

ITALIAN AND ITALIAN STUDIES (BRYN MAWR)

brynmawr.edu/italian

Based on an interdisciplinary approach that views culture as a global phenomenon, the aims of the major in Italian Studies are to acquire a knowledge of Italian language, literature, and culture, including cinema, art, journalism, pop culture, and music. The Department of Italian Studies also cooperates with the Departments of French and Spanish in the Romance Languages major and with the other foreign languages in the Tri-Co for a major in Comparative Literature. The Italian Department cooperates also with the Center for International Studies (CIS).

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Italian Language/Literature (ILL) and Italian Cultural Studies (ICS) Major

The Italian Language/Literature major and the Italian Cultural Studies major consists of ten courses starting at the ITAL 101/102 level, or an equivalent two-semester sequence taken elsewhere. The department offers a two-track system as guidelines for completing the major in Italian or in Italian Studies. Both tracks require ten courses, including ITAL 101/102. For students in either Track A or B we recommend a senior experience offered with ITAL 398 and ITAL 399, courses that are required for honors. Students may complete either track. Recommendations are included below —models of different pathways through the major.

Majors are required to complete one Writing Intensive (WI) course in the major. The WI courses will prepare students towards their senior project and to competent and appropriate writing, mainly in three ways: 1) Teach the writing process—planning, drafting, revising, and editing; 2) Emphasize the role of writing by allocating a substantial portion of the final grade to writing assignments; 3) Offer students the opportunity to receive feedback from professors and peers (through class peer review sessions). In responding to the feedback, students will experience writing as a process of discovery (re-visioning) and meaning. The goal of the new WI course will be to get students to re-think the argument, logical connection, focus, transition, evidence, quotes, organization, and sources.

ILL Major/ Track A

Major requirements in ILL are 10 courses. Track A may be appropriate for students with an interest in literary and language studies.

Required: ITAL 101/102, plus six courses (or more) conducted in Italian and two selected from among a list of approved ICS courses in English that may be taken in either within the department or in various other disciplines offered at the College (i.e. History, History of Art, English, Visual Art and Film Studies, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Cities, Archaeology, Classics). Adjustments will be made for students taking courses abroad. Of the courses taken in Italian, students are expected to enroll in the following areas: Dante (ITAL 301), Renaissance (ITAL 304 or 302), Survey (ITAL 307), and two courses on Modern Italian literature (ITAL 380, ITAL 310, ITAL 320, ITAL 306)

ICS/Track B

Major requirements in ICS are 10 courses. Track B may be appropriate for students with an interest in cultural and interdisciplinary studies. The concentration is open to all majors and consists of both interdisciplinary and single-discipline courses drawn from various academic departments at the college.

Required: ITAL 101/102, plus three courses conducted in Italian and four related courses in English that may be taken either within the department or in an allied-related fields in various disciplines throughout the college, or courses taken on BMC approved study-abroad programs, such as: History, History of Art, Visual Art, and Film Studies, Comparative Literature, Cities, Classics.

*Faculty in other programs may be willing to arrange work within courses that may count for the major. Courses must be approved by the Chair of the Italian Studies Department.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for the minor in Italian Studies are ITAL 101, 102 and four additional units including

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two at the 200 level one of which in literature and one of which in Italian and two at the 300 level one of which in literature and one of which in Italian. With departmental approval, students who begin their work in Italian at the 200 level will be exempted from ITAL 101 and 102. For courses in translation, the same conditions for majors apply.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS

Students may apply to complete the major with honors. The honors component requires the completion of a year-long thesis advised by a faculty member in the department. Students enroll in the senior year in ITAL 398 and ITAL 399. Application to it requires a GPA in the major of 3.7 or higher, as well as a written statement, to be submitted by the fall of senior year, outlining the proposed project (see further below) and indicating the faculty member who has agreed to serve as advisor. The full departmental faculty vets the proposals and will decide if honors will be given.

