Italian Studies
Fall 2021 Courses
ITAS 101 - Beginning Italian I

This course employs the latest language teaching methodology to provide students with an interactive learning experience. Students will be introduced to the basics of the Italian language, as well as to contemporary Italy and its culture. In class, students will practice the four skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing - through a variety of activities.
ITAS 103 - Intensive Elementary Italian

MTH 3:45-5:00pm W 3:30-4:20pm
Prof. Daniela Bartalesi-Graf

Covering the same material as ITAS 101 and ITAS 102, this "blended" course meets three times a week and includes a substantial amount of work online outside the three class periods. Through the daily practice and reinforcement of the four skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) students will reach an intermediate level mastery of the Italian language and a basic understanding of modern Italian society in one semester. Methods employed include in-class conversation and role-playing activities, as well as the latest technology in online learning.
First-Year Seminar: The Cities of Italy: 
An Introduction to Italian Culture (in English)

TF 11:20am - 12:35pm 
Prof. Sergio Parussa

This seminar is dedicated to the representation of Italian cities in Italian literature, art, and cinema from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century. By presenting cities as spatial narratives, we will introduce students to some of the most important moments in Italian history and will invite them to examine the representation of urban landscape as a privileged vantage point to understand Italian culture. The seminar is designed to introduce students to the field of Italian Studies and to provide them with a solid background in Italian history and culture. This course will be taught in English.
The aim of these courses is to develop students' fluency in spoken and written Italian. The reading of short stories, articles from Italian newspapers, and selected texts on Italian culture as well as the writing of compositions are used to promote critical and analytical skills. Listening is practiced through the viewing of Italian films. Both reading and listening activities are followed by in-class discussions.
The *Divine Comedy* (*Divina Commedia*) by Florentine poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) is considered one of the greatest masterpieces of world literature. Designed as a journey across the Christian afterlife, the *Divine Comedy* has redefined the global understanding of morality, political engagement, and the sacred across the centuries. In this course, we will read and discuss the *Divine Comedy* focusing on Dante’s own dilemmas: What does it mean to love a person, one’s community, or an idea? Is there a logic to human nature and the universe? How can we reconcile justice, curiosity, violence, and desire? And why should we care? Our discussion will be interdisciplinary and explore fields such as literature, history, ethics, and theology.

No previous knowledge of Italian or medieval studies is required.
This course is dedicated to the representation of female desire in Italian culture. From Dante’s Francesca da Rimini to Pasolini’s Medea, passing through renowned literary characters such as Goldoni’s Mirandolina, Manzoni’s Gertrude, and Verdi’s Violetta, the course will explore different and contrasting voices of female desire: unrequited and fulfilled, passionate and spiritual, maternal and destructive, domestic and transgressive. In particular, the varied and beautiful voices of women in love will become privileged viewpoints to understand the changes that occur in Italian culture in the conception of desire and other intimate emotions, as well as in the notion of gender and sexuality. Students will read texts by men and women from a wide variety of literary genres and artistic forms including not only prose and poetry, but also theatre, opera, and cinema. They will also read important theoretical essays on the conception of love in Western cultures by Barthes, de Rougemont, Giddens, and Nussbaum. This course will be taught in Italian.