Courses

Fall 2016 – Italian Course Descriptions

Please note:
Under-enrolled sections (fewer than six students) of language classes (levels 1-22) may be cancelled during the first two weeks of the semester.

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**Italian 0001 – Elementary Italian 1**

A – Block A – Elena Paolini  
B – Block D – Cristina Pausini  
D – Block J – Patricia Di Silvio

Development of basic language skills. Introduction to Italian culture and fundamental grammar structures with emphasis on speaking, listening comprehension, and short writing assignments. Conducted in Italian. No prerequisites.

**Texts:**  

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**Italian 0002 – Elementary Italian 2**

A – Block F – Patricia Di Silvio  
B – Block F – Isabella Perricone

A continuation of Italian 001. This course advances the study of basic grammar and vocabulary. Readings and films will provide the cultural context for class activities, oral presentations, and compositions. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 001 or consent.

**Texts:**  

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**Italian 0003 – Intermediate Italian 1**

A – Block C – Carmen Merolla  
B – Block C – Elena Paolini  
C – Block H – Isabella Perricone
Continued study of grammar and syntax with emphasis on more advanced structural principles. More extensive readings on cultural, social, and literary topics and the viewing of an epic film in episodes will form the basis for class discussions and activities. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 002 or consent. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group.

**Texts:**
- **Recommended:** Garzanti, Dizionari I Garzantini Inglese Hazon (ISBN: 9788848006286)

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**Italian 0004 – Intermediate Italian 2**

A – Block B – Carmen Merolla

Review of grammar and syntax with emphasis on more advanced structural principles. The reading of a novel in Italian as well as other selected texts, and the viewing of four films on contemporary Italian history and society will form the basis for class discussion and activities. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 003 or consent.

**Texts:**
- **Recommended:** Garzanti, Dizionari I Garzantini Inglese Hazon (ISBN: 9788848006286)

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**Italian 0021 – Composition and Conversation 1**

A – Block J – Cristina Pausini

An introduction to contemporary Italian culture, history, and society. Specific topics of current interest (immigration, youth and women’s voices, and the national character) will also be studied through films, narrative, and the integral reading of a novel. Emphasis on expanding vocabulary, reviewing advanced grammatical structures, improving and refining analytical, interpretive, and presentational skills. Class discussions, oral presentations, writing assignments, three tests, and a final paper. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 004 or equivalent, or consent.

Abbona-Borra-Pausini, Trame, A Contemporary Italian Reader (YUP), ISBN 9780300124958; Carofiglio, Ad occhi chiusi (Sellerio), ISBN 9788838919053; Mezzadri, Grammatica essenziale della lingua italiana con esercizi (Guerra), ISBN 9788877154545

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**Italian 0032 – Readings in Italian Literature 1I**

Block I+ – Laura Baffoni-Licata

An introduction to Italian Literature from the eighteenth century to the present, with emphasis on significant literary currents. Texts by representative authors of different genres will be examined. The course is intended to improve analytical skills and strengthen oral and written critical expression. Two short papers, oral presentations, two exams, and one final research paper. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 21 or 22, or consent.
Counts towards the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, the Italian Culture Option, the Distribution Requirements for Humanities, and the International Relations Culture Core Requirement (TC1A).


Texts available at Schoenhoff's Bookstore, Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

*Reading Packet – Available at Gnomon Copy, Boston Ave., Medford*

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**Italian 0051 – Dante’s Inferno** (in English)

Block D+ – Vincent Pollina

Reading in prose translation (with facing Italian text), we shall follow Dante's voyage through the eternal kingdom of the damned. Major themes include the interplay of human time and cosmic time; of freedom and character; of history, ethics, and politics. We shall also see how such artists as Giovanni di Paolo, Botticelli, Blake, Flaxman, and Doré have rendered Dante's experiences visually. Class discussions; three exams. Occasional outside readings, including Dante's *Vita Nuova*, the tale of his new life in love. Counts toward the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, the Italian Culture Option, and the Interdisciplinary Minor in Medieval Studies; fulfills the Related Field requirement in the French major, and the Humanities or the Social Science requirement for Engineers.


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**Italian 0091 – First Year Seminar: The Greatest Seduction: Italy's Beauty, Genius, and Madness** (in English)

Block F+ – Carmen Merolla

Italy's cuisine, art, design, and even its organized crime system have seduced people around the world, and have had a profound influence in defining Italy's national identity, economy, and social patterns. From ancient traditions to present-day Italian practices, we will analyze how Italy transformed its innate love of beauty and food into global economic powerhouses. We will also explore the deep and lasting impact the Mafia has had on these industries and the country at large. Class discussions, oral presentations, reading and writing assignments, three tests, and a final research paper. Conducted in English. Counts toward the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, the Italian Culture Option; satisfies the Humanities distribution requirement.


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**Italian 0170 – Political Ideology in the Italian Literary Tradition**
Political ideology and patriotism emerge through the centuries as two of the most recurring and heart-felt themes in Italian literature. Although Italy was one of the last European countries to be politically unified in modern times, all through its history, some of its greatest writers have expressed deep political convictions, love of country over regional interests, and a desire to influence their compatriots toward a higher goal of a nation free of the dominations of foreign powers. The course will examine, through an in-depth analysis of the texts, the power of literary and political thoughts of several masters such as Dante, Machiavelli, Guicciardini, Alfieri, Mazzini, Beccaria, Manzoni, and Gramsci, amongst others, as it motivated the Italian people towards a national identity.

Counts toward the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, and the Italian Culture Option; satisfies the Distribution Requirement for Humanities and counts also for selected IR Requirements (TC1A). Cross-listed with HIST 0176


Texts available at *Schoenhoff's Bookstore*, Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge.

*Reading Packet* – Available at *Gnomon Copy*, Boston Ave., Medford.