

**FALL 2014**  
**ITALIAN COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**



**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

**ROIT 10101 / 10102 / 10110 FIRST-LEVEL ITALIAN**

ROIT 10101 and 10102, Beginning Italian! & II, are the standard first-year language sequence, 4 credits per semester, meeting three hours per week plus one day online. ROIT 10110, Intensive Beginning Italian, is a computer enhanced 6 credit course, combining traditional classroom time and online instruction, to attain the result of ROIT 10101 and 10102 in one semester. It involves independent work by students, a portion of which will be performed online on the textbook Sentieri Vista Higher Learning Supersite. Part of the work will be done in class with your instructor (MWF) and part will be done online on Tuesdays and Thursdays by reading, listening, completing exercises, posting writing assignments and recording your speech on the Supersite. There are two instructors assigned to this course. One will be present in class on MWF, and the other will be following your progress online during the T-Th sessions. With the sequence ROIT 10110 - 20215, you can reach upper level culture and literature courses in one year.

**ROIT 20201 / 20215 / 27500 SECOND-LEVEL ITALIAN**

ROIT 20201 and 27500, Intermediate Italian I and II, are the standard second-year language sequence, 3 credits per semester, meeting three hours per week, and incorporating more advanced language skills with cultural topics. ROIT 20215, Intensive Intermediate Italian, is a 6 credit course, meeting 5 days per week, and attaining the result of ROIT 20201 and 27500 in one semester. With the sequence ROIT 10110 - 20215, you can reach upper level culture and literature courses in one year.

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

**W 3:30-4:30**

**L. Francalanci**

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 the 10000 level of Italian. Meant to accompany another Italian course within the year.

**ROIT 30207-01: SURVEY OF ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART****TR 2:00-3:15**

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. Cross-listed with ARHI 31310-01/02.

**ROIT 30300-01: LET'S TALK ADVANCED****R 3:30-4:30****L. Francalanci**

This is a one-credit course meant to accompany your regular classroom study of Italian language, literature, and culture. It will not review grammar, but will allow you extensive opportunity to orally practice what you learn in your other courses. There will be no written work assessed, but *you must prepare and reflect on the materials for discussion each week before coming to class*. You must come ready and eager to talk!

This course is meant to engage you also intellectually and culturally, which is inseparable from mastering a new language. It will be based on authentic materials that engage and interest you (by definition, because you will be gathering them!). "Authentic materials" are those whose original intended audience is native well-educated speakers of the language. They include journalism (newspapers, journals, magazines in print or online, broadcasts, etc...), literary texts from the past or present, literary criticism, scholarly work, films, documentaries, music and lyrics, TV shows, blogs, satire, comedy and humour, etc.... We will be exchanging ideas (and perhaps arguing) on real content, from whatever realm of Italian culture, life, and society. Thus, topics may include questions from sociology, economics, politics, history, art, music, literature, film, religion, pop culture, current events, etc..... Since our discussions will be based (at least in part) on listening, reading, thinking, and analyzing ideas and materials, our talking should foster more sophisticated modes of expression as well as critical and abstract thinking skills. From the exercise of gathering materials for discussion, you will also immerse yourself in Italian life, issues, questions, online sources, etc.... For students who have completed the 20000 level of Italian, or ROIT 20300.

**ROIT 30310-01/02: PASSAGE TO ITALY****MW 11:00-12:15 / TR 2:00-3:15****S. Ferri / V. Montemaggi**

In this fifth-semester course you will survey the rich panorama of Italian culture from the origins to the present, and learn to analyze and understand works drawn from the major literary and artistic genres (lyric poetry, prose, theatre, epic, novel, film, opera, contemporary song, as well as 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 for the major. Pre-requisite: ROIT 27500 or 20215 or equivalent. Strongly recommended for majors and supplementary majors. LANG - College Language Req, LIT - Univ.Req. Literature, MESE - European Studies Course.

