

School of Arts and Sciences

ITALIAN STUDIES

www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu

A major in Italian Studies offered by the Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures provides students at the University of Pittsburgh the opportunity to gain familiarity with the Italian language and to acquire a broad education in a literary and cultural tradition central to the humanities. The program is distinct from the Italian Language and Literature major, which focuses on language proficiency combined with study of literature and civilization.

The Italian Studies major is a multidisciplinary program that examines a variety of perspectives related to Italian and Italian American culture. Students will explore topics in art and architecture, film, theater, music, social immigration history, politics and political theory, history and philosophy of science, classical studies, and religious studies. A course in Italian American heritage is also taught in conjunction with the Italian American program at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. While studying Italian culture, history, and society through this variety of disciplinary perspectives, students will hone valuable language skills in elementary and intermediate-level Italian language courses. The major prepares students for graduate study in law and international affairs, advanced work in the humanities, and careers in business, government service, and teaching.

Students also can combine a major in Italian studies with a second major in a field such as political science, history, history of art and architecture, English, business, or another foreign language. Students who choose to study the grammar, linguistics, rhetoric, literature, and film of Italy will acquire an invaluable technical resource and an in-depth knowledge of a diverse and foundational intellectual tradition. Courses include:

CLAS 1130 Classical Mythology and Literature
 CLAS 1220 Roman History
 HAA 0302 Renaissance Art
 HAA 1304 16th-Century Italian Painting
 HAA 1305 Early Renaissance Architecture
 HAA 1306 High Renaissance Architecture
 HIST 1109 France, Spain, and Italy in the 20th Century
 HIST 1116 Introduction to the Renaissance
 HIST 1117 Renaissance and Reformation Europe
 HIST 1781 Roman History
 HPS 0430 Galileo and the Creation of Modern Science
 MUS 0232 History of Opera
 PS 1315 Italian Government and Politics
 RELGST Jewish Culture in Italy (course in development)

Required Courses

After one year of college instruction in the language (ITAL 0001 and 0002, or the equivalent as determined by placement test results), Italian majors may enroll in ITAL 0003 for credit toward the major.

The Italian Studies major requires the completion of 33 credits beyond elementary Italian and must include ITAL 0003, 0004, 0055, a fifth-semester "W" course (0060, 0061, or 1041), a cultural heritage course (0080 or 0081), and six 1000-level courses.

Of these six 1000-level courses, two must be taken from among Italian program (ITAL) course offerings, and the rest may be selected from the sample list above of Italian Studies courses from across the School of Arts and Sciences.



Because ITAL 0080 and 0081 have no prerequisites and are taught in English, it is recommended that students interested in majoring in Italian Studies take one of these courses as early in their studies as possible.

- ITAL 0001, 0002 (do not count toward major)
- ITAL 0003, 0004: These courses are an introduction to spoken idiomatic Italian. Conversations will center on the themes and problems offered by contemporary narrative texts, partly read in class. These courses also offer a full review of the major difficulties in Italian grammar and syntax and an introduction to formal composition (6 credits).
- ITAL 0055 Italian Conversation and Culture (3 credits).
- ITAL 0060/ITAL 0061 Introduction to Literary Italian or ITAL 1041 Italian Theatrical Workshop: This course, one of three possible fifth-semester courses in the Italian program curriculum, gives students the opportunity to review advanced structures, as well as develop both the quality and quantity of their Italian in all four language skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing (3 credits).
- ITAL 0080 Italian Cultural Heritage I (fall): Students will read in English excerpts from the works of Italy's three greatest writers, Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio.
- ITAL 0081 Italian Cultural Heritage II (spring): Students will study in English the works of poets, storytellers and an artist's autobiography and explore how they described their society and culture from the Renaissance to current day (3 credits).
- Six 1000-level courses in Italian studies (18 credits)

Total credits for the major above elementary level should equal 33.

Note: Students must successfully complete 0060, 0061, or 1041 (with a B- or better) before enrolling in upper-level courses taught in Italian (unless otherwise stated in course description or on consultation with the instructor).

If you are thinking about an Italian major, you should take 0080 and 0081 as soon as possible, and try to take 0086 or a 1080-numbered course while you are still working your way up toward the upper-level courses given in Italian (1030, 1031, 1041, or the 1060 series).

