

Italian

Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Italian
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Overview

Italian is spoken by more than 60 million people, mainly in Italy but also in Switzerland where it is one of the four official languages (Canton Ticino). Italian is also spoken by the large Italian communities in the United States, Canada, Germany, Australia, and South America (specifically in Argentina and in the south of Brazil where almost half of the population is of Italian origin). Our program develops an appreciation of world cultures through the study of language, literature, and film.

Students who study Italian at the advanced level acquire language proficiency, explore various aspects of Italian culture, and obtain knowledge of Italian literature.

About our Degrees

The objectives of the Italian program are to develop students' proficiency in the use of the language, to familiarize them with the history of Italian literature, and to train them in the reading, interpretation, and appreciation of the country's literary masterpieces.

Acceptance Information

Applications to the major and minor are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are available at the department office or on the RLL website.

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the following prerequisite courses: [ITA 101](#), [ITA 102](#), [ITA 151](#), [ITA 152](#).

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

The typical class size for:

Freshman/introductory level courses is: 24
Sophomore/intermediate courses is: 24
Upper level/advanced courses is: 20

In the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, what do teaching assistants (TAs) do?

TAs generally teach introductory-level courses.

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

Classes in the Italian program are small, and are taught by faculty with recognized commitment to teaching. One faculty member has received the Milton Plesur Award for Excellence in Teaching.

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Academic Requirements

Students who choose to major in Italian take eight courses at the 300-400 level, including [ITA 321](#) and [ITA 322](#).

The department strongly encourages Italian majors to study art history, music, history, English, classics, and women's studies.

Extracurricular Activities

There are many opportunities to participate in out-of-class enrichment activities through the RLL department, including conversation groups and lectures. The Italian Department Club sponsors rewarding cultural events such as a film night. The club has received several UB Student Association awards.

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Undergraduate Research and Practical Experience

SUNY offers study abroad programs in Florence, Rome, and Venice. See [Study Abroad Programs](#).

Students wishing to satisfy the requirements for teacher certification should plan their programs with particular care in order to accommodate the required semester of the professional sequence during their senior year. For certification requirements, students should contact the Teacher Education Institute, Graduate School of Education, 367 Baldy Hall.

Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

Departmental Honors are awarded to graduating students based on GPA.

Career Information and Further Study

Students in Italian find a number of career opportunities open to them. Among graduates in the past decade, a small number have gone on to do graduate work, some have gone on to law school, and others have found positions in public service and secondary education. Whatever career appeals to graduating students, fluency in Italian will assuredly be an advantage.

Some careers our graduates have pursued include:

- Anthropological linguist
- Diplomat
- Foreign service officer
- Foreign student advisor
- Immigration inspector
- International relations specialist
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Public relations specialist
- Social worker
- Teacher
- Translator

Degree Options

The major program leads to a B.A. in Italian. The Italian program also offers a four-course minor.

Students frequently combine a program in Italian with concentrations in other humanities programs, such as another language or history. Others concentrate in unrelated fields, such as management or science. Requirements for Italian as part of a joint major include acceptance as an Italian major and completion of five courses at the 300-400 level.

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Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: BA, Minor

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Department of Romance Languages and Literatures](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Italian - B.A.

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.

Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the prerequisite courses.

Advising Notes

[ITA 152](#) or its equivalent is required for admission into the major.

Students are advised to learn a second foreign language and to take electives in such relevant fields as art, history, music, and philosophy. Electives may also be used to arrange joint or double-major programs.

Prerequisite Courses

[ITA 101](#) Elementary Italian 1st Semester*

[ITA 102](#) Elementary Italian 2nd Semester*

[ITA 151](#) Intermediate Italian 1st Semester*

[ITA 152](#) Intermediate Italian 2nd Semester*

Required Courses

[ITA 321](#) Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition, and Conversation I

[ITA 322](#) Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition, and Conversation II

Six additional 400-level electives

Summary

Total required credit hours for the major...24

See [Baccalaureate Degree Requirements](#) for general education and remaining university requirements.

Recommended Sequence of Program Requirements

FIRST YEAR

Fall [ITA 101](#)

Spring [ITA 102](#)

SECOND YEAR

Fall [ITA 151](#)

Spring [ITA 152](#)

THIRD YEAR

Fall [ITA 321](#), one 400-level course

Spring [ITA 322](#), one 400-level course

FOURTH YEAR

Fall Two 400-level courses

Spring Two 400-level courses

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Italian - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 overall.
Minimum GPA of 2.5 in the prerequisite courses.

Prerequisite Courses

[ITA 101](#) Elementary Italian 1st Semester
[ITA 102](#) Elementary Italian 2nd Semester
[ITA 151](#) Intermediate Italian 1st Semester
[ITA 152](#) Intermediate Italian 2nd Semester

Required Courses

[ITA 321](#) Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition & Conversation I
[ITA 322](#) Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition & Conversation II
Two 400-level ITA courses

Summary

Total required credit hours for the minor...12

ITA 101: Elementary Italian 1st Semester

Credits: 5
Semester(s): Fall, Summer
Type: LEC

Involves work on basic structure and vocabulary emphasizing the language as spoken and heard, and developing skills of reading and writing.

ITA 102: Elementary Italian 2nd Semester

Credits: 5
Semester(s): Spring, Summer
Pre-requisites: [ITA 101](#)
Type: LEC

Involves work on basic structure and vocabulary emphasizing the language as spoken and heard, and developing skills of reading and writing.

