**ITALIAN STUDIES**

**Program Director**  
Loredana Di Martino, PhD

The study of Italian is essential to gain a fuller understanding of the cultural, economic and political forces that continue to shape the Mediterranean, Europe and the world. The mission of the Italian Program is to develop students’ proficiency in a second language while providing them with a critical understanding of Italian culture in a transnational context and beyond traditional disciplinary confines. We explore the shifting borders and boundaries of Italy by examining the cultures produced by Italian and Italo- phone authors of diverse backgrounds as well as the multilayered identities created through the encounter of different cultural heritages. Likewise, we also focus on the hybrid cultures produced by the Italian diaspora in different parts of the world. Our courses analyze different types of cultural products - written, visual and audiovisual - while exploring their links to history and society also in light of contemporary global challenges.

Italian Studies majors may integrate Italian with other fields of study by taking a limited number of upper-division courses taught in English in other departments. In addition, they can combine the major in Italian Studies with a second major, or a minor in another field. Majors and minors can take advantage of our faculty-led summer program (201-third semester Italian in Italy) and a number of approved semester-long study-abroad programs in Italy.

A degree in Italian Studies or a double major in Italian and another field can help students pursue careers in many different fields, including politics & international relations, art & design, film, journalism & communications, business, finance, marketing, tourism and hospitality, enology and culinary arts, teaching and education, fashion, translation and interpreting, and many others.

**The Italian Studies Major**

**Preparation for the Italian Studies Major**

Students must have finished ITAL 202 or the equivalent (e.g. placement in upper-division through the Department's Placement exam), thereby demonstrating proficiency in oral and written expression. Lower-division courses provide the necessary training in the four basic language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing) as well as basic cultural competency. Upper-division courses further develop these skills and bring students to a level of proficiency of Advanced Low to Advanced High on the ACTFL scale. The experience of living and studying in Italy is highly recommended.

**Major Requirements**

24-27 units of upper-division work—8 courses plus the optional capstone project (1-3 units) if appropriate—of which a minimum of 18 units (6 courses) must be in Italian (ITAL). The remaining 6 units may be either in Italian (ITAL) or approved interdisciplinary courses taught in English in other Departments.

A minimum of 18 upper-division units must be taken on the USD campus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 301 or ITAL 303</td>
<td>Writing and Composition in Italian or Advanced Writing for the Professions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 302</td>
<td>Contemporary Italy: Culture, Politics and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 320</td>
<td>Introduction to Italian Literature and Culture I: From the Middle Ages to the 17th Century</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following courses on the early modern period:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 410</td>
<td>Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Italy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 420</td>
<td>Dante and His Times</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following courses on the modern or contemporary period:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 321</td>
<td>Introduction to Italian Literature and Culture II: From the Enlightenment to Today</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 403</td>
<td>Studies in Italian Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 411</td>
<td>Studies in Modern and Contemporary Italy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 413</td>
<td>Italian Literature of Migration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 495</td>
<td>Senior Capstone Project (optional)</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 497</td>
<td>Senior Capstone Project with Advanced Integration</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Total Units** 24-27

1. Additional courses may be used to satisfy this requirement, if the focus is appropriate. Examples include: ITAL 340, ITAL 341, ITAL 342, ITAL 347, ITAL 394, ITAL 440, ITAL 494. Consult the Program Director for information about these courses.

2. The optional capstone project (1-3 units) is carried out in the student’s last year in the program. The student must meet with her or his capstone advisor to determine the parameters for the project and consult with the program director to enroll either in ITAL 495 or in ITAL 497-the Senior Capstone Project with Advanced Integration.

**Interdisciplinary Courses**

Students can complete all coursework in Italian. However, a maximum of 6 upper-division units (2 courses) may be taken in English from among the courses listed below, their equivalents, or other appropriate courses offered on campus or by our approved study-abroad programs in Italy. In order for an interdisciplinary course to count for the major in Italian Studies, one of the following conditions must be met:

1. the course inherently includes significant content on Italy or Italian topics; or
2. during the course the student completes a project (e.g. research paper, presentation, portfolio, etc.) with a substantial focus on Italy or Italian topics.

In either case, all interdisciplinary courses require prior written approval of the Director of Italian. You should meet with the Director before registering for the class.

