ITALIAN

In the Department of French and Italian

Chair, Professor Adrianna Paliyenko (French), and Associate Chair Associate Professor Mouhamédoul Niang (French)  
Assistant Professors Gianluca Rizzo and Serena Ferrando; Language Assistant Federica Parodi

All courses are conducted in Italian unless otherwise noted.

Achievement Test: Students seeking entrance credit in Italian and wishing to pursue Italian at Colby must have taken either the College Board SAT Subject Test in Italian or a placement test during orientation.

Requirements for the Minor in Italian Studies

The minor in Italian studies seeks to acquaint students with the breadth of Italian language and civilization and to introduce them to the life and culture of Italy, from the Middle Ages to the modern and contemporary unified Italian state. Minors are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester studying in Italy. The minor requires six courses: a minimum of five in the Italian Studies program, on campus, beginning with Italian 127 and including 128, 141, a 200-level course, and a 300-level course; plus one additional course in Italian literature or culture that may be taken outside the department and may be taught in English. All courses taken outside of the department must be approved by the Italian Studies program director or department chair. Students should plan on taking 127 and 128 consecutively, preferably before going abroad. Students planning to take fifth-semester Italian while abroad should see Professor Rizzo or the department chair.

Course Offerings

IT125f  Italian I   Basic comprehensive course for students with little or no previous knowledge of Italian. Focus is on developing the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed to gain fluency in Italian and on familiarizing students with basic aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises.  Four credit hours.    FERRANDO

[IT125J]  Italian I   Basic comprehensive course for students with little or no previous knowledge of Italian. Focus is on developing the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed to gain fluency in Italian and on familiarizing students with basic aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises.  Three credit hours.

IT125Tj  Italian I in Genoa   Basic comprehensive course for students with little or no previous knowledge of Italian. Focus is on developing the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed to gain fluency in Italian and on familiarizing students with basic aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises. A full immersion environment allows students to continually practice what they learn, while enjoying the beauty of Italy. Estimated cost: $3,500.    Three credit hours.    FERRANDO

IT126s  Italian II   Continued basic comprehensive course for students with elementary knowledge (Italian 125 or equivalent) of Italian. Focus is on continuing development of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills gained in Italian I and on increasing students' familiarity with aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises. Prerequisite: Italian 125 or equivalent.  Four credit hours.    RIZZO

IT127f  Italian III   Continued practice in listening and speaking skills; grammar review, with greater emphasis on writing. Reading and conversation topics taken from contemporary Italian literature; course materials convey a sense and understanding of contemporary Italian society. Prerequisite: Italian 126 or equivalent.  Four credit hours.    RIZZO

IT128s  Italian through Film and Visual Culture   Through an in-depth study of film and visual media, students will improve their understanding of Italian language and culture as well as master increasingly complex grammatical structures. Study of different aspects of Italian society and history as depicted in film, television, and the visual arts. Oral and written work will allow students to improve linguistic skills and expand cultural knowledge creatively. Prerequisite: Italian 127 or equivalent.  Four credit hours.    RIZZO

IT141f  Introduction to Italian Literary Studies: Poets, Lovers, Revolutionaries   In this discussion-intensive course, we will explore the most enduring topics of Italian culture: the nature of love, the role of the artist in society, and the experience of time and death. Students will learn about different artistic genres (lyric poetry, short story, novel, film, contemporary song) and hone analytic skills and writing (rhetorical figures, form-content, stylistics). Students will become familiar with key periods of Italian culture and famous authors (Dante, Boccaccio,
and other selected works. We will investigate Dante's relationship with authority, tradition, and faith, and his particular understanding of love as a path to knowledge and of literature as a way to salvation. Students will be challenged to find Dante's lasting influence on contemporary culture in the works of modern authors, both in the Italian-speaking and English-speaking worlds. All lectures and class materials will be in English. One additional weekly hour of discussion in Italian will be open to Italian minors and all who are interested. Four credit hours. L.

[IT262] Tales from the Margins: Topics in Italian Cultural Studies Since its unification, Italy's history has been characterized by tensions: north/south, center/margin, rich/poor, local/foreigner. Still today questions about identity, tradition, inclusivity, diversity and the "other" are hotly debated. We will address topics in cultural studies including economics, politics, gender, immigration, and mental health. Study of short stories, poems, and film will hone skills in textual and film analysis, provide tools for more complex understanding of literature, and develop critical thinking. Authors will include Verga, Pirandello, Svevo, Moravia, Levi, De Sica, Calvino, Maraini, and Merini. Prerequisite: Italian 128. Four credit hours. L.

[IT298s] Noisemakers: Tracing the Origins of Modern Music in Italy (in English) We will explore the history of noise and its impact on 20th-century Italian music. In a multimedia environment that fosters an atmosphere of creative collaboration and encourages creative confidence, students will produce digital soundmaps of the city of Waterville and the Colby campus. Sources will include music, sound/noise clips, manifestos, poetry, short stories, essays, city plans, historical accounts, scholarly works, and online archives as well as other digital humanities projects. The lab will travel to Harvard for a conversation with the Harvard Group for New Music. Origins humanities lab. Four credit hours. L.

[IT356] Introduction to Dante’s Divine Comedy (in English) An introduction to Dante, his times, and his cultural milieu through a critical reading of The Divine Comedy and other selected works. We will investigate Dante's relationship with authority, tradition, and faith, and explore his particular understanding of love as a path to knowledge and of literature as a way to salvation. Students will be challenged to find Dante's lasting influence on contemporary culture in the works of modern authors, both in the Italian-speaking and English-speaking worlds. All lectures and class materials will be in English. One additional weekly hour of discussion in Italian will be open to Italian minors and all who are interested. Four credit hours. L.

[IT397f] Zine! A Practical Introduction to Contemporary Poetry (in English) Offers students an opportunity to engage directly with some of the most exciting poetry written in the past few decades, create their own texts, and collect them in a zine (a minimalist paper journal) we will be editing. First, we will become familiar with the most common non-lyrical poetic techniques (chance-based, collage, automatic writing, etc.), as well as the artists that invented and practiced them over the past few decades. Then, we will compose brand new poems to be included in our very own zine. Guest lectures and field trips will enhance the class experience. Origins humanities lab. Four credit hours. L.

[IT491f, 492s] Independent Study Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Two to four credit hours. FACULTY