Italian Guide 2023-2024
Italy at your doorstep!

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Welcome to the UO's Italian Studies Program

The Italian Studies Program is housed in the Department of Romance Languages. Here you will find information on our BA degree, fall term course descriptions, faculty profiles, information about majoring and minoring in Italian, extra-curricular activities, contact information and more.

ABOUT US

- Minor and BA in Italian with specialization in either Language & Literature (in Italian) or Italian Studies (in English and Italian)
- Award-winning teachers and advisors
- One of the largest Italian programs in the West Coast
- Many study/internship abroad programs in Italy
- Courses ranging from Roman Antiquity and the Middle Ages to contemporary Italian fashion, food studies, and cinema.

2023-2024 Course Offerings

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<td><strong>Elementary Language and Culture</strong></td>
<td>ITAL 101 - That’s amore</td>
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<td><strong>Intermediate Language and Culture</strong></td>
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<td>ITAL 317 - Made (First) in Italy: 1200-1600</td>
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<td><strong>Italian Studies - Courses Taught in English</strong></td>
<td>RL 407/507* - Kinds of Women</td>
<td>RL 407/507* - Mediterranean Ecocriticism</td>
<td>RL 407/507* - TBA, taught by Prof. N. Hester</td>
<td>Pre-Freshman Studies in Siena, Italy **</td>
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<td>Architecture In Rome, Italy**</td>
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<td>Creative Writing in Siena, Italy**</td>
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<td>Wine Marketing in Siena, Italy**</td>
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*It counts toward the major and minor when readings and projects are done in Italian; make early arrangements with the teacher.
** Four credits count toward the minor and major of Italian; talk with your Italian Studies advisor before enrolling and check each program https://geo.uoregon.edu/programs/italy

Please visit the program site at https://italian.uoregon.edu/undergraduates or contact Nathalie Hester nhester@uoregon.edu
Minor and Major in Italian

Italian is the voice of one of the most influential Western cultural traditions. Italy is the world’s 7th-largest export economy, so Italian is increasingly important in business. Italian prepares you to engage with the current politics of migration in multi-ethnic Europe. An Italian minor offers an interdisciplinary exploration of modern Italian culture through literature, cinema, translation studies, the arts, fashion, tourism, Mediterranean cuisine, and much more. You may choose from many interdisciplinary programs to study or intern in Italy—leading to a wide variety of professional pathways with an emphasis on intercultural communication awareness.

Top 5 reasons to study Italian

1. Explore Italian legacies in the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences
2. Understand social and cultural diversity in Italy, the Mediterranean basin, Africa, and the Americas
3. Become a cross-cultural, informed, global citizen
4. Study or intern abroad in Italy for both your minor and/or major
5. Prepare yourself for a wide variety of careers and studies, including the green economy

Where can you go?

Italian provides students with a foundation for employment in:
- Business in the US and abroad
- Education: K–12, colleges and universities
- Museums and archives
- Print and broadcast media
- Food industry
- Fashion and design
- Visual arts, film, theatre
- Non-governmental and intragovernmental agencies (e.g., the United Nations)

What will you learn?

A minor in Italian can give you expertise in:
- Oral and written communication
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Language tutoring and translating
- Grant writing and advocacy
- Understanding geopolitical issues
- Analyzing historical trends
- Intra-/Inter-cultural relations
- Critical awareness of aspects of diversity and inclusivity

Courses you will need for the minor*

You will need 28 credits to complete this minor:

A. 24 graded credits, 301 or above, taught in the language**;
   twelve (12) must be taken with UO faculty (in-residence or study abroad/away)
B. 4 graded credits from RL 151, 152; ITAL 150, 152, 252, 301 or above

*A new minor accrediting also ITAL 201-2-3 is under way. Stay tuned!
**RL 407 or other approved upper-division courses may be counted towards the minor if reading and written work is carried out in the language of focus.
Courses you will need for the major

You have two options for organizing the 48 courses required for a major of Italian: concentrations in Italian Studies or Language and Culture.

