

YORK COLLEGE

The City University of New York

Department of Foreign Language, ESL and Humanities

**ITALIAN STUDIES
HANDBOOK**



ACADEMIC YEAR

2010-2011

Benvenuti,

On behalf of the faculty of the Italian Studies Program and all the members of the Department of Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities, I would like to welcome you to the program and wish you success in this field of study and your college career. I am convinced that you are on a journey of intellectual exploration, friendly interaction, and discovery of the fascinating world of Italian.

Your college career in the Italian Studies program can be greatly intensified by the cultural events, lectures, poetry readings and contests, journal writings, theater and music performances, and film festivals celebrating Italy's rich cultural heritage. The Italian Club is very active and organizes events throughout the school year. We look forward to your participation.

This handbook is designed to familiarize you with the Italian Studies Program and with the college. In the following pages, you will find important information concerning requirements, course descriptions, and student support services.

Please take some time to read this material to better understand the Italian Studies Program. We look forward to your participation as a student and we will work with you to assure a successful completion for your degree in a timely manner and with a great academic performance.

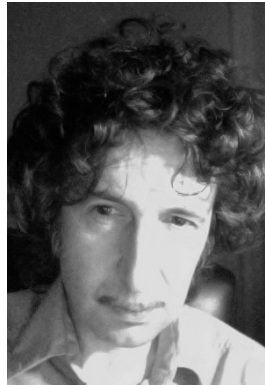
Sincerely,



Samuel Ghelli, Ph.D.
Coordinator of Italian



Faculty in the Italian Studies Program



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Why Italian?

Compared to other foreign languages, Italian may be the simplest one to study. The fact that in the Italian alphabet almost every sound corresponds to a letter (one can even say “*si scrive come si legge e si parla*”) makes Italian the easiest language to read, write and pronounce.

Italian is the romance language closest to Latin. Since the English language has a huge number of words of Latin derivation (about 60% of English vocabulary comes from Latin), a knowledge of Italian is very useful to better understand the “hows and whys” of the English Language. It is a fact that students who have studied Italian generally show greater competency and proficiency in vocabulary and grammar. Considering that almost all scientific and legal terminology comes from Latin, Italian can help students to be more confident even with other standard tests where a knowledge of specific terminology is required.



In studying Italian students learn not just one of the most musical languages in the world, but



they can even gain an insight into maybe the greatest and richest cultural context. Students of Italian will be able to read the major writers of world literature such as Dante, Boccaccio, Machiavelli up to Italo Calvino and Umberto Eco. They will deeply appreciate the operas of Verdi, Puccini and Rossini not to mention the most recent interpretations of Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli. Understanding Italian will allow students to enjoy the latest Italian films in its original language as well as the masterpieces of De Sica, Visconti, Rossellini, Fellini and Antonioni.

For those who have artistic interests, Italian is the best language to study considering that over 60% of the entire world’s art treasures are located in Italy according to UNESCO (the cultural and educational agency for the United Nations).

Studying Italian, career prospects are enhanced since the positions where knowledge of Italian is required increase every day. Italy is a world leader in fields such as design, fashion, culinary art, and tourism as well as in manufacturing, engineering, and advanced technologies. Job opportunities in these areas are certainly wide-ranging for those who know Italian. Many American companies trade with Italy and a huge number of them have offices in the country, including big firms like IBM, Citibank, Motorola. The demand for managers, marketers, and administrators who speak Italian and English is quickly growing.



The Italian Studies Program's facilities and Support Services

Tutoring

The Italian Studies Program offers free tutorial services for students who need extra help dealing with material covered in class. Tutoring sessions take place in the Foreign Language Resource Center, Room: 3D03.

Requirements to be an Italian Tutor

To work as a tutor in Italian, you must demonstrate a good knowledge of the Italian language and culture. The candidate must pass an oral and written examination held by the coordinator of the program.

