

Italian Courses, Spring 2012

Undergraduate Courses

ROIT 21205-01

PRE-STUDY ABROAD

W 4:30-5:45

Alessia Blad

This one-credit course begins the week after spring break; it is designed for students planning to spend a semester or a year abroad in Notre Dame's study abroad programs in Rome or Bologna, Italy. By means of a carefully planned program of film viewings, lectures, discussions and internet guided tours organized by Notre Dame's Italian Studies faculty, students will be provided with an advanced introduction to the history and topography of Rome/Bologna, Italian lifestyle(s), pop music and youth cultures, service learning, sport and internship opportunities, as well as cultural events, including opera theatre and music concerts. The Italian Studies faculty will also assist students in assessing their linguistic and cultural competency in Italian, and in fashioning individualized learning goals for their study abroad experience.

ROIT 27500-02

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II: MEDIA & CULTURE

MWF 11:45-12:35

Alessia Blad

This course will study contemporary Italian culture, the realities and the clichés: Politics (Italy, after all, gave birth to Machiavelli, the Mob and Berlusconi), TV shows, the myth of the large Italian family, soccer conspiracies and the ever popular – ‘did Caesar invent the Caesar salad’? The course will incorporate vocabulary and grammar through the use of authentic readings, newspapers, movies and the internet, while allowing students to expound their views through debates, role-playing and presentations. Pre-requisites: three semesters of Italian. This course counts as a 20000-level Lang/lit/culture course toward the Italian major or minor. IBCL - IBC Liberal Arts, LANG - College Language Req, MESE - European Studies Course.

ROIT 27500-01/03

INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II: OPERA – ITALY'S RESPONSE TO AMERICAN IDOL

MWF 10:40-11:30/1:55-2:45

Patricia Keyes

This course will offer students the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of the Italian language through the medium of music. Students will study the operas (plots, characters, themes, settings) of some of the most famous ‘i’ composers (Rossini, Puccini, Verdi) in order to gain both a greater understanding of Italian culture as well as developing linguistic skills. Students will be given many opportunities for discussion and debate, as well as creative exercises and presentations that will develop and refine their oral and written proficiency. ‘It ain’t over ‘til the fat lady sings’ – in this course students will find out what all the yelling is about. Prerequisites: three semesters of Italian. This course counts as a 20000-level Lang/lit/culture course toward the Italian major or minor. IBCL - IBC Liberal Arts, LANG - College Language Req, MESE - European Studies Course.

ROIT 20300-01 (1.0 credit)
Giovanna Lenzi-Sandusky

LET'S TALK ITALIAN

M 3:00-4:00

This mini-course in Italian offers both informal and structured conversation practice. Conversation on Italian politics, society, and culture will be based on authentic materials. This course meets one hour per week for group discussions on contemporary issues and with guest speakers. Conducted in Italian. Recommended for students returning from Italy. Prerequisite: ROIT 20201.

ROIT 30206
Margaret Meserve

EARLY MODERN ROME

TR 11:00-12:15

This course traces the interlocking histories of the papacy and the city of Rome from the Renaissance to the birth of the modern Italian state. Topics will include the rise and fall of the papal monarchy; cultural and intellectual life at the Vatican court; the urban fabric of Rome from the Renaissance to the Baroque; the peculiar strains of Roman society; and the tumultuous relationship, both political and cultural, between Rome and the rest of Europe from the Reformation to the age of revolution. The course will proceed chronologically, but will pause frequently to examine special topics including: the Renaissance cardinal and his household; Michelangelo's Rome; the building of St. Peter's; Jesuit science; the trial of Galileo; archaeology and antiquarianism; the Roman Carnival; the Inquisition; Bernini's Rome; the Grand Tour; Rome in the Romantic imagination; and Napoleon's Rome. Taught in English; counts as an Italian Studies course. HIST - Univ.Req. History, ITLS - ROIT Italian Subject, MESE - European Studies Course. Cross-listed with HIST 30501.

