ITALIAN (ITAL)

ITAL101 Elementary Italian I
This gateway course is the first half of a two-semester elementary sequence and an ampersand (&) course. Our emphasis is on the development of basic oral and written competence, and reading and aural comprehension skills. In this course, you will master the linguistic skills necessary to function in day-to-day circumstances in Italian as you develop the ability to speak and understand Italian in a communicative and meaningful context. The course also challenges you to recognize, explore, and understand cultural differences and similarities between your native culture and Italian culture.

Grammar undergirds everything we do and say in this course; whether or not we are engaged in an explicit grammar exercise, you are always learning grammar that enables you to communicate effectively. Specifically, you will learn to talk about things in your own immediate environment, such as family, friends, daily routine, likes and dislikes, and you will learn how to handle basic social interactions such as meeting people, planning events, eating out, inquiring about other people’s lives, and relaying information in simple terms. We will explore roughly five units of the textbook; additionally, your linguistic experience will be broadened by reading authentic texts and by viewing, listening to, and discussing cultural artifacts such as films, songs, and commercials. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Because you will work collaboratively with your classmates and your instructor, your attendance, participation, and preparation are of the utmost importance.

Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL102 Elementary Italian II
This course is the second half of a two-semester elementary sequence. Our emphasis is on the continuing development and strengthening of oral and written competence, and reading and comprehension skills. Specifically, you will master the linguistic skills necessary to describe and narrate simple events in the past and in the future, make comparisons, express possibility, express your point of view, and agree and disagree with the opinions of others. You will also reach a better understanding of culture, society, and everyday life in Italy as you develop the ability to speak and understand Italian in a communicative and meaningful context. The course also challenges you to recognize, explore, and understand cultural differences and similarities between your native culture and Italian culture. By the end of this course, you can expect to be able to function quite ably and with assurance in day-to-day circumstances in Italian. We will explore roughly five units of the textbook; additionally, your linguistic and cultural experience will be broadened by reading authentic texts and by viewing, listening to, and discussing cultural artifacts such as films, songs, and commercials. Grammar undergirds everything we do and say in this course; whether or not we are engaged in an explicit grammar exercise, you are always learning grammar that enables you to communicate effectively. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Because you will work collaboratively with your classmates and your instructor, your attendance, participation, and preparation are of the utmost importance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL101

ITAL103 Intensive Italian
Intensive Italian is a course designed for highly motivated students who wish to learn the basics of Italian language in one semester. The course emphasizes the development of basic oral and written competence, and reading and aural comprehension skills. In this course, you will master the linguistic skills necessary to function in day-to-day circumstances in Italian as you develop the ability to speak and understand Italian in a communicative and meaningful context. The course also challenges you to recognize, explore, and understand cultural differences and similarities between your native culture and Italian culture.

Grammar undergirds everything we do and say in this course; whether or not we are engaged in an explicit grammar exercise, you are always learning grammar that enables you to communicate effectively. We will use the textbook both in class and at home; additionally, your linguistic experience will be broadened by reading authentic texts and by viewing, listening to, and discussing cultural artifacts such as films, songs, and commercials. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Because you will work collaboratively with your classmates and your instructor, your attendance, participation, and preparation are of the utmost importance.

This course is particularly recommended for students with a background in other romance languages, such as Spanish, French, or Portuguese.

Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL111 Intermediate Italian I
This course is the first half of a two-semester intermediate sequence and an ampersand (&) course. Authentic artifacts such as literary excerpts, films, newspaper articles, songs, and commercials constitute the starting points of this course. These include topics ranging from stereotypes and perceptions of Italy to significant moments in Italian history and politics, family and student life, employment, immigration/emigration, organized crime, and environmental awareness, all of which shed light on the rich diversity and complexities within Italy and offer a variety of opportunities to improve and refine your ability to speak and understand Italian in a communicative and meaningful context. The course also challenges you to recognize, explore, and understand cultural differences and similarities between your native culture and Italian culture.

Grammar undergirds everything we do and say in this course; whether or not we are engaged in an explicit grammar exercise, you are always learning grammar that enables you to communicate effectively. Specifically, you will build on previously learned grammatical structures and acquire more complex ones that will allow you to improve your ability to relate information, narrate stories, make hypotheses, express your opinions, and debate the opinions of others, both in writing and in conversation. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Because you will work collaboratively with your classmates and your instructor, your attendance, participation, and preparation are of the utmost importance.

