ITAS 102 - Beginning Italian II

MTH 9:55am – 11:10am, W 9:30am - 10:20am - Prof. Flavia Laviosa
MTH 2:20pm – 3:35pm, W 2:30pm – 3:20pm - Prof. Daniela Bartalesi-Graf

This course employs the same language teaching technology used in ITAS 101. Students will advance their language proficiency and their knowledge of contemporary Italian society through daily practice, both in the classroom and on their own. In addition, they will watch and discuss an Italian contemporary film, and read some short stories in Italian. Oral presentations are also incorporated in the curriculum.
The aim of these course 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.
This course is for students who have taken ITAS 103 or both ITAS 101 and ITAS 102. The course, covering the same material as ITAS 201 and ITAS 202, employs an online platform that provides free access to all course materials (videos, films, readings, grammar charts, as well as self-corrected exercises and tests). The aim of the course is to improve and strengthen the skills acquired in Elementary Italian through the study of various themes in contemporary Italian society. No textbook necessary: all materials are available and downloadable online.
Unlike other European literatures, contemporary Italian literature lacks a major work of fiction representing the nation’s cultural identity. Rather, Italian literature boasts the small book, brief unclassifiable narratives that express the variety and complexity of Italian culture. Realistic novels or philosophical short stories, memoirs or literary essays, these works are a fine balance between a number of literary genres and, as such, are a good entranceway into the multifaceted and contradictory identity of Italy as a nation. The course will combine a survey of contemporary Italian literature with a theoretical analysis of how Italian identity has been represented in works by Calvino, Bassani, Ginzburg, and others. The course will be taught in English.
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. This course will be taught in Italian.