Language Resource Center

The Language Resource Center is a state-of-the-art digital lab, located in 3D05. It is equipped with 25 computer stations to accommodate a whole class and multimedia resources. The computers are equipped with Digital Recording Software and headphones, so students can record themselves and practice pronunciation or listen to an audio tape without disturbing their fellow students. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable. The laser network printer allows students to print their work right there in the lab. The Language Resource Center offers walk-in and tutoring sessions. The equipment and services aim to help you attain a level of learning in keeping with the increasing demands of the job market.

Material and Mode of Instruction

For each class of Italian at 100 level, all instructors are using original material always with the support of technology. Textbooks, workbooks vocabularies, and grammar review (all in pdf), plus audio and video files are available for all students on Blackboard at no cost. Students of Italian do not need to purchase any textbook or workbook, but they can simply download them from Blackboard. All these materials have been created by the Italian Coordinator with a strong focus on the program and the learning objectives of the Foreign Language Department at York. The material is revised each semester.

In all Italian classes – whether language, literature or culture – instructors always concentrate on building an environment that is flexible enough to accommodate each student's different mode of self-expression and to inspire intellectual curiosity. They are willing to recognize individual

and collective needs and to design strategies that help students to acquire the information and make it their own.

Study Abroad Program

Students have the opportunity to study abroad for the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer sections through other Colleges at CUNY: BMCC, College of Staten Island, Queens College and Hunter College.

Students at York College with at least four semesters of Italian (or the equivalent) and with a minimum 2.8 GPA can apply to The CUNY/ITALY program. This is a student exchange between The City University of New York/CUNY and selected Italian Universities. This reciprocal exchange program aims to provide undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in CUNY with a focused core of knowledge and skills in their discipline while enabling them to experience life in Italy at the same tuition cost as a semester at CUNY. In addition, the students will gain a global perspective that helps them to achieve career goals in an increasingly interdependent world. Students accepted to the exchange program will register at York College for 12 permit credits per semester. The CUNY/ITALY Exchange Program Selection Committee will designate the students to one of the participating Italian Universities.

The Study Abroad Program at York is coordinated by Dr. Hamid Bahri. For more information contact Dr. Bahri.

(Office Location: 3C10; Phone: 718-262-2463; e-mail: hbahri@york.cuny.edu)

Italian Institutes in NYC

There are several Institutions in NYC that offer a great variety of Cultural Events. Here the links of the most significant:

The Italian Culture Institute

http://www.iicnewyork.esteri.it/IIC_NewYork/Menu/Gli_Eventi/Calendario/

The Italian House at NYU

<http://www.casaitaliananyu.org/content/events>

The Italian Academy at Columbia University

http://www.italianacademy.columbia.edu/events_calendar.html

Special Events

Poetry Recital

This is an annual event that allows students from the Department of Foreign Languages a chance to showcase poems of their choice in any modality they choose, be it written, oral, sung, acted, or recited. It is a very well attended event, with prizes going to the best represented poems.

Film Series

Every semester The Italian Studies program organizes one or two film series open not just to the Italian students, but to all who enjoy good cinema. We tend to show new and acclaimed Italian films, and sometimes we are able to show them before they are played in NYC theaters.

Il pomeriggio Italiano

This event is organized with the Italian Club once a semester. The event consists of two hour informal gathering with Italian music, games, prizes, and Italian food tasting.

The Italian Club

Starting spring 2010 York College has an official Italian Studies Club: “*L’Angolo*” This is a



student organization open to every person who is interested in Italian culture, language and civilization. The activities of the Club include engaging conversation, reading and discussing Italian newspapers, music appreciation, and informal lectures. Additional activities will be sometimes organized in the late afternoon. The Club also plans outings to museums, the Opera

or to share the special flavors of “*La cucina italiana.*”

The Italian Club will also discuss opportunities to study in Italy through the Study Abroad Programs at CUNY, and will have student guest speakers who will talk about their experiences in Italy.