Offering: Host
Grading: Amp Graded
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL102

ITAL112 Intermediate Italian II
This course is the second half of a two-semester intermediate sequence (ITAL111 & ITAL112). Authentic artifacts such as literary excerpts, films, newspaper articles, songs, and commercials constitute the starting points of this course. These include topics ranging from stereotypes and perceptions of Italy to significant moments in Italian history and politics, family and student life, employment, immigration/emigration, organized crime, and environmental awareness, all of which shed light on the rich diversity and complexities within Italy and offer a variety of opportunities to improve and refine your ability to speak and understand Italian in a communicative and meaningful context.
The course also challenges you to recognize, explore, and understand cultural differences and similarities between your native culture and Italian culture.

Grammar undergirds everything we do and say in this course; whether or not we are engaged in an explicit grammar exercise, you are always learning grammar that enables you to communicate effectively. Specifically, you will build on previously learned grammatical structures and acquire more complex ones that will allow you to improve your ability to relate information, narrate stories, make hypotheses, express your opinions, and debate the opinions of others, both in writing and in conversation. Class is conducted entirely in Italian. Because you will work collaboratively with your classmates and your instructor, your attendance, participation, and preparation are of the utmost importance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL111

ITAL224 The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Rethinking the Italian Renaissance
This course explores the intellectual achievements of the Italian Renaissance. We study the development of new secular values and the quest for the fulfillment of body and soul, glory, and exuberant pleasures. We question notions of beauty, symmetry, proportion, and order. We also unveil often-neglected aspects of Renaissance counter-cultures, such as the aesthetics of ugliness and obscenity and practices of marginalization (e.g., misogyny, homophobia). We inquire into the rediscovery of classical civilizations. We consider how the study of antiquity fundamentally changed the politics, literatures, arts, and philosophies of Italy at the dawn of the modern era. Through a close reading of texts by authors such as Francesco Petrarca, Niccolò Machiavelli, and Michelangelo, we investigate continuities and ruptures between their quest for human identity and ours. This course is conducted in English, and all primary and secondary sources are in English.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST224, COL224, MDST223
Prereq: None

ITAL227 The Invention of Subjectivity: Erotic Discourse from Dante to Petrarca
This course provides an in-depth introduction to Dante Alighieri’s 14th-century masterpiece as a point of entry to the history of Western literature, philosophy, and science. The core of the course consists of an intensive study of Dante’s encyclopedic poem in relation to the culture and history of Medieval Europe. Major topics include: representations of the afterlife; the soul’s relation to the divine; concepts of modernity and antiquity in the Middle Ages; notions of authorship and authority during the 13th and 14th centuries; vernacular poetics and the medieval genre system; the culture and materiality of manuscripts in the Middle Ages; gender and genre in Dante and the 12th- to 14th-century lyric; intertextuality and imitation; classical and medieval language theory; the role of the classics in the Middle Ages; Dante’s concepts of governance; myth and theology in Dante’s Christian poetics; and the reception to Dante’s work from the 14th-century to the present. The course combines a close analysis of Dante’s literary strategies with exercises in critical writing and in multimedia translation and adaptation, aimed at prompting critical reflection on the ways in which present cultural practices are built upon the practices of the past. This course is conducted in English; no previous knowledge of Italian is required.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST224, COL224, RELI218, MDST223
Prereq: None

