

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.

## How to Fulfill the Language Requirement

The foreign language requirement is met by successful completion of a third semester course (numbered in the 30s) in the language program.

## How to Choose a Course at Your Level

To choose the appropriate course, you need to take a placement exam. It is a self-graded exam that you can access online at [www.brandeis.edu/registrar/italtest.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/italtest.html). After finishing the exam, choose the course that seems to best fit your needs and then complete a questionnaire online. A faculty member will contact you to discuss the courses that you have chosen.

If you have a score of 620 or above on the Italian SAT II, or a score of 4 or 5 on the Italian AP exam, these scores will automatically fulfill the language requirement, and you are eligible to enroll in 100-level courses.

## 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 120b, 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  
HIST 129b  
HIST 138b

HIST 139a  
HIST 139b  
HIST 170a  
HIST 176b  
MUS 52a  
NEJS 151b

The Renaissance  
Science and Religion: The Trial of Galileo  
Industrialization and Social Change: 1900 to the Present  
Women, Work, and Family  
Fascism East and West  
Italian Films, Italian Histories  
Modern Italy 1848-1990  
Opera  
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 120b, IECS 135a, or IECS 140a

**C.** Any two of the Italian-related culture 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.

## Special Notes Relating to Undergraduates

Students may take two 30-level Italian courses for credit with permission of the director of language programs.

## Courses of Instruction

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

#### ITAL 10a Beginning Italian

*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.*

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.

Staff

#### ITAL 30a Intermediate Italian

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*Prerequisite: ITAL 20b or the equivalent.*

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 includes written exercises and short compositions. Usually offered every fall.

Staff

#### ITAL 97a Senior Essay

*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

*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.*

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.*

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

Staff

#### ITAL 99d Senior Thesis

*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

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*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.

Ms. Servino

#### ITAL 106a Advanced Readings in Italian

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*Prerequisite: ITAL 30a or the equivalent.*

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. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Lansing

#### ITAL 110a Introduction to Italian Literature

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*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.

Mr. Lansing

#### ITAL 120b Modern Italian Literature

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*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.

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.

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.

Mr. Lansing

**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

**HIST 123a**

The Renaissance

**HIST 139b**

Fascism East and West

**HIST 170a**

Italian Films, Italian Histories

**IECS 135a**

Shifting Grounds: Social Change in Italian Fiction and Film

**IECS 140a**

Dante's Divine Comedy

**MUS 52a**

Opera

**NEJS 151b**

Ghettos, Gondolas, and Gelato: The Italian Jewish Experience

## Japanese

**Faculty****Hiroko Sekino**

(German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literature)

**Courses of Instruction****(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students****JAPN 10a Beginning Japanese***Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*

Intended for students with no previous knowledge or minimal background. Offers intensive training in basics of Japanese language in all four skill areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Usually offered every fall.

Ms. Sekino

**JAPN 20b Continuing Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 10a or the equivalent. 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 or the equivalent. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*

Continuation of JAPN 20b. Further development of skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Assignments include writing of short essays. Usually offered every fall.

Ms. Sekino

**JAPN 40b Advanced Intermediate Japanese**

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*Prerequisite: JAPN 30a or the equivalent. Meets five days per week for a total of five class hours per week.*

Continuation of JAPN 30a. Usually offered every spring.

Ms. Sekino

**JAPN 98a Readings in Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 40b or the equivalent.* Usually offered every year.

Ms. Sekino

**JAPN 98b Readings in Japanese***Prerequisite: JAPN 40b or the equivalent.* 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.*

This course aims to develop students' proficiency in writing, reading, and speaking through reading and discussion of Japanese texts on various topics of relevance. Listening and speaking skills are reinforced through audio, video, guided conversation, discussion of texts, and oral presentation. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Sekino