Italian Course Descriptions
Fall 2017

Italian 0001-Elementary Italian 1
A-Block A – Carmen Merolla C-Block G – Patricia Di Silvio
B-Block C – Carmen Merolla D-Block N – Cristina Pausini

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.

Italian 0003-Intermediate Italian 1
A-Block D – Cristina Pausini B-Block E – Patricia Di Silvio

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.

Italian 0004-Intermediate Italian 2
A-Block F – 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. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a 60-minute Skype project every two weeks.

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. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a 60-minute Skype project every two weeks.

Italian 0032-Readings in Italian Literature II
A – Block G+ - 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).
Italian 0051 – Dante’s Inferno (in English)

A – 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.


Italian 0121 – Advanced Italian Language I-- Italian Women’s Voices and Images

A – Block I+ - Laura Baffoni-Licata

Through an in-depth analysis of written and spoken Italian, the course will focus on the study of the language with emphasis on idiomatic usage and styles of expression. Review of grammatical difficulties. Intensive exercises aimed at building vocabulary. Through the reading of literary texts and articles, we will focus on Italian Women’s Voices and Images. Two short papers, two exams, oral presentations, and a final project. Active class participation is essential. Counts toward the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, the Italian Culture Option, and satisfies the International Relations Culture Core Requirement (TC1A) and the Distribution Requirement for Humanities. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisites: Italian 021 and 022, or consent.

Italian 0177 – 20th Century Italian Poetry

A – Block M+ - Laura Baffoni-Licata

The course traces the evolution of Italian Poetry through the 20th century. Special emphasis is on the poetic work by Pascoli, D’Annunzio, Ungaretti, Montale, Quasimodo, Sereni, Luzi and P. Levi. The poetic text is examined from a historical, philosophical, literary angle. The philosophical approach is mainly on Existentialism, with its recurrent themes of human isolation, loneliness and search for identity. The literary interpretation emphasizes the dominant currents: the Decadent movement, Symbolism, Hermetic movement and the New Avant-garde. Through linguistic and thematic analysis, students are encouraged to develop their own critical voice and creative response to the text. Counts toward the Major in Italian Studies, the Minor in Italian, the Italian Culture Option, and satisfies the International Relations Culture Core Requirement (TC1A) and the Distribution Requirement for Humanities. Conducted in Italian. Prerequisites: Italian 31 and 32 or instructor's consent.