ITAL229 The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Rethinking the Italian Renaissance II
In this course, we will investigate the ideology, content, and material forms of love poetry from Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) to Francesco Petrarca (1304–1374). Through a close reading of such texts as Dante’s Vita Nova and Petrarca’s Rerum vulgarium fragmenta (often referred to as the poetry book par excellence: il canzoniere), we will unravel the literary and fictitious nature of the poetry of love. We will explore the origins of erotic poetry in medieval France and its subsequent interpretation and re-writing in Italian courts and comuni. We will inquire into the cultural constructions of the medieval notion of the lyrical self and how it still has an impact on our own notion of consciousness.
We will analyze the dynamics of composition, circulation, and reception in manuscript culture. Our close analysis of the texts as they have been preserved in manuscript form will help us gauge the differences between medieval and contemporary ways of writing, reading, and loving. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL229 Italian Bodies: Race, Gender and National Identity in Modern Italian Literature
The metaphor of the nation as a body—a motherland, a fatherland, a body politic—is a familiar one. Italian literature is rich with images of Italy as a woman to be saved, a mother honored, a father avenged. But what are those bodies made of and how do they behave? What are the shapes and feels of the Italian body? In this course we will test the limits and possibilities of the metaphor, examining texts that offer different bodies and differing notions of what it means to be a body and to be Italian. As we read and discuss these texts we will take into account the times and places in which each narrative is situated, taking note of differences and commonalities, paying special attention to the ways these articulations of identity respond to transformations in the Italian national landscape. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL231 Italian Colonialism and Its Legacies
This course is an introduction to the history and consequences of Italian colonialism. We will study literary and historical texts describing the social and political forces that led to colonization as well as writings by colonized people and their descendants in order to gain a balanced, comprehensive understanding of this often-overlooked moment in Italian history. Students will read futurist, fascist and postcolonial theoretical work and will examine Italian, African and Albanian cultural artifacts representative of the colonial experience. We will also discuss current debates about immigration in Italy and their relationship to this colonial history. Literary texts will include: Dell’Oro’s L’abbandono; Cialente’s Cortile a Cleopatra; Ali Farah’s Madre piccola; Marinetti’s Mafarka futurista; and work by prominent Italian scholars of colonialism such as Del Boca and Isnenghi. The metaphor of the nation as a body—its scurrilous, amusing, and provocative innuendos as traces of erotic, religious, ethnic, and cultural questions. We investigate the sexual exuberance of many of Boccaccio’s tales and the tension between “high” and “low” culture. We consider the development of mercantilism and literacy in early-modern Europe and its emerging virtues of wit and self-reliance. We review the dynamics of composition and reception in manuscript culture and the book’s adaptation into different media, from illuminations to film. And by impersonating the Florentines, we will reenact their pastime of telling stories and appreciate their literary and art of the Renaissance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL233 Modern Italy on the Silver Screen: 1960–2015
This course is an introduction to modern Italian culture through the lens of Italian cinema. Beginning in the postwar era, we will look at the radical transformations that have shaped contemporary Italy by examining the aesthetic and narrative trends of the silver screen. Italian cinema holds an important place in global film culture, giving rise to new artistic forms (from neorealism to spaghetti westerns and arthouse slashers) that have dramatically impacted foreign and domestic sensibilities. Among the films screened are Fellini’s La dolce vita, Pasolini’s Mamma Roma, De Sica’s Matrimonio all’italiana, Leone’s Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo, Argento’s Suspisia, Moretti’s Caro diario, Ospetek’s Saturno contro, and Giordana’s Quando sei nato non puoi più nasconderti. Each film screening is accompanied by a brief presentation of the socio-historical context in which it was produced, allowing students to situate the artistic projects within broader Italian social and political histories. By the end of the term students will have an understanding of the last half-century of Italian national history and will be familiar with key terms in film theory and analysis. This course is taught in English; films will be screened in Italian with English subtitles.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Identical With: FIST233
Prereq: None

ITAL234 Art of Love: Expressions of Eros in Early Modern Italy
Medieval and Renaissance authors believed that God had created the universe “with love,” and therefore they considered the role of love in nearly every facet of their lives. Writers, philosophers, and theologians debated what role love played in the relationships between the human and divine, physical and metaphysical, individual and society, and sex and compassion, as well as what role love played in the creation of art itself. In this course, students will examine notions of love and sex in relationship to a variety of cosmological, literary, and existential early-modern issues. Students will first be introduced to the origins of erotic literature—for example, the Bible, Latin elegy, and medieval social codes of behavior. Students will then read selections of the Italian lyric tradition, as well as works by Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, the so-called “Three Crowns” of vernacular eloquence. Finally, students will study the Neoplatonic-inspired erotic literature and art of the Renaissance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL235 The Invention of Fiction: Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron
In this course we read and discuss Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron (ca. 1353), a collection of 100 short stories traded by an “honest brigade” of 10 Florentine men and women. They tell each other these stories while sheltered in a secluded villa as the plague of 1348 rages in Florence. We study the Decameron as both a product and an interpretation of the world Boccaccio inhabited. We examine the Decameron’s tales and narrative frame as a point of entry into the cultural and social environment of medieval Italy. We look at its scurrilous, amusing, and provocative innuendos as traces of erotic, religious, ethnic, and cultural questions. We investigate the sexual exuberance of many of Boccaccio’s tales and the tension between “high” and “low” culture. We consider the development of mercantilism and literacy in early-modern Europe and its emerging virtues of wit and self-reliance. We review the dynamics of composition and reception in manuscript culture and the book’s adaptation into different media, from illuminations to film. And by impersonating the Florentines, we will reenact their pastime of telling stories and appreciate Boccaccio’s remarkably modern sensibility and unsurpassed art of writing fiction. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: None

ITAL236 The Courtier and the Courtesan in Renaissance Italy
This course will use the issue of gender as a lens through which to examine questions of power and authority in the Renaissance Italian court. We will study the self-fashioning of courtiers in 15th- and 16th-century Italy, asking to what extent this role was exclusively “male” and what women’s participation in the intellectual life of the court says about contemporary power relations. Then we will draw comparisons with the more traditional female figure of Renaissance courtly culture—the courtesan—investigating the status that these women sought to establish through their literary and amorous exchanges.
Our understanding of these figures will come from texts in a variety of genres written by and about courtiers and courtesans. We will read from female and male authors; we will also study closely two fundamental reflections on Renaissance courtly culture—Castiglione’s Il cortegiano (The Book of the Courtier) and Machiavelli’s Il principe (The Prince). Like our own culture, Renaissance Italy was steeped in visual media, and we will pay attention to the cross-fertilization between the texts we study and works by artists such as Botticelli, Michelangelo, and Tintoretto. Finally, we will also engage with some modern reflections on courtly culture and the Italian Renaissance.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL221 AND ITAL222

