ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

ELEMENTARY ITALIAN

ITALIAN 101-2
MTWF
10:00 - 10:50

ITALIAN 101-3
MTWF
12:00 - 12:50

ELEMENTARY ITALIAN

ITALIAN 102-3
MTWF
12:00 - 12:50

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN

ITALIAN 133-3
MTWF
11:00 - 11:50

ITALIAN 134-3
MTWF
12:00 - 12:50

INTENSIVE ITALIAN

ITALIAN 133-3
MTWF
11:00 - 12:50
Italian 101-2 is the second in a three-part sequence for beginning students of Italian.

At this level students work on the three modes of communication while discovering Italy and its people. At the end of full-year Italian 101 sequence, students will be able to ask and answer simple questions in Italian, write a grammatically correct sentence, and follow the drift of a simple conversation. Students will gain knowledge of fundamental aspects of Italian culture, history, and geography. The emphasis is on interpersonal communication. We build grammar skills by working on simple situations that grow in complexity as we proceed: greetings, talking about ourselves, asking others, performing tasks. Classes are conducted entirely in Italian and are very lively, with lots of give-and-take among participants.
101-3 is the third quarter of the year-long Elementary Italian course sequence. Students enroll in 101-3 after having completed 101-1 and 101-2 or by demonstrating equivalent proficiency through the online placement test. This quarter emphasizes verb tenses such as the imperfect in relation to the passato prossimo, the future, the conditional, and an introduction to the subjunctive mood. Cultural topics include the school system, social issues, cultural and ethnic diversity, the world of work, and vacations. At the end of full-year Italian 101 sequence, students are able to ask and answer questions in Italian, write grammatically correct sentences, and follow conversations of various degrees of complexity. Students will have gained knowledge of fundamental aspects of Italian culture, history, and geography. Lessons are conducted almost entirely in Italian and are very lively, with lots of give-and-take among participants.
Italian 102-3 is the third part of the intermediate sequence. At the end of the full 102 sequence (102-1,2,3), students will be able to create with the language, talk about familiar topics, comprehend the main ideas and some supporting details of articles, stories, and other texts dealing with topics of a concrete nature, and write grammatically correct paragraphs. In addition, students will significantly increase their knowledge of Italy’s history and culture.
INTENSIVE ITALIAN

This double course completes the WCAS two year language requirement in one academic year. At the end of the full-year 133/134 sequence, the student will be able to ask and answer detailed questions, read and discuss brief articles and stories in modern written Italian, and compose a grammatically correct paragraph in Italian.

Students will significantly increase their knowledge of Italy’s history and culture.

PROFESSOR VISCONTI
ITALIAN 133 / ITALIAN 134  MTWF  11:00-12:50
This course will explore the role that exhibitionism and the logic of the spectacle have played in Italian culture from the years of Fascism (1922-1943) to Silvio Berlusconi’s rise to power in the 1990s and the current resurgence of populism. As the flip side of our desire to see, exhibitionism manifests the desire to be seen, to expose oneself to the look of others—to turn oneself into a spectacle—in both the private and public spheres. While drawing from the fields of cinema and media studies, we will analyze how film, television, and social media have simultaneously reflected and constructed our desire for self-display. We will pay particular attention to questions of gender and sexuality and to the ways in which spectacle and politics have joined forces at different junctures in Italian history. Among the films we will study are Luchino Visconti’s *Bellissima* (1951), Federico Fellini’s *La dolce vita* (1960) and *Ginger and Fred* (1986), Erik Gandini’s *Videocracy* (2009), Matteo Garrone’s *Reality* (2012), and Paolo Sorrentino’s *La grande bellezza* (2013).
WONDER AND KNOWLEDGE

This course is dedicated to the analysis of wonder in Italian literature, understood within the more general framework including marvel, miracle, admiratio, and mirabilia. Plato’s discussion in the *Theaetetus* – where Socrates links wonder to the beginning of philosophy – and Aristotle’s famous definition in his *Metaphysics* – pointing to man’s basic drive for learning and truth and thus calling attention to the capacity for wonder built in human nature, are fundamental to understanding wonder and its development across the centuries. The course follows the ramification of the idea of wonder covering Italian literature from the Middle Ages to Modernity.

Students will read the texts in Italian and will be asked to read also short essays on this topic.
DANTE’S DIVINE COMEDY: To Love Through Justice

Refashioning the conventions of poetry, Dante (1265-1321) used the account of his presumed journey through the three realms of the Christian afterlife – Hell, Purgatory and Paradise – to explore the world at the close of the Middle Ages. The poem is both an adventure story and an exhaustive, assessment of the state of politics, society, religion, literature, philosophy, and theology at the beginning of the fourteenth century. This course examines a selection of cantos Dante’s Inferno and Purgatorio in its cultural, social and political context. In particular we will explore how the underground world imagined by the poet relates to late medieval urban life and culture. A guiding concern of the discussion is to assess the ways in which Dante changed our understanding of the relationship between the human and the divine, justice and love, will and reason, happiness and knowledge, literature and the Bible. Political turmoil, philosophical and theological paradigms social and religious conflict all converge in the making of Inferno and Purgatorio and will thus form crucial elements of our investigation. Taught in English.