ROIT 30310
Christian Moevs

PASSAGE TO ITALY

TR 9:30-10:45

In this fifth-semester course you will learn to analyze and understand great works drawn from the major literary and artistic genres (lyric poetry, prose, theatre, epic, novel, film, opera, contemporary song), while sampling masterpieces from across the whole Italian tradition (including music, art, and architecture). At the same time you will review and consolidate your grasp of the Italian language at an advanced level. Taught in Italian; counts as a Lit-Culture course. Pre-requisite: ROIT 20202 or equivalent; ROIT 20201 (or equivalent) by permission. Strongly recommended for majors and supplementary majors. LANG - College Language Req, LIT - Univ.Req. Literature, MESE - European Studies Course.

ROIT 30721-01
John Welle

MODERN ITALIAN LITERATURE & CULTURE

MW 3:00-4:15

This course provides a survey of major literary authors, literary genres, as well as examples of contributions to theatre and film, from the late eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. Writers, poets and playwrights to be treated include Goldoni, Foscolo, Leopardi, Verga, Serao, D'Annunzio, Pirandello, Gozzano, Vivanti, Deledda, Marinetti, and Ungaretti. Historical and

cultural issues to be treated include Italian Unification, the emergence of female readers and writers, Italian writers and modernization, the beginnings of cinema and its relations with theatre, popular culture and media; WWI and the onset of fascism. Requirements include participation in class discussions, frequent short writing and oral assignments, a number of brief papers and oral reports, as well as midterm and final exams. Taught in Italian; counts as a Lit-Culture course. Required for majors and supplementary majors in the Literature and Culture concentration; either this course or ROIT 30711 is required for majors in the Italian Studies concentration. IBCL - IBC Liberal Arts, LIT - Univ.Req. Literature.

ROIT 40116-01
Christian Moevs

DANTE II

TR 12:30-01:45

Dante's *Comedy* is one of the supreme poetic achievements in Western literature. It is a probing synthesis of the entire Western cultural and philosophical tradition that produced it, a radical experiment in poetics and poetic technique, and a profound exploration of Christian spirituality. Dante I and Dante II are an in-depth study, over two semesters, of the entire *Comedy*, in its historical, philosophical and literary context. Dante I focuses on the *Inferno* and the works that precede the *Comedy* (*Vita Nuova*, *Convivio*, *De vulgari eloquentia*); Dante II focuses on the *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*, along with the *Monarchia*. Lectures and discussion in English; the text will be read in the original with facing-page translation (acquaintance with Latin or a Romance language is therefore helpful, but not necessary). Counts as an Italian Studies course. Students may take one semester or both, in either order. Students with Italian will have the option of also enrolling in a one-credit pass/fail Languages Across the Curriculum section, which will meet one hour per week to read and discuss selected passages or cantos in Italian. NOTE: Dante I and II are distinct from the one-semester lecture course ROIT 40114, Dante's Divine Comedy: The Christian Universe as Poetry. LIT - Univ.Req. Literature. Cross-listed with LLRO 40116.

ROIT 40548-01 **ITALIAN CINEMA: THE REALITIES OF HISTORY**
Zyg Barański

TR 2:00-3:15

Italian film-making continues to be most highly regarded for the films made by directors such as Vittorio De Sica, Roberto Rossellini, and Luchino Visconti, who tried to make films that examined the contemporary experiences of ordinary Italians. The films became known as Neo-realist, and were inspired by the belief that, by presenting a truthful reflection of life in Italy which gave spectators information about the experiences of their fellow citizens, they would lead to greater understanding, and hence to a better society.

Such was the impact of Neo-realist cinema on Italian culture in general and on Italian film-making in particular that its influence may be discerned in most films that have been made from the mid 1950s to this day. This state of affairs has led to the assumption that Neo-realism marks a decisive break with Italy's pre-war past. Yet, even though Neo-realism did constitute, in ideological terms, a clear departure from fascism, its stylistic roots, its sense of the need for commitment, and its faith in the efficacy of a realist aesthetic all establish ties both with the ventennio and with Liberal Italy.

The principal aim of the course is to explore the construction and development of the Italian cinematic realist tradition from the silent era to the the early 1970s, although its primary focus is on the period 1934-1966. In particular, the course examines the formal and ideological

and plays receive extensive treatment as an integral force of Italian and European modernism. Connections between Pirandello's work and the main tendencies of Italian literature in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century will also be emphasized: including relations with the verismo of Giovanni Verga, the decadentismo of Gabriele D'Annunzio, and the Futurismo of F.T. Marinetti. Pirandello's work for the film industry, his film novel, and films based on his literary works will also be treated. Class requirements include thorough preparation of literary, dramatic and film texts, as well as critical materials; frequent short written assignments, an oral seminar presentation, and a final research paper to be developed over the course of the semester in consultation with the professor. The class will be conducted in Italian; counts as a Lit/culture course. Required for the Lit-Culture concentration.