ITAL240 Fascism, Futurism, and Feminism: Forces of Change in 20th-Century Italy

This course investigates three forces at work in Italy in the first half of the 20th century. We explore Italian fascism, futurism, and feminism through a variety of media, including literary, cinematic, and artistic expressions, and will consider each movement in its sociohistorical context. Marking its centennial, World War I and Italy’s engagement with it will also offer an important chapter for study. Some of the questions we will contemplate: How did the radical annihilation of standard mores and culture proposed by the futurists help pave the way for Italian fascism? How did feminism in the first half of the century offer examples of resistance to both fascism and futurism? The texts we will consider include the paintings, sculpture, manifestos, and poetry of futurism; Sibilla Aleramo’s early feminist novel Una donna, as well as the writings of other Italian feminists resistant to the ultraviolence and misogyny of futurism and the instrumentalization of gender under Italian fascism. We explore similarly varied texts representative of the fascist era: examples of rationalist architecture and urban planning; Alberto Moravia’s novel of social mores during fascism, Gli indifferenti; selections from Antonio Gramsci’s political prisoner of the regime, Quaderni del carcere and Lettere dal carcere; and at least one film made under the conditions (economic, industrial, and propagandistic) of fascism. The class concludes with examination of Alba de Cespedes’s runaway bestselling melodrama from 1938, Nessuno torna indietro. Our goal is an understanding of works by authors such as Niccolo Machiavelli, Ludovico Ariosto, and Giordano Bruno will allow us to probe the persuasive and redeeming power of comedy to underscore continuities and ruptures between the Renaissance quest for human identity and ours. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL221 OR ITAL222

ITAL243 Subversion, Liberation, and Redemption in Italian Renaissance Comedy

Avidly in search of fulfillment of body and soul, self-determination, and pleasure of all kinds, Renaissance writers explored comedy both to provoke laughter (in and out of court) and to provide conceptual alternatives to reality. This course examines the historical, literary, and anthropological dimensions of comedy and the comic in an array of texts of the Italian Renaissance. We will explore the comic and its various expressions the novella, the facetta (witty anecdote), the apologue, the comic play, the mock-heroic poem, and the treatise. We will seek to understand the various functions of the comic, as a form of political subversion, as mode of social critique, as practice of erotic liberation and marginalization, as opportunity for psychological escape, as spiritual healing, and as the reconciliation of conflict. Along the way, we will investigate contextual elements such as dramatic performance, patronage, audience, and the architectural space of Renaissance theaters. The close reading of works by authors such as Niccolo Machiavelli, Ludovico Ariosto, and Giordano Bruno will allow us to probe the persuasive and redeeming power of comedy to underscore continuities and ruptures between the Renaissance quest for human identity and ours. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL221 OR ITAL222

ITAL248 Singing the Self: Italian Lyric Poetry 1220-1550

This course will give students the technical means to understand early Italian poetry linguistically, rhetorically, and ideologically. Your spoken Italian will advance through analytical recitation exercises illuminating the musical beauty of these works. Meanwhile, our discussions will delve the philosophical and historical context of this remarkable flowering of technical prowess and literary self-expression.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL221

ITAL221 OR ITAL412

ITAL221 Home Movies: Italian Families on Film

What is “the family” in Italy’s contemporary social and cultural context? How has it changed over time? How has it responded to the transformations of Italian society since the time of the postwar economic miracle until today? Have its contours changed to adapt to new values? Has it fossilized existing values? Are families limited to flesh-and-blood kinship, or are they constructed along lines of shared values and loyalty? This course seeks some answers to these questions through a sustained exploration of a variety of types of families as they are presented in Italian cinema from roughly 1960 through today. We will take stock of the “traditional” family and the traditional social values connected to it, seeking to understand how filmmakers, through their focus on the family, enter into the debate concerning tradition and change within the social context. In addition to conventional families, we will also examine the elective family that takes shape as the Mafia family. Finally, we will also explore some examples of contemporary families that challenge the traditional paradigm—for example, single-parent and same-sex families. After discussion of critical readings in sociology and anthropology that will help frame our examination throughout the semester, we will concentrate on film texts. This course is conducted in Italian.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-RLAN
Prereq: ITAL221 OR ITAL412

ITAL401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate

Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL403 Department/Program Project or Essay

Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
ITAL407 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ITAL408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ITAL409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ITAL420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ITAL491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ITAL492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT