ITALIAN

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN

Professors Millicent Marcus, Giuseppe Mazzotta (Chair)

Assistant Professors Angela Capodivacca, Christiana Purdy Moudaress

Senior Lector II Risa Sodi

Senior Lectors Michael Farina, Monica Georgeo, Anna Iacovella

The major in Italian explores Italy’s vital role in the formation of Western thought and culture. The core language courses bring students to a high level of aural, spoken, and written proficiency, provide a solid literary and historico-cultural background in the language, and prepare students for study in Italy. Other offerings build on the core courses to explore Italian literature, film, history, culture, and art. The Italian major is of particular relevance to the fields of art, economics, film studies, history, history of art, international relations, linguistics, literature, philosophy, and theology.

Prerequisite Candidates for the major should have completed a course in Italian at the level of 130 (L3) or should have received credit for equivalent work by the end of their sophomore year. Exceptions may be made in the case of outstanding students who have not satisfied this requirement.

Requirements of the major The major normally consists of eleven term courses beyond the prerequisite. Eight term courses in the Italian department numbered 140 or above (including graduate courses) are required, at least five of which must be conducted in Italian. The courses in the department must include either ITAL 150 or 151 and a course on Dante’s Divine Comedy (ITAL 310 or equivalent), as well as four courses covering different periods in Italian literature: one in the Middle Ages (in addition to the course on Dante’s Divine Comedy), one in the Renaissance, and two in Italian literature after 1600. The aim of these six foundation courses is to provide students with a broad acquaintance with the major works of Italy’s literary tradition and a more detailed knowledge of specific periods in Italian literature. Students are also strongly encouraged to use their elective courses to expand their knowledge of either the Trecento (fourteenth century) or the Cinquecento (sixteenth century). No more than three Italian department courses taught in English may count toward the major. Students intending to major in Italian should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

In completing their programs, students are required to elect two courses in other languages and literatures, history of art, history, or philosophy that are related to their field of study and approved by the director of undergraduate studies. Any graduate course in another national literature or in linguistics may be substituted for one of these two courses. Some knowledge of Latin is desirable.

Senior requirement In the fall or spring of the senior year, all students majoring in Italian must present a departmental essay written in Italian and completed under the direction of a faculty adviser in ITAL 491. The essay should demonstrate careful reading and research on a topic approved by the adviser in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. A recommended length for the essay is thirty pages. Prospectus and draft deadlines are determined by the adviser; the final deadline is determined by the director of undergraduate studies. The senior requirement culminates in a meeting with department faculty to discuss the thesis and the student’s overall experience of study in the major.

Related majors In addition to the major in Italian literature, the department supports the applications of qualified students who wish to pursue a course in Italian studies under the provisions of a Special Divisional Major. Majors can devise a broad program in social, political, economic, or intellectual history as related to and reflected in Italian literature, or pursue special interests in architecture, film, art, philosophy, music, history, linguistics, theater, political theory, or other fields especially well suited for examination from the perspective of Italian cultural history. Majors in Italian studies must design their programs in close consultation with the director of undergraduate studies and seek the guidance of an additional member of the department whose interests closely coincide with the proposed program of study. For further information, see under Special Divisional Majors.

The department’s course offerings vary greatly from year to year. Students interested in planning course work in Italian that extends beyond the current academic year should consult the director of undergraduate studies.

For information about the Year or Term Abroad program, see under “Special Arrangements” in the Academic Regulations.

Placement All students who have not taken Italian at Yale are expected to take the departmental placement test, with the exception of students who have no previous knowledge of Italian. The departmental placement examination will be given at the beginning of the fall term; see the Calendar for the Opening Days of College and the departmental Web site (http://italian.yale.edu/placement-test) for details.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisite ITAL 130 or equivalent

Number of courses 11 term courses beyond prereq (incl senior req)

Specific courses required ITAL 150 or 151; ITAL 310 or equivalent
Distribution of courses 8 term courses in Italian dept numbered 140 or above, incl 1 in Middle Ages (in addition to ITAL 310), 1 in Renaissance, and 2 in Italian lit after 1600, at least 5 of these conducted in Italian; 2 courses in other langs or lits, hist of art, hist, or phil approved by DUS

Substitution permitted Any grad course in another national lit or in ling for 1 of the 2 courses in other depts, with DUS permission

Senior requirement Senior essay (ITAL 491) and oral interview

Group A Courses

*ITAL 110a, Elementary Italian I  Carol Chiodo and staff
A beginning course with extensive practice in speaking, reading, writing, and listening and a thorough introduction to Italian grammar. Activities include group and pairs work, role-playing, and conversation. Introduction to Italian culture through readings and films. Conducted in Italian. Credit only on completion of ITAL 120.  L1  1½ Course cr

*ITAL 120a or b, Elementary Italian II  Carol Chiodo and staff
Continuation of ITAL 110.  L2  1½ Course cr

*ITAL 125b, Intensive Elementary Italian  Michael Farina and Carol Chiodo
An accelerated beginning course in Italian that covers in one term the material taught in ITAL 110 and 120. Admits to ITAL 130 or 145. Enrollment limited to 15.  L1, L2  2 Course cr

