

## **Italian Undergraduate Courses – Fall 2013**

### **ROIT 20300-01 LET'S TALK ITALIAN**

**R 3:30-4:30**

**TBD**

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 and for students who have completed two or three semesters of Italian.

### **ROIT 27500-01 INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN II**

**MWF 12:50-1:40**

**Instructor: TBD**

Through guided and independent readings, students will explore how food and art have been, and still are, fundamental to the Italian identity. Students will be engaged in class discussions, individual and group presentations. A general grammar review and introduction of advanced grammar forms will continue to develop and refine each student's written and oral proficiencies. 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 30207 SURVEY OF ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART (2)**

**TR 9:30-10:45**

**C. Rosenberg**

This course will examine the painting, sculpture and architecture produced in Italy from the very end of the twelfth through the beginning of sixteenth century; from Giotto's Franciscan spirituality to Michelangelo's heroic vision of man and God. A wide variety of questions will be considered in the context of this chronological survey including changing conventions of representation, the social function of art, and the impact of the Renaissance ideology of individual achievement on the production of art and the role of the artist. Taught in English; counts as an Italian Studies course. Cross list with ARHI 30310.

### **ROIT 30300 LET'S TALK ITALIAN ADVANCED**

**R 3:30-4:20**

**Instructor: TBD**

This mini-course in Italian meets one hour per week for group discussions on varied contemporary issues in Italian culture, society, and politics. Conducted in Italian. Recommended for students in their third or fourth year of Italian who have completed four or five semesters of Italian, or who have completed ROIT 20300.

### **ROIT 30310-01/02 PASSAGE TO ITALY**

**MW 11:00-12:15 / TR 12:30-1:45**

**A. Leone / V. Montemaggi**

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 30711-01 MEDIEVAL-RENAISSANCE ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE****TR 11:00-12:15****C. Moevs**

An introduction to the close reading and analysis of masterpieces from the Duecento through the Renaissance, including Lentini, Guinizzelli, Cavalcanti, Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Poliziano, Machiavelli, and Ariosto. We will trace the profile of Italian literary history in this period, setting the texts in their rich cultural and historical context (including music, art, and architecture), with special attention to the changing understanding of human nature and the physical world in these centuries. Taught in Italian. Required for majors and supplementary majors in the Literature and Culture concentration; either this course or ROIT 30721 is required for majors in the Italian Studies Concentration. Cross list with MI 30577 (2).

**ROIT 40114 DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY: THE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSE AS POETRY****TR 12:30-1:45****Z. Baranski**

Dante is the greatest religious poet of Western culture, and his great epic poem, the *Divine Comedy*, offers a remarkable and original synthesis of his view of the fundamental relationship between God and humanity. The course offers an introduction to Dante's *Commedia* (the title of the poem is *Comedy* and not *Divine Comedy* as is commonly believed) by focusing on the first of its three parts, *Inferno*, while also paying significant attention to its other two parts, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*. Classes will principally concentrate on providing readings of individual cantos. (The course will be divided into 4 introductory lectures, 12 classes on *Inferno*, 7 on *Purgatory*, and 6 on *Paradiso*.) At the same time, broader issues central to Dante's masterpiece will be discussed. In particular, attention will be paid to Dante's ties to classical and Christian culture, his political views, his ideas on language, his involvement in contemporary intellectual debates, his efforts to use poetry for ethical and religious ends, and his literary experimentation (including his perplexing choice of title for his masterpiece). The course is open to all second-, third-, and fourth-year students, and will be taught in English. Dante's poem, too, will be read in English translation, though students with a reading knowledge of Italian are encouraged to read it in both languages. The translation is that found in the annotated bilingual edition by Robert and Jean Hollander (Doubleday). Cross list with MI 40565 (3), LLRO 40114 (20). Counts as an Italian Studies course.

**LLRO 40512 / ROIT 40512-01 / FTT 30231 COMEDY, ITALIAN STYLE!****MW 11:00-12:15pm / M 5:00-7:00 Lab Screening****J. Welle**

Taught in English, this course examines Italian film comedy, comic traditions in theatre and literature, and national identity. The popular film genre known as "comedy Italian style" is analyzed in its historical development in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s and is framed by earlier comic works as well as by subsequent films from the '80s and '90s to the present. We will analyze a long tradition of comic genius, stretching from the Commedia dell'arte and Goldoni's comedy of manners; from The Adventures of Pinocchio and Pirandello's writings on humor to the political farce of Nobel-prize winning playwright Dario Fo, and the antics of Roberto Benigni: a living comic tradition that continues to be a vital force of aesthetic pleasure and political commentary. Requirements include attendance at mandatory film screenings, participation in class discussions, oral presentations, a number of short papers, and midterm and final exams. Cross list with LLRO 40542, FTT 30231 (Lab).

**ROIT 40910-01 TALES OF ADVENTURE IN ITALIAN LITERATURE AND CINEMA****TR 2:00-3:15****S. Ferri**

Adventure stories are the oldest form of storytelling. Italy has a long standing tradition in adventure fiction and yet this genre has not been analyzed in a comprehensive and systematic way. The course will explore the

Italian adventure narrative through the analysis of a wide range of texts - from the Medieval short story to the Renaissance epic poem, from the picaresque novel of the eighteenth century to contemporary films and graphic novels. We will consider the texts and films against their social and cultural background and look at the development of the genre over time. What are the archetypes, conventions, and iconic symbols of the adventure narrative? What is its relationship to myth and history? Who is the hero/adventurer? What do adventure narratives and their heroes/heroines tell us about Italy and Italians? Taught in Italian.