

## Spring 2017 Italian Undergraduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to-date, accurate information.

### **ROIT 10101 / 10102 / 10110 – First-Level Italian**

ROIT 10101 and 10102, Beginning Italian I & 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 / 20202 / 20215 – Second-Level Italian**

ROIT 20201 and 20202, 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 20202 in one semester. With the sequence ROIT 10110 - 20215, you can reach upper level culture and literature courses in one year.

### **ROIT 20300 – Let's Talk Italian I**

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

**Patrick Vivirito**

This is a one-credit conversation course meant to accompany your regular classroom study of Italian language, literature, and culture. It will not review grammar, but allow you the opportunity to practice your Italian with other language students while considering specific aspects of Italian culture. There will be no written work. The instructor may send articles or assign brief research assignment or vocabulary preparation prior to class to facilitate discussion.

### **ROIT 20610-01- Literature, Science, Humanity, and Friendship: Reading Primo Levi**

**MW 2:00-3:15pm**

**V. Montemaggi**

In this course we will explore the profound connections between literature, science, and what it means to be human. We will carry out such exploration by reading together the work of Jewish Italian writer and chemist Primo Levi, doing so in the light of one of the central ethical principles governing Levi's work: friendship. Jewish Italian writer and chemist Primo Levi is considered one of the most important authors of the 20th Century. Levi's *The Periodic Table* (1975) has been referred to as "the best science book ever", and his *If This Is A Man* (1947/1958) is widely regarded as one of the most thought-provoking accounts of humanity ever to have been written. We will read both of these, together with a number of other works by Levi, including poems, essays, short stories, and a novel. By doing so we will give ourselves the opportunity of diving deeply and fruitfully into reflection on some vital questions:

what is a human being? What is the relationship between friendship and truth? What is the relationship between suffering and knowledge? How are the humanities and the sciences connected to each other? Taught in English. Throughout the course, we will make use of materials from the Primo Levi Collection of the Hesburgh Library - one of the most important collections in the world dedicated to the study of Primo Levi. Crosslisted LLRO 20610, PRL 33115

**CSEM 23101-01/02- On Humor: Understanding Italy**

**TR 12:30-1:45 pm / TR 3:30-4:45pm**

**J. Welle**

This College Seminar explores questions of humor, laughter, and comedy through a rich variety of classical and modern texts. We begin with examples of Greek and Roman comedy, and proceed to examine Commedia dell'arte, an improvisational form of theatre originating in Italy that was influential throughout Europe for over two centuries. We encounter Shakespeare and Goldoni and analyze their relationship to both classical comedy and to Commedia dell'arte. Having traced the contours of ancient comedy and the roots of modern comedy, we turn to a major twentieth-century thinker on humor: Luigi Pirandello. Pirandello's tragic-comic vision is explored through short stories and a masterpiece of modern theatre, "Six Characters in Search of an Author." Next, we analyze a series of Italian film comedies discussing them in the historical context of Italy over the second half of the twentieth century. Throughout this trajectory, our primary focus will be on the nature of humor and comic forms as expressed in classical comedy from Ancient Greece and Rome up to contemporary film comedies; our secondary focus will be on why comedy from the ancient classical inheritance through the Commedia dell'arte to contemporary film comedy provides a key to understanding Italy both as an heir to an ancient civilization and as a lively modern country. Students will be evaluated on their preparation for and participation in class discussions, on leading class discussions, on oral presentations, and on a final exam. To further develop skills of speaking and oral presentation, the course will also incorporate aspects of "Readers' Theatre" as students will learn to read sections from the various plays out loud in class with dramatic effect.

**ROIT 30300-01- Let's Talk Italian II (1 credit)**

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

**C. Moevs**

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- Passage to Italy**

**MW 2:00-3:15pm**

**S. Ferri**

An introduction to Italian culture through the analysis and discussion of major forms of literary works in different genres from the Middle Ages to the present, as well as music, film, art, theatre, and opera. This is not an exhaustive survey, but a sampling of key works and themes of cultural significance, focusing on interpretation and intercultural communication. The course also constitutes a review of Italian language and grammar. Building on the strong foundation in grammar from your previous courses, you will have the opportunity to fine-tune your command of spoken and written Italian. In

short, the course should give you the tools to make your own passage into the rich, enchanting, beautiful world of Italy.