### Italian Studies

You may choose courses taught in English for up to half (24 of 48) of your major credits! Italian Studies works best with a second major in another discipline, and is ideal for Study Abroad (in Rome, Siena, Pavia, etc) as many of the courses taken there will be applicable to professional disciplines such as Food Industry, Arts, Media and Communications, Humanities, Architecture, and much more!

### Language & Culture

The majority of this coursework will be done in Italian (40 of 48 credits). You will work closely with exceptional Italian faculty within the Department of Romance Languages, and will develop high-level skills in critical thinking and in the Italian language through constant written and oral expression. This concentration is also optimal for students interested in semester and year-long study abroad programs!

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**Advanced Language and Culture**

12 credits of 300-level advanced Italian language and culture
- ITAL 301, 303, 305, 306, 320, 307
- or 300-level language courses taken abroad

**Literature & Cinema**

8 credits of 300-level Italian literature OR cinema courses
- ITAL 317, 318, 341, etc (excluding 320)
- or equivalent course taken abroad

12 credits of 300-level Italian literature OR cinema courses
- ITAL 317, 318, 341, etc (excluding 320)
- or equivalent course taken abroad

**Expertise**

16 credits IN RESIDENCE on the Eugene campus, in RL or other department
- At least 1 course (4 credits) taught in Italian
- 2 courses (8 credits) must be at the 400 level or RL 407, 410 (if coursework is completed in target language)

12 credits IN RESIDENCE on the Eugene campus, in RL department
- 2 ITAL courses (8 credits) must be at the 400-level or RL 407 (if coursework is completed in target language)

**Electives**

12 credits of elective courses in Italian literature, linguistics, film, grammar, culture, art history, history, political science, food studies, classics, geography, etc.
- May be taken in other UO departments or abroad
- Maximum of 2 lower-division courses (8 credits) may be used

12 credits of elective courses in Italian literature, linguistics, film, grammar, culture, art history, music, etc.
- Can include ITAL 150, 152, 252, 341 and RL 151
- Maximum of 2 lower-division courses may be used
New Italian Scholarships

The Italian program offers financial support to all Italian and RL majors and minors who fulfill the requirements listed below.

Italian Major Scholarship - $2,000
This scholarship provides financial assistance for undergraduate Italian majors enrolled in the UO. Candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) and earned at least 20-course credits of the Italian major.

Italian Minor Scholarship - $1,000
This scholarship provides financial assistance for undergraduate Italian minors enrolled in the UO. Candidates must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) and earned at least 16-course credits of the Italian minor.

RL Major with Italian Concentration as a First Language Scholarship - $1,800
This scholarship provides financial assistance for undergraduate Romance Languages majors with Italian as a first language enrolled in the UO. Candidates shall have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) and earned at least 16-course credits of the RL major.

RL Major with Italian Concentration as a Second Language Scholarship - $500
This scholarship provides financial assistance for undergraduate Romance Languages majors with Italian as a first language enrolled in the UO. Candidates shall have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) and earned at least 8-course credits of the RL major.

For more info and scholarships: Scholarships (ITAL & RL)

Completed applications due by 4:00PM on Monday, February 19, 2024
Resources and Opportunities

Department of Romance Languages Web Pages

Home Page: https://italian.uoregon.edu
Undergraduates Program: https://italian.uoregon.edu/undergraduates

Italian Program Social Network Pages

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/uoitalian/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/uoitalianstudies/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/UoItalian