Examples of Interdisciplinary Courses: ARCH 321, ARCH 322/ARTH 322, ARTH 334, COMM 475, ECON 333, ENGL 330, FINA 405, HIST 312, HIST 321, HIST 322, HIST 331, HIST 332, HIST 341, MKTG 305. Other courses may satisfy this requirement; please consult the Director of Italian.

**Double Counting**

The Department of Languages, Cultures and Literatures will grant credit towards the Italian Studies major for interdisciplinary courses taken for another major, except for interdisciplinary majors that prohibit double counting (e.g., Ethnic Studies, Environmental and Ocean Sciences, Interdisciplinary Humanities, International Relations and Liberal Studies).

**Recommended Program of Study for the Italian Studies Major**

This program of study is designed for incoming freshmen with little or no previous knowledge of the Italian language. Students with sufficient prior language preparation, as determined through the department’s placement policy, may initiate upper-division course work as early as their freshman year.
Additionally, students can also take one or both of the interdisciplinary courses in English as early as their freshman or sophomore years.

**First Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 101</td>
<td>First Semester Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 102</td>
<td>Second Semester Italian</td>
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**Second Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 201</td>
<td>Third Semester Italian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students may also take ITAL 347 or an interdisciplinary course taught in English</td>
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**Junior Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 301, 302, or 303</td>
<td>Writing and Composition in Italian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Italy: Culture, Politics and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Writing for the Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITAL 340, 341, 342, or 347</td>
<td>Topics in Italian Literature, Film and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Italian Literature, Film and Culture-Domestic Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Italian Literature, Film and Culture-Global Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Italian Literature, Film and Culture in Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or another 300-level or Interdisciplinary course</td>
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**Semester II**

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<tr>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 301, 302, or 303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Italy: Culture, Politics and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Writing for the Professions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or another 300-level course</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITAL 320 or 321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or another 300-level course</td>
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**Senior Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester I</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper-Division Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper-Division Course</td>
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**Semester II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITAL 495 or 497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Capstone Project with Advanced Integration</td>
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**The Italian Minor**

All courses for the minor must be taken in Italian (ITAL).
ITAL 201 | THIRD SEMESTER ITALIAN
Units: 3
Core Attributes: Second language competency
Prerequisites: ITAL 102 or Passing the appropriate departmental placement test within the previous year
Completes the introduction of the basic structures of the language, with continuing emphasis on communicative proficiency and cultural awareness. At this level students may be encouraged to participate in community service-learning and/or cultural activities within the Italian speaking community.
Prerequisites: ITAL 102 or equivalent, or Placement Exam. Every semester.
ITAL 201.

ITAL 202 | FOURTH SEMESTER ITALIAN
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Oral communication competency
Prerequisites: Passing the appropriate departmental placement test within the previous year or ITAL 201
Review and expansion of language structures, as well as practice in reading, composition and conversation in preparation for upper-division work.

ITAL 230 | INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION
Units: 3
Prerequisites: ITAL 201 or ITAL 202
Intensive practice in spoken Italian based on assigned topics. This course does not count toward the major or the minor, but does count as elective units toward graduation.

ITAL 292 | TUTORING
Units: 1 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Core Attributes: Law - Experiential
Prerequisites: ITAL 201 or ITAL 202
Supervised participation as a tutor of students enrolled in our Italian classes. The course entails tutoring one hour per week, completion of homework (readings and responses, maintaining a journal, etc.) as well as mandatory attendance at two group meetings per semester. Course does not satisfy the second language requirement. It counts as elective credit, not toward the major or minor.

ITAL 293 | LANGUAGE TUTORING OR FIELD EXPERIENCE IN ITALIAN
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)
Core Attributes: Law - Experiential
Supervised participation in the department’s Tutoring Program or placement in a community organization in which the student’s skills in Italian are developed.

ITAL 294 | TOPICS IN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, OR CULTURE
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)
Core Attributes: Diversity-Pre F17 CORE
Prerequisites: ITAL 202
Study at the lower-division level of a special topic in language, literature, or culture. When offered, selected subjects will be announced on the MySanDiego portal. If taught in English, this course will not fulfill the Core Curriculum language requirement. Consult with instructor or the department chair.

