), to increase their writing skills as they begin to read different kinds of texts, from informal to literary. Three class hours per week and a weekly conversation session with the Italian teaching fellow. Offered every Fall.

Prerequisites: ITAL 1102 or ITAL 1103 or Placement in ITAL 2203.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ITAL 2204 (c) Intermediate Italian II

Davida Gavioli.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

The intermediate sequence develops communicative proficiency of Italian language and culture by improving upon the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural competency. Building on existing skills in Italian, it introduces students to new and more complex grammar and communicative structures. Students continue to study Italian culture, geography, and literature and explore crosscultural similarities and differences between Italy and the United States using a variety of digital, literary, and visual texts. While speaking and listening with an emphasis on interpretational and presentational tasks continue as the center of class activity, the goal of fourth-semester Italian is to focus more intensively on reading and writing Italian. Basic literary analysis and vocabulary building are developed using the selected readings. Three class hours per week and a weekly conversation session with the Italian teaching fellow. Offered every Spring.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2203 or Placement in ITAL 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ITAL 2222 (c) Dante's Divine Comedy

Alejandro Cuadrado.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 35.

One of the greatest works of literature of all times. Dante's Divine Comedy leads us through the torture-pits of Hell, up the steep mountain of Purgatory, to the virtual, white-on-white zone of Paradise, and then back to where we began: our own earthly lives. Accompanies Dante on his allegorical journey, armed with knowledge of Italian culture, philosophy, politics, religion, and history. Pieces together a mosaic of medieval Italy, while developing and refining abilities to read, analyze, interpret, discuss, and write about both literary texts and critical essays. Conducted in English.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

ITAL 2305 (c) Advanced Italian I

Davida Gavioli.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

This course guides students to increasing their fluency in reading, writing, and speaking through engaging various genres of Italian cultural production, contemporary Italian life, and current events. Students deepen their knowledge and practice of critical textual analysis through the study of various media (short stories, poetry, journalism, a novel, an opera libretto, a work of theater, and film), continue to solidify their mastery of Italian grammar, and augment their reading and speaking vocabulary. Regular in-class presentations and essays serve to help students express themselves with more complex and authentic spoken and written style. Conducted in Italian.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2204 or Placement in ITAL 2305.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

ITAL 2408 (c, IP) Introduction to Contemporary Italy: Dalla Marcia alla Vespa

Davida Gavioli.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

In the recent past, Italy has experienced violent political, economic, and cultural changes. In short succession, it experienced fascist dictatorship, the Second World War, the Holocaust, and Civil War, a passage from monarchy to republic, a transformation from a peasant existence to an industrialized society, giving rise to a revolution in cinema, fashion, and transportation. How did all this happen? Who were the people behind these events? What effect did they have on everyday life? Answers these questions, exploring the history and the culture of Italy from fascism to contemporary Italy, passing through the economic boom, the Years of Lead, and the mafia. Students have the opportunity to relive the events of the twentieth century, assuming the identity of real-life men and women. Along with historical and cultural information, students read newspaper articles, letters, excerpts from novels and short stories from authors such as Calvino, Levi, Ginzburg, and others, and see films by directors like Scola, Taviani, De Sica, and Giordana.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2305 or Placement in ITAL 2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

ITAL 2553 (c, VPA) Italy's Cinema of Social Engagement

Every Other Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.

An introduction to Italian cinema with an emphasis on Neorealism and its relationship to other genres, including Comedy Italian Style, the Spaghetti Western, the horror film, the "mondo" (shock documentary), and mafia movies, among others. Readings and discussions situate films within their social and historical contexts, and explore contemporary critical debates about the place of radical politics in Italian cinema (a hallmark of Neorealism), the division between art films and popular cinema, and the relevance of the concept of an Italian national cinema in an increasingly globalized world. No prerequisite required. Taught in English (films screened in Italian with English subtitles). Note: Fulfills the non-US cinema requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 2553)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

ITAL 3008 (c) Of Gods, Leopards, and 'Picciotti': Literary Representations of Sicily between Reality and Metaphor

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

In their attempt to write Sicily, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Sicilian authors have had to come to terms with a land rife with contradictions that have often been considered a reality unto themselves. Since ancient times, Sicily has been a crossroads of cultures and civilizations whose influence has created a Babel of languages, customs, and ideas that separates it from, while uniting it to, the mainland. Examines the construction of the idea of Sicily and *sicilianità* in the writing of twentieth-century natives like Luigi Pirandello, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, Vitaliano Brancati, Leonardo Sciascia, Vincenzo Consolo, and Andrea Camilleri. Emphasis placed on a critical analysis of attempts to define the essence of the Sicilian character within the social and historical context of post-Unification Italy.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

ITAL 3009 (c, IP) Introduction to the Study and Criticism of Medieval and Early Modern Italian Literature
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.

