Italian

The major and minor in Italian are administered by the Department of Classics and Italian. Advisors in Italian: Professor Frau; Language Instructor Svaldi, Lecturer in Italian Moretti.

Overview

The major in Italian seeks to foster linguistic fluency and appreciation of the multifaceted culture of the Italian people. In addition to acquiring advanced oral and written proficiency in the Italian language, majors will have the opportunity to access Italy’s rich literary and cultural heritage through cinema, literature, music, art, the Web. Besides selecting courses offered at Mount Holyoke and in the more extended Five College community, students are encouraged to investigate the many study abroad options available to them in such culturally diverse cities as Bologna, Florence, and Padova. A major in Italian language and culture can lead to a variety of national and international careers, from foreign service to fashion marketing, from international banking and trade to film, from a career in nonprofits to teaching.

The weekly Italian table provides a comfortable environment for spontaneous expression and cultural exchange, and the ongoing extracurricular activities of the Italian club, lectures, and films round out the multifaceted learning experience at MHC.

Contact Info

Kristin McMillan, senior administrative assistant
Ombretta Frau, chair

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 32 credits
- At least 16 credits at the 300 level

Courses

- Italian 209, Conversation and Composition
- Italian 221, Introduction to Italian Culture and Literature I or Italian 222 Italian Modernity: Introduction to Modern Italy
- At least one course at the 300 level

Other

- Courses lower than 209, Conversation and Composition, cannot be counted toward the minor.
- Independent Study (Italian 395) may not be used as part of the minimum minor requirements.
- One 200- or 300-level course may be in English translation but must be approved by the department.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of Italian can combine their course work in Italian with a minor in education. In some instances course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of Italian, please consult your advisor or the chair of the Department of Classics and Italian. For information about the requirements for the minor in education, please consult “Teacher Licensure” in the Other Degree and Certificate Programs chapter and Professor Lawrence in the psychology and education department.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the Department of Classics and Italian and in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Course Advice

Guidelines for New Students

All courses satisfy distribution requirements unless otherwise indicated. Courses are normally conducted in Italian. Courses offered in translation are listed at the end of the Italian course descriptions.

Students with no previous training in Italian should elect 101–102, Elementary Italian. Those who have a superior aptitude for language may elect 103, Intensive Elementary Italian, in the spring semester.

Students with two years of high school study should elect 201, Intermediate Italian Through Film. Students whose proficiency in the Italian language is superior and who wish to study literature should elect 221, Introduction to Italian Culture and Literature I or 222 Italian Modernity: Introduction to Modern Italy, in the fall semester. Students who are unsure about their level should contact Professor Frau for a proficiency test.

Students contemplating a junior year in Italy should elect an Italian course in their first semester of their first year, because all junior year programs in Italy require two years of Italian.

Course Offerings

ITAL-101 Elementary Italian

This course emphasizes understanding, speaking, and writing in a contemporary context. It also promotes creativity with presentations and original group
projects. It includes Web activities, films, short stories, and frequent conversation sessions with language assistants.

**ITAL-102 Elementary Italian II**  
**Spring**  
This course emphasizes understanding, speaking, and writing in a contemporary context. It also promotes creativity with presentations and original group projects. It includes Web activities, films, and Web activities are an important part of the course, and creative group projects and informal conversation sessions with language assistants supplement course work.

**ITAL-103 Intensive Elementary Italian**  
**Spring**  
This course completes the work of Italian 101-102 in one semester through intensive practice in speaking, reading, and writing Italian. It is ideal for students who already know another Romance language. Short readings, films, and Web activities are an important part of the course, and creative group projects and informal conversation sessions with language assistants supplement class work.

**ITAL-201 Intermediate Italian through Film**  
**Fall**  
A review of Italian through film. Cultural and linguistic aspects of five to six films and related readings will be the focus of this course and the starting point for class activities, conversation, written exercises, and grammar review. This interdisciplinary approach offers students an opportunity to explore Italian culture deeply, while at the same time improving their reading, writing, and speaking skills. The course also features regular conversation sessions with language assistants.

**ITAL-209 Conversation and Composition**  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
Offers practice of colloquial and idiomatic speech patterns in Italian to emphasize correct pronunciation and intonation. Includes oral presentations as well as frequent compositions, from short reports to full-length essays. Uses newspapers, magazines, and literary texts to discuss issues and lifestyles concerning Italian society.

