Italian Course Descriptions: 2015/2016

ex: 101 = course NOT being offered (*plain text*)
ex: **101** = course being offered (**bold & underline**)  
◊ = counts toward on-campus requirement for **MINOR** only  
♦ = counts toward on campus requirement for **MAJOR** and **MINOR**

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ITAL 101, 102, 103: First-Year Italian - Various
Introduction to Italian stressing speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Sequence. ↑

ITAL 104, 105: Intensive First-Year Italian - Various
Covers in two terms the work of ITAL 101, 102, 103. Cannot be taken in any combination with ITAL 101, 102, 103 to total more than 15 credits of first-year Italian. ↑

ITAL 150: Cultural Legacies of Italy - Hester
Italy’s contributions to world cultures includes topics such as modern Italian life, Italians in America, Italian cinema and its influence, the Italian Renaissance, Roman art, opera. Course taught in English. ↑

ITAL 201, 202, 203: Second-Year Italian - Various

ITAL 301: Cultura e lingua: l’Italia contemporanea - Ceccacci
Develop advanced language skills through a study of contemporary Italy focusing on the transformation of Italian cities due to the changing economy, immigration and emigration. ↑

ITAL 307: Oral Skills (2 credits) - Antonelli
Practice in improving listening, comprehension, and oral skills in Italian. Communicative activities in class in addition to language laboratory work. Prereq: ITAL 203. ↑

ITAL 319: Italian Survey: 19th and 20th Centuries - De Renzo
Representative literary works from the 19th and 20th centuries with attention to literary analysis and literary history. Conducted in Italian. ↑

ITAL 320: Intensive Italian Grammar Review - Antonelli
Bridges second- and third-year culture and literature courses. Provides review, synthesis, consolidation, and elaboration of linguistic knowledge gained from lower-division courses. ↑

ITAL 449/549: Court Culture - Hester
Sixteenth-century Italy comprised a collection of city-states, each with its own cultural and political agendas. Of what consisted a prestigious court, and what did it take to be a successful courtier or courtly woman? In this course we will consider what was at stake for members of Renaissance courts by examining representations, both critical and idealized, of such courts. Our readings will provide insights into the literary, linguistic, cultural, and political concerns of the time, and how these concerns were...
framed and addressed. In particular, we will examine notions of self-fashioning and performativity in a courtly context. Primary readings will be drawn from Pietro Aretino’s satirical play, La Cortigiana, and “how-to” books including Baldesar Castiglione’s Book of the Courtier, Giovanni della Casa’s Il Galateo, and Machiavelli’s The Prince. **M.A. Period 2.**

**WINTER 2016**

**ITAL 101, 102, 103: First-Year Italian- Various**  
Introduction to Italian stressing speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Sequence. ↑

**ITAL 104, 105: Intensive First-Year Italian- Various**  
Covers in two terms the work of ITAL 101, 102, 103. Cannot be taken in any combination with ITAL 101, 102, 103 to total more than 15 credits of first-year Italian. ↑

**ITAL 201, 202, 203: Second-Year Italian- Various**  

**ITAL 303: Cultura e lingua: società, economia, politica- Ventura**  
Analysis of Italian society, its economy and politics from 1950 to present. Readings of short stories and magazine articles, viewing of films. Vocabulary enrichment activities and grammar review. ↑

**ITAL 307: Oral Skills (2 credits)- Antonelli**  
Practice in improving listening, comprehension, and oral skills in Italian. Communicative activities in class in addition to language laboratory work. Prereq: ITAL 203. ↑

**ITAL 317: Medieval and Renaissance- Hester**  
Introduction to major themes and ideas in Italian literature and art from the medieval and Renaissance periods. ↑

**ITAL 320: Intensive Italian Grammar Review- Antonelli**  
Bridges second- and third-year culture and literature courses. Provides review, synthesis, consolidation, and elaboration of linguistic knowledge gained from lower-division courses. ↑

**ITAL 441/541: Dante’s Divine Comedy- Psaki**  
La Divina Commedia di Dante è un paradosso: molto presente nella cultura moderna (tutti la “conoscono”) e molto astratta (non la si legge né volentieri né abbastanza). Soprattutto nella cultura anglofonica il poema di Dante è stato—e rimane tuttora—eccezionalmente influente. Si tratta allo stesso tempo di una sintesi della cultura medievale, di un elemento di base per la cultura moderna, e di un’opera di un intelletto unico e alquanto difficile. In questo corso leggeremo la Commedia tenendo presenti due filoni principali: il personaggio dell’autore creato dal poema, e il modo in cui quella figura cambia nelle diverse traduzioni inglese pubblicate negli anni recenti. Leggeremo il testo dunque in italiano ma anche a tratti in inglese, e ogni due settimane faremo discussioni in inglese. Il nostro studio principale sarà il poema stesso, benché leggeremo anche commenti critici e traduzioni varie. Saranno richieste letture anche sulla teoria e la pratica della traduzione. ↑