An introduction to the literary tradition of Italy from the Middle Ages through the early Baroque period. Focus on major authors and literary movements in their historical and cultural contexts. Conducted in Italian.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

ITAL 3010 (c) Women of Invention: Contemporary Women's Writing in Italian

Davidia Gavioli.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Focuses on the development of narrative and theatrical prose written by women in Italy over the course of the twentieth century and on the cultural and social issues raised by their narratives in the context of the dramatic changes that the country was undergoing. These works lead progressively through an examination of Italy at the turn of the last century, of the image of the ideal female created during the fascist era, of the condition of women in postwar Italy, of the dramatic impact that the feminist movement had on women writing in the 1960s and 1970s and, finally, of the experimentation in theme, style, and technique that has marked the most recent generation of women writers. Students are encouraged to reflect on the relationship between literature written by women and the social and cultural context in which it is produced. Readings include novels and short stories by, among others, Sibilla Aleramo, Natalia Ginzburg, Alba De Cespedes, Dacia Maraini, and Grazia Verasani, and the theater of Franca Rame. Conducted in Italian.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023.

ITAL 3012 (c, IP) Informatica Umanistica and Digital Humanities

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

This course asks how different computational text analysis can be in two cultural environments: the digital humanities as practiced in the US and informatica umanistica in Italy. Our case study for texts to study will be Italian epic poetry of the Renaissance, the equivalent of today's Marvel comic universe in terms of range of characters, complexity of plotlines, action sequences, humor, popularity, and fan-fiction spinoffs. We will draw on the multiple language backgrounds of all students in the course and the combined skills of advanced students in DCS and Italian. We will practice collaborative, iterative research development around the geographies, networks, and textual features of our texts. Activities will include discussion, hands-on use of digital tools, assigned readings, and a culminating project. (Same as: DCS 3012)

Prerequisites: DCS 2335 or DCS 2350 (same as CSCI 2350) or DCS 2470 or DCS 2500 or ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

ITAL 3013 (c, IP, VPA) Media Made in Italy, but Not Necessarily for Italians

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the aesthetic and narrative qualities of recent Italian television in the globalized context of the streaming era. Focuses in particular on the role of cultural specificity, or "italianità," in Italian-language media intended for the international market. Explores developments in the transnational circulation of Italian television series in relation to streaming technology, platforms, economics, and media policies in Italy and abroad. Analyzes contemporary series like Gomorrah, Luna Nera, My Brilliant Friend, and Mare Fuori, as well as their popularity with global audiences. Coursework includes the creation of an analytical or creative video essay in addition to traditional written research. Previous experience with video-editing software like Premiere or Final Cut Pro is beneficial, but not required. Note: Students taking the course to fulfill a 3000-level course requirement for the Italian SStudies or Romance Languages and Literatures major or the minor in Italian sStudies will view media and submit written and videographic assignments in Italian, meeting regularly with an instructor and/or Italian teaching fellow to support continuing development of Italian-language skills. Course may be counted toward the non-US cinema requirement for the cCinema sStudies minor. Language of instruction is English. (Same as: CINE 3013)

Prerequisites: ITAL 2000 - 2969 or CINE 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

ITAL 3016 (c) Red, White, Green, and...Noir: Reading Italy through Crime Fiction

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the genre of the Italian Giallo and its importance in contemporary Italian fiction. Considers critical approaches to the genre and addresses specific theoretical and cultural issues in the context of modern Italy, with specific focus on the cultural/geographic context that so thoroughly informs the Giallo. Examines the style and the formal and thematic choices of authors such as Sciascia, Scerbanenco, Macchiavelli, Lucarelli, Carlotto, and Camilleri.

Prerequisites: ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

ITAL 3040 (c) Black Italia, or the Renegotiation of Italianness

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

This course explores issues of race, identity, and citizenship in colonial and postcolonial Italy and, through the analysis of the cultural production of migrant authors (novels, short stories, graphic novels, films) examines and challenges the multiple ways in which the idea of race and racism have contributed to a persistently white and culturally and religiously homogeneous definition of the Italian nation in the twentieth century. Does the juxtaposition of terms such as "Black" and "Italian" constitute an oxymoron? Do these works succeed in conjuring up plural identities within the Italian national space, the way in which postcolonial writers have done in other countries?

Prerequisites: ITAL 2408.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.