The fun and relaxed environment in conjunction with the quality of teaching infuse energy and enthusiasm in students and give them the opportunity to create solid Italian language skills and cultural knowledge.

The Italian Curriculum

ITAL101 Elementary Italian I 4 crs. 4 hrs. Preq: Basic principles of a beginners' course designed to give the foundation for understanding, speaking, reading, and writing the language; study of simple syntax. *This course may be offered as an H-WEB course. Not open to students with credit in ITAL 113.*

ITAL102 Elementary Italian II 4 crs. 4 hrs. Preq: ITAL 101 or ITAL 113, or two years of secondary school Italian, or by placement examination. Continuation of the beginners' course; integrated reading and further practice in conversation. *Not open to students with credit in ITAL 114.*

ITAL104 Rapid Review of Basic Italian 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 102. A refresher course of basic Italian grammar and reading integrating the use of tapes and laboratory materials. Designed for students who wish to reinforce their basic knowledge of the language and for native speakers who have not studied Italian syntax. *Not credited toward fulfillment of Italian Major. Not open to students with credit in ITAL 105 or above. Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL105 Intermediate Italian I 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 102 or ITAL 114. Intensive oral-aural practice based on selected readings; more complex grammatical structures. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL106 Intermediate Italian II 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 105. Intensive oral-aural practice based on literary texts. Not offered on a regular basis. *Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL113 Elementary Italian I 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: Beginners' course designed to give a broad basis for speaking, reading, and writing the language. *Not open to students with credit in ITAL 101. Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL114 Elementary Italian II 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 101 or ITAL 113. Continuation of the beginners' course; more complex grammatical structures; integrated

reading and further practice in conversation. *Not open to students with credit in ITAL 102. Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

Note: Courses numbered 200 and above are normally conducted entirely in Italian, except when otherwise indicated.

ITAL200 Commercial Italian I 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 105, native speaker or permission of instructor. Specialized language used in the Italian world of commerce; composing and translating business letters, commercial documents, and import export terminology. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL207 Historical Survey of Italian Literature I: From its Origin to Mid-Sixteenth Century 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Italian literature from the Sicilian School to the Renaissance. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL208 Historical Survey of Italian Literature II: From Mid-Sixteenth Century to Mid-Nineteenth Century 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Italian literature of the late Renaissance, the Baroque, Neo-Classicism, and Romanticism. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL209 Historical Survey of Italian Literature III: From Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Present 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Italian literature of Realism, Futurism, Surrealism, Neo-Realism, and Existentialism. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL225 Commercial Italian II 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 200 or permission of department. Emphasis on translation of documents, business related materials and newspaper articles, materials obtained from banks, export and import companies, stock exchange, and custom offices dealing with Italian business transactions. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department. The student will be exposed to a wide range of Italian commercial terminology. Speakers from various business firms will address the students.*

ITAL230 Intermediate Conversation 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Discussions conducted in Italian; intended to give language fluency with

emphasis on the language used in daily conversation. *Not offered on a regular basis.*
Availability to be determined by the department.