THESIS

Students will write a 40 page thesis that aims to engage with primary texts and relevant secondary literature. By the end of the fall semester, students must have completed a formal proposal and a Table of Content in draft. Proposals for the thesis should describe the questions being asked in the research, and how answers to them will contribute to scholarship. Students must include a discussion of the primary sources on which the research will rest, as well as a preliminary bibliography of relevant secondary studies. They also must include a rough timetable indicating in what stages the work will be completed. It is expected that before submitting their proposals students will have conferred with a faculty member who has agreed to serve as advisor. In April students will give an oral presentation of their work of approximately one hour to faculty members and interested students. The final draft is due on or around April 28th of the senior year and will be graded by two faculty members (one of whom is the advisor). Faculty will retain the option to assign final honors to the research project.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who are studying abroad for the Italian major for one year can earn two credits in Italian Literature and one credit in allied fields (total of

three credits). Those who are studying abroad for one semester can earn no more than a total of two credits in Italian Literature or one credit in Italian Literature and one credit in an allied field (total of two credits).

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Students majoring at BMC cannot earn more than two credits at the University of Pennsylvania in Italian.

ELECTIVE COURSES

- ARTW B240/COML B240 Literary Translation
- CITY B207 Topics in Urban Studies
- CITY B360 Digital Rome
- COML B225 Censorship: Historical Contexts, Local Practices and Global Resonance
- COML B213 Theory in Practice: Critical Discourses in the Humanities
- ENGL H385 Topics in Apocalyptic Writing at Haverford College
- ENGL H220 Epic at Haverford College
- HART B104-001 Critical Approaches to Visual Representation: The Classical Tradition
- HART B253 Survey of Western Architecture: 1400-1800
- HART B323 Topics in Renaissance Art
- HART/RUSS B215 Russian Avant-Garde Art, Literature and Film
- HIST B238 From Bordellos to Cybersex: History of Sexuality in Modern Europe
- HIST B319 Topics in Modern European History
- MUSC H207 Italian Keyboard Tradition

FACULTY

David Cast

Professor of History of Art

Roni Kubati

Visiting Assistant Professor

Nicholas Patruno

Katharine E. McBride Professor

Pamela Pisone

Instructor

Roberta Ricci

Chair and Associate Professor

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COURSES

ITAL B001 ELEMENTARY ITALIAN

Gabriella Troncelliti, Roni Kubati

The course is for students with no previous knowledge of Italian. It aims at giving the students a complete foundation in the Italian language, with particular attention to oral and written communication. The course will be conducted in Italian and will involve the study of all the basic structures of the language—phonological, grammatical, syntactical—with practice in conversation, reading, composition. Readings are chosen from a wide range of texts, while use of the language is encouraged through role-play, debates, songs, and creative composition. (Offered Fall 2017)

ITAL B002 ELEMENTARY ITALIAN II

Gabriella Troncelliti, Roni Kubati

This course is the continuation of ITAL B001 and is intended for students who have started studying Italian the semester before. It aims at giving the students a complete foundation in the Italian language, with particular attention to oral and written communication. The course will be conducted in Italian and will involve the study of all the basic structures of the language—phonological, grammatical, syntactical—with practice in conversation, reading, composition. Readings are chosen from a wide range of texts, while use of the language is encouraged through role-play, debates, songs, and creative composition. Prerequisite: ITAL B001 or placement. (Offered Spring 2018)

ITAL B101 INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN

Roberta Ricci

This course provides students with a broader basis for learning to communicate effectively and accurately in Italian. While the principal aspect of the course is to further develop language abilities, the course also imparts a foundation for the understanding of modern and contemporary Italy. Students will gain an appreciation for Italian culture and be able to communicate orally and in writing in a wide variety of topics. We will read newspaper and magazine articles to analyze aspects on modern and contemporary Italy. We will also view and discuss Italian films and internet materials. (Offered Fall 2017)