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

An introduction to the close reading and textual analysis of representative texts 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 cultural and historical context (including music, art, and architecture), with 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-listed with MI 30577-01.

**ROIT 40115-01: DANTE I****TR 2:00-3:15****C. Moevs**

Dante I and Dante II are an in-depth study, over two semesters, of the entire Comedy, in its historical, philosophical and literary context, with selected readings from the minor works (e.g., *Vita Nuova*, *Convivio*, *De vulgari eloquentia*). Dante I focuses on the *Inferno* and the minor works; Dante II focuses on the *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*. Lectures and discussion in English; the text will be read in the original with facing-page translation. Students may take one semester or both, in either order. Cross-listed with MI 40552-01 and MI 60552-01.

**ROIT 40750-01: LOSER, FOOLS, AND BORDERLINERS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE AND FILM****MW 2:00-3:15****S. Ferri**

Between the 19th and 20th centuries, the inetto, or fool, emerges as an exemplary protagonist in Italian literature. The inetto embodies the ethical and existential crisis of modern man, who is no longer able to make sense of life in a new society dominated by mass culture, capitalism, and the forces of industrialization. We will examine the figure of the fool in the Italian literature, film, and graphic novel of the past two centuries in order to gain insight on the modern and post-modern Italian spirit.

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**GRADUATE COURSES**

**ROIT 63010-01: INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED STUDIES IN ITALIAN**

**TBD**

**C. Moevs/ J. Welle**

Required of all students enrolled in graduate studies in Italian. Co-taught by all members of the Italian faculty, this year-long course of one-hour weekly classes addresses topics such as research methods, different ways of analyzing a text and/or particular genres, a survey of Italian literature, presentation of research and general matters of professionalization, etc. It includes a comprehensive examination on Italian literary history in each semester.

**ROIT 63510-01: FILM AND LITERATURE IN ITALY**

**M 3:30-6:15**

**J. Welle**

This course examines one of the key dynamics of the twentieth century in Italy: the interactions between film and literature. Three interrelated phenomena will be analyzed: 1) the contributions to cinema and film culture by literary writers, 2) films based on literary texts, and 3) the influence of film on literature. From pre-cinematic media such as the magic lantern and the illustrated book in the nineteenth century to the emergence of digital forms of cinema and new media technologies in the 1990's, Italian writers react to the moving image and take part in shaping both its production and its cultural reception. Along the way, Italian writers produce a rich body of "cinema literature:" interviews and articles, criticism, theoretical interventions, and manifestos, as well as poems, short stories, novels, and plays that demonstrate the impact of film on literature. In a similar fashion, the Italian film industry throughout its history makes use of literature in a variety of ways for a variety of purposes. In short the relationship between film and literature in Italy sheds light on literary history, on the history of cinema, on the history of intellectuals and media, and on cultural history more broadly. Topics to be treated include: 1) the beginnings of Italian cinema, 2) the Golden Age of Italian silent film; 3) the transition to sound, 4) Hollywood and Italian film culture under fascism; 5) film and literature of neo-realism; 6) politics and popular film genres of the 1950's and 60's; 7) auteurs and the international success of Italian film in the 1960's and 70's. In addition to weekly films, and the preparation of readings, assignments will include 1) oral presentations of articles, films and readings, 2) opportunities to lead class discussions of films and other texts, 3) a research presentation of 15 to 20 minutes 4) a research paper of around 20 pages. Cross-listed with LIT 7398-01.

**ROIT 63910-01: OPERA FROM VIVALDI TO VERDI**

**T 3:30-6:15**

**P. Polzonetti**

This graduate seminar is designed to develop skills and methods to understand Italian opera critically. It focuses on issues of theatrical representation in different operatic texts and contexts, on the dissemination of European Spanish, French, Italian, and English literature through opera, and on the rich interplay of codes and realms of expression in opera. Different problems and methods are presented through the study of comic and serious operas from Vivaldi to Verdi. The seminar is conducted in English. Knowledge of written Italian is recommended. Cross-listed with LIT 73021-01.