

An interdepartmental program

## Italian Studies

Courses of Study:  
Minor  
Major (B.A.)

### Objectives

Italian studies provides an interdisciplinary major and a minor for those who wish to extend their study of Italian beyond language and culture to areas of Italian literature, history, film, art history, and music. The study of Italian within a variety of cultural contexts enables students to deepen their understanding of a national heritage beyond the boundaries of a single time frame, region, gender, genre, or academic discipline. Students are encouraged to study abroad in their junior year and to take advantage of resources within the Boston Area Consortium (Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College).

### How to Become a Major or Minor

Students in the major and the minor work closely with an advisor to develop an individualized plan of study that balances the exploration of a broad range of topics and sectors with a focus on a single discipline or cultural period.

### Committee

**Richard Lansing, Chair and Undergraduate Advising Head**

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

**William Kapelle**

(History)

**Alice Kelikian**

(History)

**James Mandrell**

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

**Charles McClendon**

(Fine Arts)

**Jessie Ann Owens**

(Music)

**Benjamin Ravid**

(Near Eastern and Judaic Studies)

**Paola Servino**

(Romance and Comparative Literature)

### Faculty

See Romance and Comparative Literature.

### Requirements for the Major

The major in Italian Studies consists of a minimum of nine semester courses, including the completion of one advanced language course, three literature courses, four courses from the related disciplines, and completion of the senior option. Students seeking honors will take a minimum of ten courses, configured as follows.

**A.** At least one advanced language course: ITAL 105a or ITAL 106a

**B.** Three literature courses: ITAL 110a, ITAL 120 b, IECS 135a, IECS 140a, IECS 150a, COML 103b

**C.** Any four of the following courses relating to Italian culture, or other courses approved by the student's advisor:

FA 45a	St. Peter's and the Vatican
FA 51a	Art of the Early Renaissance in Italy
FA 58b	High and Late Renaissance in Italy
FA 60a	Baroque in Italy and Spain
FA 197b	Methods and Approaches in the History of Art: Leonardo da Vinci
HIST 123a	The Renaissance
HIST 129b	Science and Religion: The Trial of Galileo
HIST 138b	Industrialization and Social Change: 1900 to the Present*
HIST 139a	Women, Work, and Family*
HIST 139b	Fascism East and West*
HIST 176b	Modern Italy 1848-1990
NEJS 151b	Merchants, Moneylenders, and Ghetti of Venice

**D.** Concentrators must complete either ITAL 97 (senior essay) or ITAL 99 (senior thesis) in their senior year, or an equivalent course or courses in a cognate department which results in the writing of a senior essay or senior thesis on a subject relating to Italy.

**E.** Students are strongly encouraged to study abroad during their junior year, for either one or two semesters. Equivalent or appropriate courses taken abroad may count towards the concentration. Students who are unable to engage in study abroad are encouraged to avail themselves of relevant courses offered by Consortium institutions in the Boston area (principally Wellesley College, Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University).

### Requirements for the Minor

A minor in Italian studies consists of the five semester courses:

**A.** An advanced language course: ITAL 105a or ITAL 106a

**B.** A literature course: ITAL 110a, ITAL 120 b, IECS 135a, or IECS 140a

**C.** Any two of the Italian-related courses listed in C above, or other courses approved by the student's advisor.

**D.** Any elective course from the listings in A, B, or C.

## Courses of Instruction

### (1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

#### ITAL 10a Beginning Italian

*Enrollment limited to 20 per section. Students who have previously studied Italian must obtain permission of the instructor before enrolling.*

For students who have had no previous study of Italian. A systematic presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Italian culture, with focus on all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Usually offered every year.

Staff

#### ITAL 20b Continuing Italian

*Prerequisite: ITAL 10a or the equivalent. Enrollment limited to 20 per section.*

For students with some previous study of Italian. Continuing presentation of the basic grammar and vocabulary of the language within the context of Italian culture, and practice of the four language skills. Special attention to reading and writing skills, as well as guided conversation. Usually offered every year.

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#### ITAL 30a Intermediate Italian

[ fl ]

*Prerequisite: ITAL 20b or the equivalent. Enrollment limited to 20 per section.*

Readings in contemporary Italian short stories, newspaper, and journal articles and short essays of cultural interest will be supplemented by video presentations (opera, film, "filmati," and "telegiornale" from RAI) designed to enhance oral comprehension. Typical themes include social conflicts (Fascism, the problem of the "Mezzogiorno") and cultural phenomena (feminism, art, geography). Review of grammar, written exercises, and short compositions. Usually offered every fall.

Ms. Servino

#### ITAL 97a Senior Essay

*Signatures of the instructor and the undergraduate advising head required. Students should consult the undergraduate advising head before enrolling. May not be taken for credit by students who have satisfactorily completed ITAL 97b.*

Offers students an opportunity to produce a senior essay under the direction of an individual instructor. Usually offered every fall.

Staff

#### ITAL 97b Senior Essay

*Signatures of the instructor and the undergraduate advising head required. Students should consult the undergraduate advising head before enrolling. May not be taken for credit by students who have satisfactorily completed ITAL 97a.*

Offers students an opportunity to produce a senior essay under the direction of an individual instructor. Usually offered every spring.

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#### ITAL 98a Independent Study

*May be taken only with the written permission of the advising head and the chair of the department. Signatures of the instructor and the chair of the department required.*

Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Usually offered every year.

