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 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.

BRANCIFORTE

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. 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.

BRANCIFORTE

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.

INSTRUCTOR, 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.  

FERRANDO

IT141s   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,
Petrarch, Leopardi, Montale, Moravia, Maraini, Deledda, Calvino). In Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 128 or equivalent. Four credit hours. L. FERRANDO

IT153  Modern and Contemporary Italian Fiction in Translation in Verona This course in Italian fiction, held in Verona, Italy, will offer a close study of four authors whose work spans the 20th century. Readings will include Lia Levi, *The Jewish Husband*; Ennio Flaiano, *A Time to Kill*; Elena Ferrante, *My Brilliant Friend*; and Antonio Tabucchi, *Pereira Declares*. Includes field trips to Rome and Italian cultural centers around Verona. Prerequisite: For more information, contact Patrick Brancaccio (pbranca@colby.edu). Three credit hours. L. BRANCACCIO

[IT233]  Mannerism and Baroque Art in Southern Europe Listed as Art 233. Three or four credit hours.

IT235fs  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. PARODI

[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. 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 131, 141 or equivalent. Four credit hours. L, I.

IT297f  Nature in Italian Literature and Film (in English) What is the relationship between nature and literature? Can literature have a concrete impact on territory and urban topographies? Who have the most influential nature writers, poets, and filmmakers been in Italy and the United States? In this environmental humanities course, we will read a variety of literary and visual texts ecocritically: analyzing the relationship and mutual influence between the written word/images and their surrounding physical environment. We will discuss forms of nature writing and film since the mid-19th century and read the discourse that has emerged and shaped our view of the natural world since the 1950s. Includes a digital humanities component. Four credit hours. L. FERRANDO

IT356s  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. RIZZO

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