Colby

ITALIAN

In the Department of French and Italian.

Chair, *Professor Bénédicte Mauguière (French)*
Assistant Professor James Kriesel; Visiting Assistant Professor Brendan Hennessey

All courses are conducted in Italian unless otherwise noted.

Entrance Credit: If a student offers a foreign language for entrance credit and wishes to continue it at Colby, that student must either have taken the College Board SAT Subject Test or AP Exam in the language or take the 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 either two additional courses in Italian literature or culture or two courses, which may be taught in English, that deal centrally with one field of Italian cultural studies (for example, Italian art, literature, cinema, or music). 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 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.* KRIESEL

[IT125J] Italian I in Sicily 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. Conducted in Catania, Italy. Cost: $3,550. *Three credit hours.*

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 introduced 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.* HENNESSEY

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. *Prerequisite:* Italian 126 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* KRIESEL

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.* KRIESEL

IT131f Italian Conversation and Composition Study of contemporary Italian novel, short stories, articles, and films to increase vocabulary, consolidate knowledge of advanced grammatical structures, learn to express and support opinions, and improve analytical skills and intercultural awareness. Prepares students to engage in topics of current interest such as Italian politics, the environment, immigration, fictional representation of women, and the south. Students will produce short samples of their own critical and creative writings. Oral presentations provide the opportunity to situate literary texts and films within a

broader historical, cultural, and literary context. *Prerequisite:* Italian 128 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* HENNESSEY

[IT151] A Cinema of Social Conscience (in English) Many films owe a debt to the radical sociopolitical and artistic mandates of Italian neorealism. A survey of Italian cinema since World War II, emphasizing the neorealist movement and its influence on subsequent filmmakers. Readings and discussions situate films within their social and historical contexts, from the partisan resistance movement of World War II and economic boom of the postwar years to the terrorism of the '70s and '80s and the corruption scandals that plague Italy today. The elements and strategies of film as a medium are also explored in weekly readings, discussions, and analyses. Taught in English. Films screened in Italian with English subtitles. *Four credit hours.* **A, I**

IT153j Modern and Contemporary Italian Fiction in Translation in Verona A close study of five authors whose work spans the 20th century, including Silvia Bonucci's *Voices from a Time*, Luigi Pirandello's *The Late Mattia Pascal*, Alberto Moravia's *The Conformist*, Giorgio Bassani's *The Garden of the Finzi Contini*, and Andrea Camilleri's *The Terra Cotta Dog*. Three guided lecture tours of Verona, with related readings, include Roman sites such as the Arena and recent excavations. Also includes field trips to nearby Italian cultural centers. Written work required: three essays of literary analysis. Cost: $3,300. *Three credit hours.* **L** BRANCACCIO

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.* ZIZZA

IT254s Dante's *Divine Comedy* (in English) Introduces Dante's *Divine Comedy* as an enduring work of poetry, a stunning portrait of medieval Europe, a foundational text of Western culture. Through close analysis we follow Dante's journey through the realms of the Christian afterlife, in which he voices the tension between God's perfect grace and man's free will but never gives up searching for truth and earthly justice. A committed citizen facing exile from his city of Florence, a man of faith criticizing contemporary church-state relations, a poet seeking fame, Dante chants the glories of his time but also exposes the dark side of his civilization, confronting issues still relevant. Conducted in English; no knowledge of Italian required. *Four credit hours.* **L** KRIESEL

IT262s Outsiders, Losers, Rejects: Topics in Italian Cultural Studies Italy's history is characterized by tensions: north/south, periphery/center, church/state, native/foreigner to name several. In a nation often viewed as divided, questions about identity, tradition, and the "other" are hotly debated. We will address these issues through topics in cultural studies: politics, law, gender, immigration, religion, etc. Study of short stories and film will hone skills in textual and film analysis and develop critical thinking. Authors/directors: Verga, Pirandello, Moravia, Primo Levi, Deledda, Rossellini, Ginzburg, Calvino, Maraini, Pasolini, Benni, Amelio. In Italian. *Prerequisite:* Italian 131 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* **L, I** KRIESEL

[IT361] Love, Sex, and Romance in Italy In the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the concept of love played a fundamental role in every field of study: for example, cosmology, linguistics, literary theory, medicine, and theology. Students will study the manner in which premodern authors theorized love by analyzing literary texts of a variety of genres (e.g., lyric poetry, epic, short story), as well as other media (e.g., painting, music, architecture). Authors to be studied include Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Lorenzo de' Medici, Ariosto, and Bembo. *Prerequisite:* Italian 237 or equivalent. *Four credit hours.* **L**

IT375f Comedy, Italian Style: The Golden Age of Italian Film Comedy Traces the evolution of the film comedy across three decades of Italian cinematic life through the lens of the *commedia all'italiana* (Italian-style comedy, 1950s-1970s). Beyond their ability to entertain, these popular comedies also served as a crucial means for exploring via humor the social and political upheaval unfolding throughout Italy during this historical period. Skills of critical analysis will be honed through readings on the history and theory of cinema and screenings of films by such celebrated directors as Fellini, De Sica, Monicelli, Germi, Wertmüller, and others. *Prerequisite:* Italian 237. *Four credit hours.* **A** HENNESSEY

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