ITAL B102 INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II

Roberta Ricci

This course provides students with a broader basis for learning to communicate effectively and

accurately in Italian. While the principal aspect of the course is to further develop language abilities, the course also imparts a foundation for the understanding of modern and contemporary Italy. Students will gain an appreciation for Italian culture and be able to communicate orally and in writing in a wide variety of topics. We will read a novel to analyze aspects on modern and contemporary Italy. We will also view and discuss Italian films and internet materials. Prerequisite: ITAL B101 or placement. (Offered Spring 2018)

ITAL B207 DANTE IN TRANSLATION

Staff

A reading of the *Vita Nuova (Poems of Youth)* and *The Divine Comedy: Hell, Purgatory and Paradise* in order to discover the subtle nuances of meaning in the text and to introduce students to Dante's tripartite vision of the afterlife. Dante's masterpiece lends itself to study from various perspectives: theological, philosophical, political, allegorical, historical, cultural, and literary. Personal journey, civic responsibilities, love, genre, governmental accountability, church-state relations, the tenuous balance between freedom of expression and censorship—these are some of the themes that will frame the discussions. Course taught in English; One additional hour for students who want Italian credit (ITAL 301). (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B211 PRIMO LEVI, THE HOLOCAUST, AND ITS AFTERMATH

Staff

A consideration, through analysis and appreciation of his major works, of how the horrific experience of the Holocaust awakened in Primo Levi a growing awareness of his Jewish heritage and led him to become one of the dominant voices of that tragic historical event, as well as one of the most original new literary figures of post-World War II Italy. Always in relation to Levi and his works, attention will also be given to Italian women writers whose works are also connected with the Holocaust. Course is taught in English. An extra hour will be scheduled for those students taking the course for Italian or Romance Languages credit. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B212 ITALY TODAY: NEW VOICES, NEW WRITERS, NEW LITERATURE

Roni Kubati

This course, taught in English, will focus primarily on the works of the so-called "migrant

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writers” who, having adopted the Italian language, have become a significant part of the new voice of Italy. In addition to the aesthetic appreciation of these works, this course will also take into consideration the social, cultural, and political factors surrounding them. The course will focus on works by writers who are now integral to Italian canon – among them: Cristina Ali-Farah, Igiaba Scego, Ghermandi Gabriella, Amara Lakhous. As part of the course, movies concerned with various aspects of Italian Migrant literature will be screened and analyzed. One additional hour for students who want Italian credit. (Offered Spring 2018)

ITAL B213 THEORY IN PRACTICE: CRITICAL DISCOURSES IN THE HUMANITIES

Staff

An examination in English of leading theories of interpretation from Classical Tradition to Modern and Post-Modern Time. This is a topics course. Course content varies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B214 THE MYTH OF VENICE (1800-2000)

Staff

In English. The Republic of Venice existed for over a millennium. This course begins in the year 1797 at the end of the Republic and the emerging of an extensive body of literature centered on Venice and its mythical facets. Readings will include the Romantic views of Venice (excerpts from Lord Byron, Fredrick Schiller, Wolfgang von Goethe, Ugo Foscolo, Alessandro Manzoni) and the 20th century reshaping of the literary myth (readings from Thomas Mann, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Gabriele D’Annunzio, Henry James, and others). A journey into this fascinating tradition will shed light on how the literary and visual representation of Venice, rather than focusing on a nostalgic evocation of the death of the Republic, became a territory of exploration for literary modernity. The course is offered in English; all texts are provided in translation. One additional hour for students who want Italian credit. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B219 MULTICULTURALISM IN MEDIEVAL ITALY

Staff

This course examines cross-cultural interactions in medieval Italy played out through the patronage, production, and reception of works of art and architecture. Sites of patronage and

production include the cities of Venice, Palermo, and Pisa. Media examined include buildings, mosaics, ivories, and textiles. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B229 THE POLITICS OF FOOD IN ITALIAN LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND CINEMA