ITAL 301 | WRITING AND COMPOSITION IN ITALIAN
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Advanced writing competency
Prerequisites: Passing the appropriate departmental placement test within the previous year or ITAL 202
Focus on the development of reading and writing skills through the analysis of authentic texts, the practice of various modes of written expression, and grammar review.

ITAL 302 | CONTEMPORARY ITALY: CULTURE, POLITICS AND SOCIETY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Oral communication competency
Prerequisites: ITAL 202
Study of relevant aspects of Italian culture, politics and society, and of key moments in Italian history, with a focus on the development of oral communication skills.

ITAL 303 | ADVANCED WRITING FOR THE PROFESSIONS
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Advanced writing competency
Prerequisites: ITAL 202
Focus on the development of reading and writing skills through the analysis of authentic texts, and the practice of modes of written expression that may be used in a variety of professional and academic settings.

ITAL 315 | L2 TEACHING METHODOLOGIES AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS
Units: 3
Prerequisites: ITAL 301 or ITAL 302
An introduction to the history of second language teaching methods, applied linguistics, and the fundamentals of second language teaching. Initial training in the skills needed to be a second language teacher.

ITAL 320 | INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE I: FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE 17TH CENTURY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Literary Inquiry area
Prerequisites: ITAL 301 or ITAL 302 or ITAL 340 or ITAL 341 or ITAL 342 or ITAL 394
Introduction to the major works of Italian literature, in their socio-cultural context, from the birth of the “Italian” language to the 17th century.

ITAL 321 | INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE II: FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT TO TODAY
Units: 3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Literary Inquiry area
Prerequisites: ITAL 301 or ITAL 302 or ITAL 303 or ITAL 340 or ITAL 341 or ITAL 342 or ITAL 394
Introduction to the major works of Italian literature, in their socio-cultural context, from the 18th century to present times.

ITAL 340 | TOPICS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Core Attributes: Literary Inquiry area
Prerequisites: ITAL 202 or Passing the appropriate departmental placement test within the previous year
Study at the third-year level of a topic in literature, film and culture. (Repeatable if topic differs).

ITAL 341 | TOPICS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE-DOMESTIC FOCUS
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Core Attributes: Literary Inquiry area, Domestic Diversity level 2
Study at the third-year level of a topic in Italian literature, film and culture with a domestic focus. (Repeatable if topic differs).

ITAL 342 | TOPICS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE, FILM AND CULTURE-GLOBAL FOCUS
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
Core Attributes: Literary Inquiry area, Global Diversity level 2
Prerequisites: ITAL 202
Study at the third-year level of a topic in literature, film and culture with a global focus. (Repeatable if topic differs).
ITAL 494 | TOPICS IN LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, OR CULTURE
Units: 3 Repeatability: Yes (Repeatable if topic differs)
Core Attributes: Literature-Pre F17 CORE
Prerequisites: ITAL 320 or ITAL 321
Study of special topics in Italian literature, language, or culture. When offered, selected subjects will be announced on the MySanDiego portal.

ITAL 495 | SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: No
This is an optional culminating experience in which students reflect upon and integrate aspects of their entire undergraduate study. Through a writing project, an oral presentation, and an exit interview, students demonstrate their achievement of the program learning outcomes. The capstone is taken concurrently with one of the last two upper-division courses for the major, to which it is thematically linked. The student must meet with his or her capstone advisor (the professor for the upper-division major course) to determine the parameters for the project and consult with the program director to enroll.

ITAL 497 | SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT WITH ADVANCED INTEGRATION
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: No
Core Attributes: Advanced Integration
This is an optional culminating experience in which students reflect upon and integrate aspects of their entire undergraduate studies. Through a writing project, an oral presentation, and an exit interview, students demonstrate their achievement of the program learning outcomes. Unlike 495, this project also fulfills the Advanced Integration requirement of the Core Curriculum. Students have two options: 1) a community engagement integration project or 2) a multidisciplinary integration project. Consult with your advisor and the program director. Capstone projects are approved by the program director. Similar to 495, this capstone project is not required but rather an optional course for students.

ITAL 499 | INDEPENDENT STUDY
Units: 1-3 Repeatability: Yes (Can be repeated for Credit)
A program arranged between the advanced student and the instructor to provide intensive study in a particular area of interest. Extensive reading and consultation are required, as well as preparation of reports to be assigned by the instructor. A maximum of 3 units may be applied toward the major or the minor.