ITALIAN

In the Department of French and Italian

Co-Chairs, Professor Adrianna Paliyenko (French) and Associate Professor Valérie Dionne (French)
Assistant Professors Gianluca Rizzo, Serena Ferrando, and Eleonora Buonocore; Language Assistant Margherita Carlotti

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 four in the Italian program, on campus, beginning with Italian 127 and including either 141 or a 200-level course, and a 300-level course; plus additional courses 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 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 Ferrando 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.  BUONOCORE

(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.

IT125T  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. 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.  Four credit hours.  FERRANDO

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.  FERRANDO

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.  BUONOCORE

IT141j  Introduction to Italian Literary Studies: Poets, Lovers, and Revolutionaries  Explores the intriguing connections between love, poetry, and political power, analyzing the revolutionary character of vernacular love poetry through time. We will concentrate on the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as the Romantic Age, which saw the rise of the revolutionary struggles for Italian independence, the Risorgimento. Students will learn about artistic genres and hone analytic skills and writing (rhetorical figures, form, content, stylistics). Students will become familiar with key figures of Italian culture and will learn to trace ideas in literary texts. Lectures in English, discussion
BUONOCORE, and Andrea Camilleri's *Brancaccio*, Lia Levi's *The Jewish Husband*, Giuseppe Di Lampedusa's *The Leopard*, Antonio Tabucchi's *Pereira Declares: A Testimony*, and Andrea Camilleri's *The Terra Cotta Dog*. Includes field trips to Venice and Italian cultural centers around Verona. Written work required: three analytical essays. Cost: $3,300. *Prerequisite:* For more information, contact Patrick Brancaccio (pbranca@colby.edu). *Three credit hours.*

**IT197** Introduction to Italian Literary Studies: Poets, Lovers, and Revolutionaries (in English) Explores the intriguing connections between love, poetry, and political power, analyzing the revolutionary character of vernacular love poetry through time. We will concentrate on the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, as well as the Romantic Age, which saw the rise of the revolutionary struggles for Italian independence, the Risorgimento. Students will learn about artistic genres and hone analytic skills and writing (rhetorical figures, form, content, stylistics). Students will become familiar with key figures of Italian culture and will learn to trace ideas in literary texts. In English. Does not count toward the Italian minor. *Three credit hours.*

**IT235s** Italian Conversation An informal, weekly, small-group meeting for conversation practice, led by the Italian language assistant. Topics will vary, to include everyday life experience, contemporary culture and media, and literature. Conducted in Italian. May be repeated for credit. *Prerequisite:* Italian 127 (may be taken concurrently) or prior study-abroad experience in Italy. *One credit hour.*

**IT255** Modern Classics, Italian Style An overview of some of the most relevant and interesting texts (visual, cinematic, literary, and musical) of the 20th century, while strengthening the linguistic skills acquired so far. We will begin with Futurismo, the first of the historical avant-gardes, an artistic movement that originated in Italy and set out to change everything: music, theater, literature, painting, sculpture, and food. Every week students will engage a different text, from pop music to cinema and literature, learning how to appreciate its history and to enjoy its beauty. *Prerequisite:* Italian 128. *Four credit hours.*

**IT257** Renaissance Heroes: Knights, Giants, and Gypsies (in English) Beginning with the *Chanson de Roland*, late medieval and Renaissance epic poetry has told the stories of mighty knights, their loves, their deeds, and their arms. An introduction to this remarkable corpus of literature, tracing its evolution across different centuries and different languages, with a particular focus on its comic components. Reading assignments will include passages from Boiardo, Ariosto, Pulci, Folengo, and Rabelais. Taught in English. *Four credit hours.*

**IT262s** 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 131, 141 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.*

**IT332** Art of the Renaissance in Italy Listed as Art 332. *Three or four credit hours.*

**IT333** Mannerism and Baroque Art in Southern Europe Listed as Art 333. *Three or four credit hours.*

**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.*

**IT372** Boccaccio and Petrarch: Birth of Modernity Boccaccio and Petrarch lived at a revolutionary moment in Italian history, at the dawn of modernity (e.g., vast cultural explosion, increasing globalization and democracy, crisis of political-religious authority). We will examine how these two colleagues responded to and helped create a new world that often resembles our own, as well as how they considered the major debates of the day: the relationship between secular and religious, past and present, elite and popular, and the self and God. Texts to be studied include the *Decameron*, *Canzoniere*, *Corbaccio*, *Secretum*, and letters. In Italian. *Prerequisite:* Italian 131 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.*

**IT397** City of Water: Uncovering Milan's Aquatic Geographies (in English) In this humanities lab, students will explore the cultural history of water in Milan, Italy's self-described 'city of water,' in a multimedia environment that fosters an atmosphere of creative
collaboration and encourages creative design. Students will turn from consumers of information into producers of cultural artifacts by generating thick maps of Milan. Sources will include photographs, maps, poems, short stories, essays, graphic novels, comics, manifestos, music, city plans, historical accounts, scholarly works, online archives as well as other digital humanities projects. The lab will travel once to Harvard's metaLAB(at)Harvard and its WorldMap Center.  

Four credit hours.  

L. FERRANDO

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.