Graduate Courses

ROIT 63050-01

ITALIAN GRADUATE READING

T 6:30-9:15

John Welle

This course will help students acquire a solid reading proficiency in Italian with an accelerated, comprehensive introduction to the language through a concise presentation of essential elements of the grammar and the process of translating Italian texts into English. The purpose of the course is to provide students with the tools and knowledge necessary to use Italian-language sources for research purposes and to reach the fourth semester or advanced intermediate level of a normal language sequence. The course focuses on skills of reading comprehension and functional translation. It does not cover the other communicative skills of writing, speaking and listening. Students will learn the basic grammar and structures of the Italian language and read texts in a variety of genres. A weekly dose of grammar and vocabulary-enhancing activities will be complemented by a series of translation exercises (both in class and at home), which will be assigned in order of increasing difficulty and length. Although no final grade will be assigned, there will be a number of quizzes, and exams, including a final exam, which if completed successfully will allow students to fulfill the graduate requirement of reading knowledge in a second language. The course will be taught in English.

ROIT 63116

DANTE II

TR 12:30-01:45

Christian Moevs

Dante's *Comedy* is one of the supreme poetic achievements in Western literature. It is a probing synthesis of the entire Western cultural and philosophical tradition that produced it, a radical experiment in poetics and poetic technique, and a profound exploration of Christian spirituality. Dante I and Dante II are an in-depth study, over two semesters, of the entire *Comedy*, in its historical, philosophical and literary context. Dante I focuses on the *Inferno* and the works that precede the *Comedy* (*Vita Nuova*, *Convivio*, *De vulgari eloquentia*); Dante II focuses on the *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*, along with the *Monarchia*. Lectures and discussion in English; the text will be read in the original with facing-page translation (acquaintance with Latin or a Romance language is therefore helpful, but not necessary). Students may take one semester or both, in either order. Graduate students read extensively in the secondary literature, and write a graduate-level paper. Cross-listed with MI 40553, 60553 and LIT 7366.

ROIT 63430-01
LANGUAGE OF NATURE
Sabrina Ferri

LEOPARDI AND ROMANTIC ECOCRITICISM: THE

W 3:30-6:15

Giacomo Leopardi (1798-1837), one of the most original thinkers of Italian Romanticism, developed a complex and unique philosophy of the natural world that defines his entire intellectual project. This course will focus on Leopardi's understanding of nature as it emerges from his literary and philosophical works. We will address the aesthetic, philosophical, and historical implications of his conception of nature, the way in which it intersects with his practice and theory of literature, and its relation to the environmental and aesthetic paradigms of European Romanticism. Texts will include Leopardi's major works, selected writings by European Romantic authors, and readings in ecocriticism. Topics of discussion will cover: the contrast between Classical and Romantic models; the Sublime and the Picturesque; materialistic and transcendental conceptions of nature; the relationship between the human and the non-human. The course will be conducted in English, with readings in Italian and English. Cross-listed with LIT 73215.

ROIT 63952-01
Zyg Barański

PIER PASOLINI: LIFE AS ART AND COMMITMENT

T 3:30-6:15

Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975) is almost certainly Italy's major post-war intellectual and artist, whose work ranged widely across different media, literary forms and genres. In addition, for much of his career, Pasolini saw himself as engaging both with contemporary events and debates and with the preceding artistic and intellectual tradition. This hugely ambitious endeavour, beyond its clear public aims, also had complex private goals. Thus, Pasolini considered his oeuvre as a monument to himself. Commitment for Pasolini was both something energetically social and intimately personal. This course aims to assess Pasolini's complex, confusing and contradictory career in light both of post-war Italian culture and of major contemporary international cultural and political developments. In particular, the course will focus on a selection of his poetry, his narrative, critical, theoretical and 'political' prose, and his cinema. This course is taught in English; the primary texts are also available in translations for students without Italian. Cross-listed with LIT 73212.