*ITAL 130a, Intermediate Italian I  Carol Chiodo and staff
The first half of a two-term sequence designed to increase students’ proficiency in the four language skills and advanced grammar concepts. Authentic readings paired with contemporary films. In-class group and pairs activities, role-playing, and conversation. Admits to ITAL 140. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: ITAL 120 or equivalent.  L3  1½ Course cr

*ITAL 140b, Intermediate Italian II  Carol Chiodo and staff
Continuation of ITAL 130. Emphasis on advanced discussion of Italian culture through authentic readings (short stories, poetry, and comic theater) and contemporary films. Admits to Group B courses. Conducted in Italian.  L4

*ITAL 145a or b, Intensive Intermediate Italian  Carol Chiodo and staff
An accelerated intermediate course in Italian that covers in one term the material taught in ITAL 130 and 140. Continued practice in the four basic skills begun at the elementary level. Emphasis on grammar review, vocabulary enrichment, and appreciation of literary texts. Admits to Group B courses. Enrollment limited to 15. Prerequisite: ITAL 120 or 125.  L3, L4  2 Course cr

Group B Courses

Group B courses have readings in Italian and are usually conducted in Italian. They are open to students who have passed ITAL 140 or 145 and to others with the consent of the director of undergraduate studies and the instructor.

ITAL 150a, Advanced Composition and Conversation  Carol Chiodo and staff
Discussion of social, political, and literary issues in order to improve active command of the language. Development of advanced reading skills through magazine and newspaper articles, essays, short stories, films, and a novel; enhancement of writing skills through experiments with reviews, essays, creative writing, and business and informal Italian. Classroom emphasis on advanced speaking skills and vocabulary building.  L5

*ITAL 151b, Advanced Italian Workshop: Writing and Translation  Michael Farina and Carol Chiodo
Development of advanced writing and speaking skills. Close readings and extensive practice writing in a variety of genres, which may include autobiography, biography, joke, letter, essay, poem, news article, comic strip, children’s book, and short story. Popular narrative genres such as the giallo and romanzo rosa. Creation and performance of short dramatic texts.  L5

*ITAL 153b, Theater Practicum: Pirandello  Monica Georgeo
An in-depth study of Pirandello’s Sei personaggi in cerca d’autore, culminating in a staged performance of the play in Italian. May be taken more than once for credit.  L5, HU

*ITAL 271b / HUMS 234b, Science and Creation in Italy, 1870–1929  Christiana Purdy Moudarres
The cultural legacy of Italy’s secular interregnum, from the pope’s loss of temporal power over Rome to Mussolini’s truce with the Vatican. Focus on the subjugation of the papacy amidst the rise of evolutionary thought, and alternatives to the Christian story of creation that this confluence inspired. The fascination in Italian culture of the period with the origin of the human species. Readings in Italian and English.

*ITAL 470a and ITAL 471b, Special Studies in Italian Literature  Christiana Purdy Moudarres
A series of tutorials to direct students in special interests and requirements. Students meet regularly with a faculty member.

*ITAL 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Christiana Purdy Moudarres
A research essay on a subject selected by the student in consultation with the faculty adviser.
Group C Courses

Group C courses are conducted in English and are open to students without previous study of Italian. Majors in Italian are required to read the material and write their papers in Italian.

*ITAL 269a, Italian Cinema  Francesco Rabissi
A survey of Italian film from 1945 to 2000, examined through the lens of Italian historical and social development and as artifacts of filmmaking techniques and directorial choices. From neorealism to the new Italian cinema, with an emphasis on how Italian culture is revealed and transformed by Rossellini, De Sica, Antonioni, Bertolucci, the Tavianis, Wertmüller, and others.  L5, HU

ITAL 310a / LITR 183a, Dante in Translation  Giuseppe Mazzotta and Christiana Purdy Moudarres
A critical reading of Dante’s *Divine Comedy* and selections from the minor works, with an attempt to place Dante’s work in the intellectual and social context of the late Middle Ages by relating literature to philosophical, theological, and political concerns. One discussion section conducted in Italian.  HU  Tr

*ITAL 314b / HUMS 263b / LITR 185b, Memory from Antiquity to Dante  Giuseppe Mazzotta and Eleonora Buonocore
The concept of memory as it was used in philosophical and literary texts from the Greco-Roman period to Dante. Medieval encyclopedic thought as an art of memory; the metaphor of memory in the formation of Italian vernacular literature; relations between memory and forgetfulness; memory as the basis for literature and for knowledge in general.  HU  Tr

*ITAL 317b / HUMS 210b / LITR 180b / RLST 335b / WGSS 317b, Women in the Middle Ages  Christiana Purdy Moudarres
Medieval understandings of womanhood examined through analysis of writings by and/or about women, from antiquity through the Middle Ages. Introduction to the premodern Western canon and assessment of the role that women played in its construction.  Tr

*ITAL 324b / AMST 396b / FILM 458b, Italian American Literature and Film  Millicent Marcus and Taylor Papallo
An exploration of the lives of Italian Americans as depicted in a series of literary texts and films of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics include questions of identity, multiculturalism, stereotypes, the experiences of Italian American women, and the complex relationship between new world and motherland.  HU  Tr