Staff

In English. A profile of Italian literature/culture/cinema obtained through an analysis of gastronomic documents, films, literary texts, and magazines. We will also include a discussion of the Slow Food Revolution, a movement initiated in Italy in 1980 and now with a world-wide following, and its social, economic, ecological, aesthetic, and cultural impact to counteract fast food and to promote local food traditions. Course taught in English. One additional hour for students who want Italian credit. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B235 SCRITTRICI E REGISTE ITALIANE: HEROINES IN AND OUT OF THE CANON

Staff

Emphasis will be put on Italian women writers and film directors, who are often left out of syllabi adhering to traditional canons. Particular attention will be paid to: a) women writers who have found their voices (through writing) as a means of psychological survival in a patriarchal world; b) women engaged in the women’s movement of the 70’s and who continue to look at, and rewrite, women’s stories of empowerment and solidarity; c) “divaism”, fame, via beauty and sex with a particular emphasis on the ‘60s (i.e. Gina Lollobrigida, Sofia Loren, Claudia Cardinale). (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B255 UOMINI D’ONORE IN SICILIA: ITALIAN MAFIA IN LITERATURE AND CINEMA

Roberta Ricci

This course aims to explore representations of Mafia figures in Italian literature and cinema, starting from the ‘classical’ example of Sicily. From Sicily, the “octopus” (piovra), as the Mafia is called in Italy, has spread throughout Italy, and has pervaded almost every facet of Italian life, including cultural life. The course will introduce students to both Italian Studies from an interdisciplinary perspective and also to narrative, using fiction and non-fiction texts written by 19th, 20th, and 21st century writers.

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Novels, films, testimonies and TV series will offer different representations of the Mafia: its ethics, its relation with politics, religion and business, its ideas of friendship, family, masculinity and femininity. Internships in Italy will be available connected with this course. Course is taught in Italian. Prerequisite: ITAL B102 or permission of the instructor. (Offered Fall 2017)

ITAL B301 DANTE

Staff

A reading of the Vita Nuova (Poems of Youth) and The Divine Comedy: Hell, Purgatory and Paradise in order to discover the subtle nuances of meaning in the text and to introduce students to Dante's tripartite vision of the afterlife. Dante's masterpiece lends itself to study from various perspectives: theological, philosophical, political, allegorical, historical, cultural, and literary. Personal journey, civic responsibilities, love, genre, governmental accountability, church-state relations, the tenuous balance between freedom of expression and censorship—these are some of the themes that will frame the discussions. One additional hour for students who want Italian credit. Prerequisite: At least two 200-level literature courses. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B306 YOUTH IN 20TH CENTURY ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CINEMA

Roberta Ricci

This interdisciplinary course focuses on literary texts and visual material dealing with youth and youth culture in post-fascist Italy. How is youth described in Italian culture after WWII? What does youth represent in the Italian imagination of 20th century Italy? Which language is used by the youth? While the focus in analyzing the challenges faced by youth is primarily on literature and film studies, throughout the semester the course will also touch upon sociological, cultural, and anthropological perspectives concerning the role of the family, peer relationships, prostitution, drugs, criminality and violence, diversity, gender identity, and sexuality. Students will be required to attend film screenings or view films on their own devices. Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or permission of the instructor. (Offered Spring 2018)

ITAL B307 INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS: OTHERNESS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE

Staff

This course will introduce students to the most representative works in Italian literature of all genres—poetry, novels, scientific prose, theater, diaries, narrative, epistolary—throughout the centuries, with emphasis on marginalization, exile, political persecution, national identity, violence, and otherness. We will bring works of literature to the attention of students who are interested in the key role played by Italian culture in the development of a European civilization, including the international debate on modernity and post-modernity. Readings and lectures will move from 14th century writers (Dante, Boccaccio) to Humanistic Thought (Florentine political revolution) and the Renaissance (Machiavelli); from the Enlightenment (Foscolo, Leopardi, Manzoni) to modernity (Pirandello, Svevo) and post-modernism (Calvino). Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or permission of the instructor. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B310 DETECTIVE FICTION