ITAL232 Advanced Conversation 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Oral expression and idiomatic usage; intended to give correctness and fluency in the use of the language. The oral work based on readings or representative modern authors, although a few earlier texts included. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL233 Advanced Grammar with Composition 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Composition and thorough review of grammar; written and oral work based on readings of representative modern authors. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL234 Advanced Composition and Style 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 233 or permission of instructor. Composition based on readings of representative modern authors; emphasis on syntax and style. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL240 Translation I 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or native speaker or permission of department and completion of Instrumental English requirement. Developing skills in translation from Italian to English and English to Italian; materials will be selected from advertising, journalism, literature, business, and other technical areas. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL241 Translation II 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 240 or native speaker or permission of department. Continuation of Italian 240; more extensive translation of commercial, journalistic, literary, and scientific texts. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL243 The Italian Theatre I: From its Origin to the End of the Eighteenth Century 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Representative works from the teatro sacro of the 13th century to Alfieri's Tragedies; particular attention given to the commedia dell'arte. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL245 Italian Renaissance 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. The evolution of Renaissance literary genres: the epic, lyric poetry, and drama. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL247 The Italian Theatre II: Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Italian Theatre 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. From the teatro verista of the 19th century to the plays of Pirandello and other major Italian dramatists. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL248 Italian Short Story 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Origin and development of the Italian short story from Boccaccio to the present; particular attention given to the problems of the short story as a literary form during the 19th and 20th centuries. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL250 Nineteenth-Century Italian Novel 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Representative 19th century Italian novels from Foscolo to Verga. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL251 Twentieth-Century Italian Novel 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Representative 20th century Italian novels from D'Annunzio to Bevilacqua. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL265 Nineteenth-Century Italian Poetry 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Analysis of representative 19th century Italian poetry. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL266 Twentieth-Century Italian Poetry 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. Analysis of representative 20th century Italian poetry. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL313 Dante's Divine Comedy I: Inferno 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. A close examination of Dante's Inferno with some consideration of Vita Nuova; particular attention to allegory, symbolism, and structure. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL315 Petrarch and Boccaccio 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. The lyric poetry of Petrarch's Canzoniere and the novella from its origin to Boccaccio's Decameron. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL317 Dante's Divine Comedy II: Purgatorio 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. A close reading of selected cantos of the Purgatorio; emphasis on Dante's poetics and the significance of the Divine Comedy in the history of Western culture. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL318 Dante's Divine Comedy III: Paradiso 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor. A close reading of selected cantos of the Paradiso; emphasis on Dante's poetics and the significance of the Divine Comedy in the history of Western culture. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL319 Pirandello 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106. Pirandello's philosophical ideas as seen through his principal novels and dramas. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL353 Italian Culture and Civilization 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: Development of Italian culture and history and its contribution to science, philosophy, music, and fine arts. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department. Conducted in English.*

ITAL356 A Major Italian Author in Translation 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: A major Italian author such as Pirandello, Boccaccio, or Machiavelli. Author announced each semester. Can be repeated for credit. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL400 Individual Study 3 crs. 0 hrs. Preq: Permission of instructor. Independent, guided research under the supervision of the Italian faculty. Hours arranged. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

ITAL405 Seminar in Italian Literature 3 crs. 3 hrs. Preq: ITAL 106. Intensive examination of a special phase of Italian literature; especially designed to give students experience in scholarly research. *Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.*

Italian Studies Minor

The Italian Studies minor is an interdisciplinary program managed by the Department of Foreign Languages. The courses involved in this minor are taught by the Department of Foreign Languages, ESL, and Humanities, the Department of History and Philosophy, the Department of Performing and Fine Arts, and the Department of Behavioral Sciences. Students wishing to obtain an Italian Studies minor will be expected to complete course work focusing on the Italian language and on the rich heritage of literature, art history, and civilization created by Italians both on the peninsula and abroad. This minor provides an opportunity for students who have taken two semesters of Italian language courses to continue their study of Italian language and culture, and to combine it with their professional goals. Students interested in the minor must take 15 credit hours of courses. Courses may be chosen as indicated from the following:

Language:	6 Credits
ITAL106 Intermediate Italian II	3
ITAL230 Intermediate Conversation	3

Literature: (courses taught in English):	6 Credits
2 courses from the following list:	
WLIT211 Italian Theater in Translation	3
ITAL353 Italian Culture and Civilization	3
ITAL356 A Major Italian Author in Translation	3
ITAL405 Seminar in Italian Literature	3

Cultural Studies:	3 Credits
1 course from the following list:	
CLDV210 Western Civilization	3
FA292 Early Renaissance Art	3
FA390 High Renaissance/Late 16th Century Art	3
WLIT201 The Literature of the Western World through the Renaissance	3
HUM250 The Italian Experience in the United States	3
POL268 Political Theory II Machiavelli to Marx	3
HUM260 The World of Opera: A Concise History	3

Description of the Minor Courses

ITAL106

Intensive oral-aural practice based on literary texts.