Grade Requirements

A minimum quality point average of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/Audit Option

Majors cannot take ITAL 0060, 0061, 1041, or any 1000-level course on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) Requirement

Students must complete at least one W course in the major; ITAL 0060, 0061, and 1041 are all W-designated courses.

Related Area

A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department chosen in consultation with the major advisor. The completion of an official Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences/University Center for International Studies certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Certificate Programs

Certificate programs allow students to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to their major. They consist of 18–24 credits of course work and in many cases can be used to fulfill the related area requirement of the School of Arts and Sciences degree. Any student interested in the Italian Studies major may wish to pursue a certificate through the School of Arts and Sciences, such as the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Certificate, or the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Certificate, or one of the following certificates offered through the University Center for International Studies (UCIS).

The European Studies Center/European Union Center of Excellence offers two certificates for undergraduate students regardless of school or major. The Certificate in West European Studies provides students with strong interests in predominantly Western European history, culture, politics, and languages to complement their major with a regional specialization. The Certificate in European Union Studies offers students with academic and professional interests in the European Union (EU) an opportunity to study the institution, its history and development, its political and economic policies, and its influence on Europe and the world in depth. Enlargement of the EU has made it an institution of both Western and Eastern Europe. Either certificate is similar to a minor. It allows students in any major (including the sciences and professional disciplines) to complement that major with an interdisciplinary set of courses related to Western Europe and/or the EU in addition to proficiency in a relevant language. UCIS certificate programs also are offered in Asian studies, Latin American studies, and Russian and East European studies. These programs and the West European studies program are designated by the U.S. Department of Education as among the best of their kind for research, teaching, and public service. Other UCIS certificate programs include Africana and global studies.

Study Abroad—Pitt in Italy

The department is committed to international study, and students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the numerous opportunities to study abroad in Italy. While there are many different opportunities to incorporate cross-cultural study in the Italian Studies major (programs are available in Florence, Milan, Perugia, Rome, Siena, and Venice), Pitt in Italy is a program directed by University of Pittsburgh faculty. The University of Pittsburgh collaborates with Study Abroad Italy to offer the program in Syracuse (Siracusa), on the island of Sicily. In this program, students enroll in seven credits that include: Culture of Syracuse, Italian Conversation, and a level-appropriate language or literature course. Included in the program are several walking tours of Syracuse, cultural events, museum visits, theater and music performances, and various social events.

Students with two semesters of college-level Italian or the equivalent are encouraged to apply.

Course offerings include:

- ITAL 0003 Intermediate Italian I (3 credits), ITAL 0004 Intermediate Italian II (3 credits)
- ITAL 0055 Conversation (3 credits)
- ITAL 0060 Introduction to Literary Italian (3 credits)
- ITAL 1089 Special Topics: Sicily in Literature and Film (in English) (3 credits)

This course will explore a selection of rich literary and cinematic texts of and about Sicily, from Verga's verismo to Pirandello's groundbreaking theater, from Vittorini's antifascism to the detective stories of Sciascia and Camilleri, from the poetry of Quasimodo to the film of Tornatore and the Taviani brothers. A broad selection of genres (novels, poetry, short stories, theater, and film) and movements will be covered. All readings will be in English translation; all films will be subtitled. This course will be taken by Pitt students who are at or below the ITAL 0004 level.

- ITAL 1902 Culture of Syracuse

Italian Club

The goal of this student organization is to enhance the study of the Italian language and literature through the representation of cultural programs. The programs serve as a forum for the interests of students enrolled in courses offered by the Italian department extending to those interested in Italian and Italian American heritage in the community. Activities include a carnival festival, the annual Italian Club banquet, an international Christmas fest, Italian TV night, speakers, and international bowling night. The club also is involved in very active conversation sessions at various sites off campus.

Italian Living/Learning Community

For a more intensive cultural experience, sophomores and juniors may apply to live in the Italian Language and Culture Living/Learning Community in Pennsylvania Hall. Space is available for approximately 40 students interested in sharing common interests and practicing their language skills in an environment outside the classroom. Specialized course work as well as opportunities for study abroad during spring break are available for participants of this Living/Learning Community.

For more information about the Italian Studies major or the Italian major, please contact:

University of Pittsburgh
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of French and Italian Languages and Literatures
1328 Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-5220
E-mail: frit@pitt.edu

For more information about other majors or programs, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6601
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