Staff

In English. Why is detective fiction so popular? What explains the continuing multiplication of detective texts despite the seemingly finite number of available plots? This course will explore the worldwide fascination with this genre beginning with European writers before turning to the more distant mystery stories from around the world. The international scope of the readings will highlight how authors in different countries have developed their own national detective typologies while simultaneously responding to international influence of the British-American model. Italian majors taking this course for Italian credit will be required to meet for an additional hour with the instructor and to do the readings and writing in Italian. Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or permission of the instructor. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B319 MULTICULTURALISM AND DIVERSITY IN MEDIEVAL ITALY

Roni Kubati

This interdisciplinary course will reflect upon history, religion, literature, politics, and built environment of Italy from ca. 1000 to 1400. Italy was famous for its diverse cultural landscape of urban towers and fortified castles, its Mediterranean trade, and its ethnically and religiously differentiated voices. The course examines cross-cultural interactions played out through the patronage, production, and reception

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of works of art, literature, and architecture. Sites of patronage and production include the cities of Venice, Palermo, and Pisa. (Offered Fall 2017)

ITAL B320 NATIONALISM AND FREEDOM: THE ITALIAN RISORGIMENTO IN FOSCOLO, MANZONI, LEOPARDI

Staff

This course deals with 19th century Italian poetry and literary movement for Italian unification inspired by the realities of the new economic and political forces at work after 1815. As a manifestation of the nationalism sweeping over Europe during the nineteenth century, the Risorgimento aimed to unite Italy under one flag and one government. For many Italians, however, Risorgimento meant more than political unity. It described a movement for the renewal of Italian society and people beyond purely political aims. Among Italian patriots the common denominator was a desire for freedom from foreign control, liberalism, and constitutionalism. The course will discuss issues such as Enlightenment, Romanticism, Nationalism, and the complex relationship between history and literature in Foscolo, Manzoni, and Leopardi. This course is taught in Italian. Prerequisite: One 200-level Italian course. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B340 THE ART OF ITALIAN UNIFICATION

Staff

Following Italian unification (1815-1871), the statesman, novelist, and painter Massimo d'Azeglio remarked, "Italy has been made; now it remains to make Italians." This course examines the art and architectural movements of the roughly 100 years between the uprisings of 1848 and the beginning of the Second World War, a critical period for defining Italianità. Subjects include the paintings of the Macchiaioli, reactionaries to the 1848 uprisings and the Italian Independence Wars, the politics of nineteenth-century architectural restoration in Italy, the re-urbanization of Italy's new capital Rome, Fascist architecture and urbanism, and the architecture of Italy's African colonies. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B380 MODERNITY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS: CROSSING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES IN 20TH C. ITALY AND EUROPE

Staff

Designed as an in-depth interdisciplinary exploration of Italy's intellectual life, the course is organized around major literary and cultural trends in 20th century Europe, including philosophical ideas and cinema. We investigate Italian fiction in the global and international perspective, from modernity to Freud and Psychoanalysis, going beyond national boundaries and proposing ethical models across historical times. Prerequisite: One 200-level course in Italian. (Not offered 2017-2018)

ITAL B398 SENIOR SEMINAR

Roberta Ricci

This course is open only to seniors in Italian and in Romance Languages. Under the direction of the instructor, each student prepares a senior thesis on an author or a theme that the student has chosen. By the end of the fall semester, students must have completed an abstract and a critical annotated bibliography to be presented to the department. See Thesis description. Prerequisite: This course is open only to seniors in Italian Studies and Romance Languages with a GPA of 3.7. (Offered Fall 2017)

ITAL B399 SENIOR CONFERENCE

Roberta Ricci

Under the direction of the instructor, each student prepares a senior thesis on an author or a theme that the student has chosen. In April there will be an oral defense with members and majors of the Italian Department. See Thesis description. Prerequisite: This course is open only to seniors in Italian Studies and Romance Languages. (Offered Spring 2018)

ITAL B403 SUPERVISED WORK

Staff

Offered with approval of the Department. (Offered Fall 2017)