**ITAL 481/581: Giacomo Leopardi**  
In questo corso leggeremo le poesie e le prose poetiche di Giacomo Leopardi, il più grande poeta del Romanticismo italiano ed europeo. Cercheremo di capire quale rapporto egli stabilisce nelle sue opere tra la poesia e la riflessione filosofica; cercheremo insomma di capire il suo “pensiero poetante” e la sua attualità nel mondo in cui viviamo. Affronteremo le opere di Leopardi seguendo una varietà di approcci tra
cui l'ironia romantica, il ruolo della letteratura nella formazione dell'identità nazionale e personale; gli studi sulla memoria, i queer studies, la teoria della traduzione, il teatro, il cinema, la twitterature, la storia della scienza e infine studieremo alcune pagine di Nietzsche e Schopenhauer come lettori di Leopardi.

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SPRING 2016

ITAL 101, 102, 103: First-Year Italian- Various
Introduction to Italian stressing speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Sequence.

ITAL 104, 105: Intensive First-Year Italian- Various
Covers in two terms the work of ITAL 101, 102, 103. Cannot be taken in any combination with ITAL 101, 102, 103 to total more than 15 credits of first-year Italian.

ITAL 201, 202, 203: Second-Year Italian- Various

ITAL 305: Cultura e lingua: arte, musica, i mass media- Ceccacci
Artistic expressions over time and the influence of the mass media on social structures and language.

ITAL 307: Oral Skills (2 credits)- Ventura
Practice in improving listening, comprehension, and oral skills in Italian. Communicative activities in class in addition to language laboratory work. Prereq: ITAL 203.

ITAL 318: Italian Survey: Baroque & Enlightenment -Lollini
Introduction to major themes and ideas in Italian literature from the baroque and Enlightenment periods through the reading of representative texts. Conducted in Italian.

ITAL 449/549: Italy and the Americas- Hester
This course focuses on the reception of the “New” World in 16th and 17th-century Italy. We will examine the impact of the first encounter with the Americas: how was information regarding the “New” World circulate, and what were its immediate repercussions within Italy? We will examine how and consider why Italian navigators, merchants, humanists, poets, and historians represented the Americas in a variety of ways and for different audiences. Among our topics of discussion will be the “invention” of the Americas in the service of different city-states (Genoa, Venice, Florence), the humanistic interests in the “new” continent, and the expression of anti-Spanish sentiment. Course readings will be drawn from travel accounts, histories, commentaries, and epic poetry. M.A. Period 2.

ITAL 491/591: Italian Landscapes- Lollini
In this course we will study the emergence of an Italian Ecocriticism tracing its origin in Giambattista Vico’s idea of “poetic geography” and following its more recent developments, including the idea of Italian literary bioregionalism and ecological citizenship (Serenella Iovino). We will focus our attention on the problematic relationships between culture and nature and investigate the active role that the natural environment plays in shaping questions of cultural, regional and national belonging as they transpire in literature and cinema. We will study in particular the role of the Mediterranean in promoting contradictory phenomena such as insularity and isolation, cultural pluralism and colonialism. On the one hand, we will consider how Mediterranean landscape has influenced Italian culture and sense of identity and belonging in different bioregional systems, with special attention devoted to Liguria, Campania, Sicily and Sardinia.
On the other hand, we will study how human and historical activity has modified and adulterated the Mediterranean landscape from the formation of the Italian national state up to the present time. Ultimately, our goal is to become able to realize and appreciate the crucial role that literature and cinema play in spreading the much needed awareness of the interconnectedness of all living forms, of a comprehensive sense of place and ecological citizenship.


SUMMER 2015

ITAL 101, 102, 103: 1st Year Italian
Introduction to Italian stressing speaking, reading, writing, and comprehension skills. Sequence. ↑

ITAL 201, 202, 203: 2nd Year Italian
Review of grammar, reading of short literary and cultural texts, development of speaking and writing skills. Sequence. Conducted in Italian. ↑