**ITAL-211 Introduction to Italian Culture and Literature I**  
**ITAL-221CL Introduction to Italian Culture and Literature I: ‘A Journey Through Italy’**  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
This course is a transition from language courses to more advanced ones. It surveys the evolution of Italian culture and literature from its origins to modern times. Class discussions, written work, and movie screenings are aimed at developing skills in oral expression and expository writing in Italian.

**ITAL-222 Italian Modernity: Introduction to Modern Italy**  
**Fall**  
This course is an introduction to the major cultural movements of modern Italy, from Leopardi and Aleramo to Calvino and Pasolini. It surveys the major cultural and historical currents from the eighteenth century to the present. Representatives of romantic, realist, decadent, modernism and futurist works will be studied in their cultural and historical contexts. Class discussions, written work, and movie screenings are aimed at developing skills in oral expression and expository writing in Italian. In Fall 2015, the course will include a special focus on Italian food culture.

**ITAL-225 A Different Language Is a Different Vision of Life: Contemporary Italy through Cinema**  
**Not Scheduled for This Year**  
Film director Federico Fellini said that a ‘different language is a different vision of life.’ How has the Italian ‘vision of life’ changed from Mussolini’s dictatorship to Berlusconi’s government? From the birth of the Republic in 1946 to the debate ignited by Roberto Saviano’s bestseller *Gomorrah*, this course traces transformations in modern Italian society. Through historical and literary readings, films, and the media, this course explores the difficult path towards modernity Italy has traveled in the last five decades. We will explore contemporary popular culture and films that reflect these transformations and analyze family, religion, gender, sexuality, and class conflict.

**ITAL-230 Italy through Cinema**  
**Fall and Spring**  
Representatives of romantic, realist, decadent, modernism and futurist works will be studied in their cultural and historical contexts. Class discussions, written work, and movie screenings are aimed at developing skills in oral expression and expository writing in Italian.

**ITAL-241 Italian Topics Taught in English**  
**ITAL-295 Independent Study**  
**Fall and Spring**  
The department  
**Instructor permission required.**  
**Credits: 1-4**  
**Course can be repeated for credit.**  

**ITAL-311 Advanced Topics in Italian**  
**ITAL-361 Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures**  
This interdisciplinary seminar will focus on a comparative study of Romance languages or literatures. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Seminar discussions will be conducted in English, but students wishing to obtain language credit are expected to read works in at least one original language. Papers will be written in either English or the Romance language of the student’s choice.

**ITAL-361MT Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures: ‘The Mind of the Traveler: Journeys, Expeditions, Tours’**  
**Spring**  
Travel literature has always been a precious source for the study of culture, politics, arts, and last but not least, people. From Tacitus to Marco Polo, from...
Stendhal to Camilo Jose Cela, we will read and discuss authors who traveled for political, personal, and recreational reasons. We will also pay special attention to tales of emigration and immigration in the third millennium.

Crosslisted as: Spanish 360MT, Italian 361MT, French 321MT, Romance Languages 375MT

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

O. Frau

Prereq: Two courses from 200 or 300-level, beyond Italian 209.
Advisory: for language majors; two courses in culture and literature at the 200-level

Notes: Note: Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.

Credits: 4

ITAL-362 Advanced Topics in Italian

ITAL-362FD Advanced Topics in Italian: 'Not Just Eating. Italian Food: History, Art, Literature, Film, Business

Fall

Food has been at the center of Italian life and culture for centuries. This course explores two important aspects of food in Italian history: (a) the role and cultural meaning of food preparation and presentation in Italian literary texts and film with particular emphasis of new world foods on Italian society (tomatoes, coffee), and (b) the social and economic implications of the Italian Slow Food movement on the global economic stage. Readings include Clara Sereni, Giovanni Boccaccio, Joyce Lussu, F.T. Marinetti, Carlo Goldoni, Antonio Fogazzaro, Carlo Petrini and many more. The course includes a field trip to an organic farm and a cooking night.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

O. Frau

Notes: Taught in Italian.

Credits: 4

ITAL-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring

The department

Instructor permission required.

Credits: 1-8

Course can be repeated for credit.

See Also

- Romance Languages and Cultures