Studies Abroad Programs in Italy Directed or Supervised by Italian Faculty

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<th>Proficiency Level Covered</th>
<th>Web Page</th>
<th>Italian Faculty Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Italian</td>
<td>Intensive Italian Language in Lecce</td>
<td>Lauretta De Renzo <a href="mailto:derenzo@uoregon.edu">derenzo@uoregon.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Italian</td>
<td>University of Pavia Exchange</td>
<td>Nathalie Hester <a href="mailto:nhester@uoregon.edu">nhester@uoregon.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught in English with credits in Advanced Italian</td>
<td>Exploring the Dolomites: Landscape, History, Ecology, and Literature in Northern Italy</td>
<td>Massimo Lollini <a href="mailto:maxiloll@uoregon.edu">maxiloll@uoregon.edu</a></td>
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Special Internship Programs in Italy and US

Study Intercultural Training
Experience (SITE) Program: an internship opportunity for English-speaking teaching assistant in schools of Lombardy, Italy; for more info, contact Nathalie Hester nhester@uoregon.edu

GEO Study and Internship Programs in Italy

https://geo.uoregon.edu/programs/italy
- Will Johnson: williamj@uoregon.edu
- Yifang Zhang: yzhang1@uoregon.edu
Course Offerings
Fall 2023
Italians are known for savoring all pleasures and beauty that life can offer, from food to fashion, art to style, language to conviviality. In this hands-on course you will begin discovering Italy, its rich culture and its people by becoming an active user of the Italian language, starting on the first day of class. You will learn how to learn a new language and to implement modalities which make communication effective and culturally appropriate. As you hone your skills, you will be invited to reflect upon your personal learning goals, processes, and outcomes.

All classes are supervised by Lauretta De Renzo.

Lauretta De Renzo-Huter is a Senior Instructor II and the First-Year Supervisor of Italian. In her work and research she focuses on the development and implementation of web-based materials for the first-year Italian hybrid format curriculum which strives to engage students as agents in their learning process and as cross-cultural thinkers and communicators. derenzo@uoregon.edu
Ital 201
Intermediate Italian
Bel Paese

Bel Paese or “beautiful country,” is the classical epithet for Italy because of its cultural heritage and natural endowment. In this course you will explore a cornerstone of Italy’s beauty, the cities of art, with their magnificent piazzas, churches and traditional eateries and markets, and modern nightlife venues. By interpreting authentic multimedia material, participating in discussions and writing various texts, you will improve your ability to narrate, express opinions, and establish causal relationships in Italian in and out of class. You will explore and practice implementing these skills as you develop an Italian Portfolio where you showcase your greatest strengths and accomplishments.

Claudia Ventura is a Senior Instructor II and the Second-Year Supervisor of Italian. She is constantly implementing new student-centered learning strategies and methodologies that enrich the language curriculum with authentic material and learning experiences. She authored the Italian second-year textbooks and Canvas e-book. Please, watch the video ITAL 201 e-poster presentations to see one term-long collaborative project.

vencla@uoregon.edu
ITAL 317
MADE (FIRST) in ITALY:
1200 – 1600

This course serves as an introduction to pre-modern Italian culture through the lens of “firsts,” of Italy’s foundations and contributions to literature, the arts, philosophy, political science, and women’s writing. You will read some of the earliest “Italian” texts and understand how the idea of Italy developed in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Our discussions will also help frame some ongoing issues and debates in Italy today about language and national and regional identities, for example, and also to put into better focus some key legacies of Italy in the contemporary world.

Conducted in Italian

Nathalie Hester is Associate Professor of Italian and French and Director of European Studies. Her areas of research interest include Renaissance travel writing, the Italian reception of the Americas, and early modern women’s writing.
In this course we will explore one of Italy’s most popular story-telling genres, the *giallo*, named for the yellow covers that Italian mystery novels originally had. We will look at this genre in its different expressions (short stories, films, and TV series) and consider how these stories represent contemporary issues in Italy (debates about gender, organized crime, immigration) and how they express regional and local identities (Sicily, Naples, Basilicata).

Nathalie Hester is Associate Professor of Italian and French and Director of European Studies. Her areas of research interest include Renaissance travel writing, the Italian reception of the Americas, and early modern women’s writing.

nhester@uoregon.edu