ITALIAN STUDIES
SPRING 21 COURSES

Term 3 & 4
Both ITAS 101-T3 and ITAS 102-T4 employ the latest language teaching technology to provide students with an interactive learning experience. In ITAS 101 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 basic skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing - through a variety of activities. On their own, they will reinforce those skills using the unique learning tools we have developed online. No textbook is necessary: all materials is available and downloadable online. No prerequisite.
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.
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A survey of the directors and film styles that paved the way for the golden age of Italian cinema, this course examines, first, Italian cinema of the first two decades of the twentieth century, going on to fascist cinema before embarking on an in-depth journey into the genre that made Italian cinema famous, namely, neorealism. We will analyze major films by Rossellini, Visconti, De Sica, and Antonioni (among others) with a view to understanding the ethical, social, political, and philosophical foundations of the neorealist aesthetic.
ITAS 263/MER 263 - DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY

MTWR 1pm - 2:15pm (Remote)
Laura Ingallinella

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.
ITAS 102 T4 employs the same language teaching technology used in ITAS 101-T3. Students will advance their language proficiency and their knowledge of contemporary Italian society through daily practice, both in the classroom and on their own, using the unique learning tools we have created online. In addition, we will watch and discuss an Italian contemporary film, and read some short stories in Italian. Oral presentations are also incorporated in the curriculum. Pre-requisite: ITAS 101 or equivalent.
The aim of this course is to develop students' fluency in spoken and written Italian. The reading of short stories, newspaper articles, 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 course explores the theme of human rights in Italian society during the twentieth and the twenty-first centuries. First, it is designed to discuss the rights of literature, i.e., the role that literature can play in the understanding of human rights. Second, it will provide students with a survey of the discussion of human rights in Italian literature. By presenting literary texts as narratives that have contributed to the debate on human rights, the course will introduce students to the most important moments in the history of human rights in Italy, from the first political organizations which fought for equal rights for factory workers, to the struggle of the feminist movement for women's emancipation throughout the twentieth century, to the approval of laws that legalized divorce and abortion during the 1970s and 80s, up to the new legislation on domestic violence, marriage, and adoption rights for LGBT people, and today's debate on the issue of citizenship for immigrants.

The course will be taught as a hybrid course and in Italian.