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#### ITAL 98b Independent Study

*May be taken only with the written permission of the advising head and the chair of the department. Signatures of the instructor and the chair of the department required.*

Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Usually offered every year.

Staff

#### ITAL 99d Senior Thesis

*Signatures of the instructor and the undergraduate advising head required. Students should consult the undergraduate advising head before enrolling.*

Usually offered every year.

Staff

### (100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

#### ITAL 105a Italian Conversation and Composition

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent.*

Provides students with an opportunity to develop their oral and written proficiency in Italian, while familiarizing themselves with different facets of contemporary Italian culture and society. Readings will be supplemented by films and recordings.

Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.

Ms. Servino

#### ITAL 106a Advanced Readings in Italian

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent. Enrollment limited to 18.*

Close study and analysis of representative works of Italian literature (prose, poetry, drama) and culture (art, history, music, cinema, politics) designed to enhance the student's reading skills. Three hours per week. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the fall of 2002.

Mr. Lansing

#### ITAL 110a Introduction to Italian Literature

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent.*

Surveys the masterpieces of Italian literature from Dante to the present. It is designed to introduce the student to the major authors and literary periods, styles, and genres and present an overview of the history of the literature. Conducted in Italian. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2001.

Mr. Lansing

#### ITAL 120b Modern Italian Literature

[ fl hum ]

*Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent.*

Analysis of major works by Svevo, Pirandello, Moravia, Silone, Lampedusa, Pavese, Primo Levi, Montale, and Vittorini with respect to the political, economic, and social problems of post-Risorgimento Italy. Conducted in Italian. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the spring of 2002.

Mr. Lansing

#### IECS 135a Shifting Grounds: Social Change in Italian Fiction and Film

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.*

Charts various aspects of social change in Italian society and culture through close readings and discussions of literary and cinematic texts by Manzoni, Verga, Pirandello, Silone, Morante, Calvino, Rossellini, de Sica, Fellini, Pasolini, and Bertolucci, among others. Usually offered every third year. Last offered in the spring of 1999.

Mr. Mandrell

#### IECS 140a Dante's Divine Comedy

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.*

A close study of the entire poem—Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso—as a symbolic vision of reality reflecting the culture and thought—political, philosophical, theological—of the Middle Ages. Readings will include two minor works, the Vita Nuova and World Government. Usually offered every second year. Last offered in the fall of 2001.

Mr. Lansing

#### IECS 150a Jewish Identity and Italian Culture

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*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.*

Aims to discuss Jewish identity in contemporary Italian culture and provide an overview of the formation and transformation of the Jewish Italian community. Students read prose, poetry, essays, and articles, as well as view films that address issues of religious and national identity. Authors include Giorgio Bassani, Primo Levi, Rosetta Loy, among others. Special one-time offering. Was offered in the spring of 2003.

Mr. Parussa

**Electives****FA 45a**

St. Peter's and the Vatican

**FA 51a**

Art of the Early Renaissance in Italy

**FA 58b**

High and Late Renaissance in Italy

**FA 60a**

Baroque in Italy and Spain

**FA 197b**

Methods and Approaches in the History of Art: Leonardo da Vinci

**HIST 123a**

The Renaissance

**HIST 129b**

Science and Religion: The Trial of Galileo

**HIST 138b**

Industrialization and Social Change: 1900 to the Present \*

**HIST 139a**

Women, Gender, and Family

**HIST 139b**

Fascism East and West

**HIST 176b**

Modern Italy 1848-1990

**MUS 52a**

Opera

**NEJS 151b**

Merchants, Moneylenders, and Ghetti of Venice

## Japanese

**Faculty****Hiroko Sekino**

(German, Russian, and East Asian Languages and Literature)

**Courses of Instruction****(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students****JAPN 10a Beginning Japanese***Enrollment limited to 20. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*Intended for students with no previous knowledge and minimal background. Offers intensive training in the basics of Japanese language. Usually offered every fall. Will be offered in the fall of 2003  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 20b Continuing Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 10a. Enrollment limited to 20. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*Continuation of JAPN 10a. Usually offered every spring.  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 30a Intermediate Japanese**

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*Prerequisite: JAPN 20b. Enrollment limited to 20. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*A continuation of JAPN 20b. Development of skills in speaking, reading, and writing, including the writing of short essays. Usually offered every fall. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 40b Advanced Intermediate Japanese**

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*Prerequisite: JAPN 30a. Enrollment limited to 20. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*A continuation of JAPN 30a. Usually offered every spring.  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 98a Readings in Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 40b or equivalent.**Signature of the instructor required.* Usually offered every year.  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 98b Readings in Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 40b or equivalent.**Signature of the instructor required.* Usually offered every year.  
Ms. Sekino**(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students****JAPN 105a Advanced Conversation and Composition I**

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*Prerequisite: JAPN 40b or the equivalent. Enrollment is limited to 20.*This course aims to develop students' proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking through reading and discussion of Japanese texts on various topics. Speaking and listening skills will be developed through audiotapes, guided conversation, discussion of texts, and oral presentation. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the fall of 2003.  
Ms. Sekino**JAPN 105b Advanced Conversation and Composition II**

[ hum ]

*Signature of the instructor required.* A continuation of JAPN 105a. Usually offered every year. Will be offered in the spring of 2004.  
Ms. Sekino