ITA 106: Italian for Spanish Speakers

Credits: 5
Type: LEC

An innovative course that seeks to teach the Italian language to speakers of Spanish, a Romance language that shares with Italian similar grammatical and syntactical structures. Enables Spanish native speakers, or advanced students of Spanish, to acquire an intermediate-level mastery of the following four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who have completed [ITA 101](#) and/or [ITA 102](#) should not register for [ITA 106](#) as no credit will be given for duplicate courses.

ITA 151: Intermediate Italian 1st Semester

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Fall, Summer
Type: LEC

Studies grammar and pronunciation centered on conversation, and works on vocabulary expansion through literary and nonliterary readings. Previously [ITA 203](#).

ITA 152: Intermediate Italian 2nd Semester

Credits: 3
Semester(s): Spring, Summer
Pre-requisites: [ITA 151](#)
Type: LEC

For students who wish to enter the Italian major program. Involves advanced-level Italian; emphasizes grammatical and critical readings. Previously [ITA 206](#).

ITA 321: Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition and Conversation I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves reading and discussion of excerpts from Italian writers, and introduces the main personalities and works representing Italian civilization.

ITA 322: Advanced Italian Grammar, Composition, and Conversation II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves reading and discussion of excerpts from modern Italian writers, and introduces the main personalities and works

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representing Italian civilization.

ITA 382: Introduction to Second Language Acquisition Theory

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Explores the factors that affect learning a second language (e.g., age, native language, environment, goals, and learner strategies, and outlines the succession of theories about how people acquire a second language.

ITA 401: Directed Reading

Credits: 3-6
Semester(s): Fall
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

The student chooses several literary works he or she is interested in and studies them under the guidance of the professor.

ITA 402: Directed Reading

Credits: 3-6
Semester(s): Spring
Type: LEC

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

The student chooses several literary works he or she is interested in and studies them under the guidance of the professor.

ITA 403: The Works of Dante

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Considers medieval literature in Provence and France, including the works of Dante, beginning with Vita Nuova through the Divine Comedy. Explores the main personalities and works representing Italian civilization.

ITA 404: The Works of Dante

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Considers medieval literature in Provence and France, including the works of Dante, beginning with Vita Nuova through the Divine Comedy. Explores the main personalities and works representing Italian civilization.

ITA 405: Twentieth-Century Italian Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines modern literature of Italy starting with such nineteenth-century forerunners as Verga, Pascoli, D'Annunzio.

Pays particular attention to the fascist regime, its rise and fall, World War II, and the neocapitalist society of the last two decades.

ITA 411: Petrarch and Boccaccio

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Presents selected readings of the masterworks of Giovanni Boccaccio and Francesco Petrarca, with attention to the authors who influenced their work and authors who were subsequently influenced by these two crowns of Italian literature.

ITA 412: Literature of the Trecento and Renaissance

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Presents selected readings and analyses, from Petrarch and early Italian poets, as well as Boccaccio and early Italian novelists. Investigates the spirit of the Renaissance; including its poetry, epic prose, and pastoral romance versus the social writings of Machiavelli, Castiglione, and Guicciardini.

ITA 413: Italian Theatre

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies the history of Italian theatre; including Machiavelli, Commedia dell' Arte, Goldoni, Alfieri, D'Annunzio, Pirandello, and others.

ITA 415: Modern Novel from Manzoni to the Present

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Involves a study of Manzoni's masterpiece and subsequent monuments of Italian fiction. Surveys famous novels dealing with industrialization, alienation, and experimentalism.

ITA 417: Twentieth-Century Italian Poets

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies Italy's poets from the turn of the century through two world wars.

ITA 418: The Works of Pirandello

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Examines Pirandello's short stories, two novels, and six plays, and analyzes their social, psychological, and metaphysical questions.

ITA 422: Modern Italian Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

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Surveys poetry, prose fiction, and theatre from Leopardi and Manzoni to the present.

ITA 424: Twentieth-Century Italian Theatre

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Investigates twentieth-century Italian theatre, from Pirandello to the present, with special attention given to dramatic theories by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, Antonin Artaud, Bertolt Brecht, Luigi Pirandello, and others.

ITA 425: Italian Novella

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Considers the short story through seven centuries; presents representative examples from Boccaccio to the present.

ITA 426: Masterpieces of Early Italian Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies provincial and early Italian lyric poetry, including Guinizelli, Cavalcanti, Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio, as well as Italian prose selections of the same period.

ITA 427: Masterpieces of Modern Italian Literature

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Studies Italian literature from Ariosto to Calvino.

ITA 429: Italian Cinema I

Credits: 1
Type: LAB

Examines contemporary Italian society mirrored in the movies, especially Italian film from the 1930s, or fascist era, to the present.

ITA 430: Italian Directors

Credits: 1
Type: LAB

Involves the study of postwar Italian film. Focuses on directors such as Fellini, Antonioni, Rossellini, Visconti, Bertolucci, and Pasolini.

ITA 444: Italian Renaissance Drama

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Explores the social, political, and aesthetic role played by the theatre of the Italian Renaissance with attention to the role of comedy, the influence of Humanism, the development of secular

drama, the reawakening of classic texts, and the ways in which drama reflected and influenced Renaissance society. Studies the influence of Italian Renaissance drama on world theatre, with particular attention to the roots of Italian theatre within the evolution of William Shakespeare's works.

ITA 498: Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

Credits: 1-6
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students collaborate with faculty research mentors on an ongoing faculty research project or conduct independent research under the guidance of a faculty member.

ITA 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-12
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Students who have demonstrated the ability to perform upper-level coursework may wish to research a topic not available through regular course offerings. Requires permission of a supervising faculty member.