Prerequisite: ITAL 105.

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.

ITAL230

Discussions conducted in Italian; intended to give language fluency with emphasis on the language used in daily conversation.

Prerequisite: ITAL 106 or permission of instructor

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.

WLIT221

The modern dramatists Luigi Pirandello and Ugo Betti; the plays of such dramatists as Alfieri and Goldoni; the establishment and influence of Italy's famed commedia dell'arte.

Prerequisite: ENG 125.

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.

ITAL353

Development of Italian culture and history and its contribution to science, philosophy, music, and fine arts.

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department. Conducted in English.

ITAL356

A major Italian author such as Pirandello, Boccaccio, or Machiavelli.

Author announced each semester. Can be repeated for credit. Not offered on a regular basis.

Availability to be determined by the department.

ITAL 405

Intensive examination of a special phase of Italian literature; especially designed to give students experience in scholarly research.

Prerequisite: ITAL 106.

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.

CLDV210

The course uses selected texts from the thought and literature of the Biblical, Greco-Roman, Medieval, Renaissance, the Enlightenment, and Modern periods, including accessible writing about science. Every section of the course studies the same representative works of intellectual and artistic achievement. A history provides context and continuity for the primary readings in religion, science, philosophy, and literature.

Prerequisite: ENG 125, CLDV 101.

This is a Writing Intensive course.

FA292

Architecture, sculpture, and painting of the 14th and 15th centuries.

Prerequisite: FA 104 or permission of department.

FA390

Architecture, sculpture, and painting of the Italian masters of the 16th century.

Prerequisite: FA 104 or permission of department.

WLIT201

A comparative approach to European literature of the Classical, Medieval and Renaissance periods, in translation. Genres to be covered include mythology and the development of epic and lyric poetry, narrative poetry and prose and the theatre. Students will read works from Classical Greece and Rome, France, England, Germany, Scandinavia, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Portugal, etc.

Prerequisite: ENG 125. Not open to students with credit in English 211.

This course is Writing Intensive.

HUM250

A study of the historical, political, literary and artistic experiences and achievements of Italian immigrants and their descendants in the United States. Music, cinema, language, and other issues of ethnic identity will be explored.

Prerequisite: ENG 125.

Not offered on a regular basis. Availability to be determined by the department.

This course is Writing Intensive.

POL226

The study of Western political thought from the 16th through the 19th centuries and its relationship to the capitalist societies from which it emerged.

Prerequisite: POL 101.

HUM260

A study of the history of opera. Special emphasis will be placed on the contributions of composers from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Prerequisite: ENG 125.

Some useful Links about Italian Language and Culture

Online Italian Course /BBC	http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/italian/lj/
La grammatica italiana	http://www.uvm.edu/~cmazzoni/3grammatica/grammatica/articles.html
Professor Gio	http://www.professorgio.com/index.php
Italiaca	http://www.italica.rai.it/eng/
Dictionary of Italian Gastronomy	http://www.lingua21.com/Italian_Gastronomy.htm
Italian 100 Exercises	http://web.uvic.ca/hispanital/italian/italian100/prelim/
Oggi e Domani	http://www.oggi-domani.com/
Impariamo l'italiano	http://webs.racocatata.cat/llengua/it/
I gesti italiani	http://www.ccsf.edu/Departments/Language_Center/gesti/00Gesti.htm
One World Italian	http://www.oneworlditaliano.com/italiano/corso-di-italiano.htm
Matid	http://www.scudit.net/mdindice.htm
All Things Italian Websites	http://tigerx.com/holidays/italians.htm
CNN news about Italy	http://topics.cnn.com/topics/italy
Travel videos on Italy	http://www.travelistic.com/places/5029/Italy
The ultimate calcio glossary	http://www.lingua21.com/Calcio.htm

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