**ROIT 30721-01- Introduction to Modern Italian Literature and Culture**

**MW 11:00-12:15pm**

**S. Ferri**

Renowned for its rich past but full of contradictions up to the modern day, Italy has one of the most fascinating histories in the world. This course sheds light on the history of modern Italy and provides a unique perspective onto Italian modernity by exploring the country's cultural production. We will focus on key issues that unveil the unique "spirit" of modern Italy, such as the importance of the past, the tension between political realism and idealism, the recurrence of social and political crises, immigration, revolution, and youth culture. Through the study of historical and literary texts, films, and other media, the course seeks to understand the development of modern Italy and its future trajectory.

**ROIT 40116-01- Dante II**

**TR 11:00am-12:15pm**

**C. Moev**

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 Nova, Convivio, De vulgari eloquentia); Dante II focuses on the Purgatorio and Paradiso, along with the Monarchia. Students may take just one of Dante I and II or both, in either order. Lectures and discussion in English; the text will be read in a facing-page translation, so we can refer to the Italian (but knowledge of Italian is not necessary). Counts as an Italian Studies course. Students with Italian 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: the one-semester lecture course ROIT 40114, Dante's Divine Comedy: The Christian Universe as Poetry, is often offered in place of Dante I. LIT - Univ. Req. Literature. Cross-listed with LLRO 40116, MI 40553, MI 60553

Taught in English

**ROIT 40548-01- Italian Cinema: The Realities of History (in English)**

**TR 12:30-1:45pm**

**Z. Baranski**

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 belonged to the Neo-realist movement (1945-53) and who tried to make films that examined the contemporary experiences of ordinary Italians. The films 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 Liberal and Fascist 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 early 1970s, although its primary focus is on the period 1934-1966. In particular, the course examines the formal and ideological continuities and differences between Neo-realist films and their silent and fascist predecessors. In a similar way, it analyses Neo-realism's impact on later film-makers, such as Federico Fellini, Pietro Germi, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Gillo Pontecorvo, Dino Risi, and Francesco Rosi, who attempted to develop new versions of cinematic realism. Taught in English; counts as an Italian Studies course Cross lists: LLRO 40548, FTT 40249.

Taught in English

**ROIT 40550-01- Italian Theatre: From the Commedia dell'Arte to Goldoni**

**TR 2:00-3:15pm**

**F. Cotticelli**

The commedia dell'arte established modern professional theatre, and had a massive impact throughout Europe beginning in the 16th century. This course will trace the evolution and impact of the commedia dell'arte (improvisation, actors working as playwrights, professional troupes, etc...), how it produced some classics of the European repertoire (the plot of Mozart's Don Giovanni for example), and how it evolved into the great written theatre of early modern Italy, especially Goldoni. The course will be conducted in English. Crosslists LLRO 40550 FTT 40550 MI 40557 Attribute MESE (European Studies)

**ROIT 53000-01- Italian Seminar- Siena: The Life, Culture, and Devotion of One of Italy's Greatest Treasures**

**MW 3:30-4:45pm**

**V. Montemaggi**

Taught in Italian, this course offers the opportunity for an in-depth study of Italian life, history, art, and religion, through detailed study of one of Italy's best known and most loved cities: Siena. One of Italy's great medieval cities, Siena stands to this day as one of the most interesting, intriguing and fascinating examples of defining dynamics of Italian culture: the inspiring relationship between art and public life; the nourishing importance of food and wine; the fruitful tension between tradition and innovation; the constructive encounter of sacred and secular. Siena is home to some of Italy's most wondrous art (Duccio, Martini, Lorenzetti, Beccafumi) and some of its most breathtaking architecture (its Duomo, its Palazzo pubblico). It also produces some of Italy's most distinctive food and wine products (carne chianina e di cinta senese, panforte, Chianti). In the late Middle Ages it was the home of Saint Catherine and Saint Bernardino, as well as one of the most powerful political and economic centres in the Italian peninsula. It is home still today to one of Italy's most lively, intense, dynamic, and controversial traditions: the Palio. All of this life, culture, and devotion is brought together in Siena in and through the contrade, a form of communal living originating in the Middle Ages and evolving ever since. It is also all brought together in and through a particularly profound devotion to Mary, to whom the city has been dedicated since 1260. In all of these respects - and more - to study Siena is to give yourself the opportunity of enriching in uniquely profound ways your understanding of Italy. Through its research component, the course will allow you to do so by developing in academically rigorous ways your own specific and particular interest in Italian life and culture. Crosslisted MI 53556, PRL 33116 Attribute MESE (European Studies)