

Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures

Professors: Bonnie A. Catto, Dona M. Kercher; *Associate Professors:* Richard Bonanno, Juan Carlos Grijalva (Chairperson Spring 2019), Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe (Chairperson Fall 2018), Maryanne L. Leone, Esteban Loustaunau, Anthony S. Zielonka; *Lecturers:* George F. Aubin (Professor Emeritus of French and Linguistics), Elisabeth Howe (Professor Emerita of French), Ingrid Matos-Nin, Nicholas Pezzote, Maria Cevallos Warren.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures cultivates students' understanding of diversity and global perspectives by introducing them to the rich cultural traditions and literary expression of the civilizations we study. By engaging multiple cultures, we prepare our students to be thoughtful and compassionate citizens of a global community, thus supporting the mission of the College. In keeping with the liberal arts tradition, our programs ensure that students not only improve their ability to communicate in the target language—both orally and in writing—but also develop skills of critical thinking and content analysis. Our majors prepare students to use their linguistic, cultural and critical skills in their careers, advanced studies, and other future endeavors. The Department embraces the central educational values of Assumption College and its pursuit of academic excellence.

LEARNING GOALS

- To develop good oral/aural communication skills in the target language
- To write effectively in the target language
- To think critically about literary and cultural texts using discipline-appropriate methods of analysis
- To better understand the cultures of our target languages

STUDY ABROAD

Students in the major are strongly advised to undertake an immersion experience in a Latin American country as an integral part of their education. They may select from a variety of Assumption-approved study abroad programs with sites in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, and Central America. Students may also consider internships in a study abroad setting with the approval of the Dean of Studies. The Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico Missions, may offer students the opportunity to plan internships in conjunction with the departments of Sociology and Anthropology, Foreign Languages, History, or Theology.

MINOR IN ITALIAN STUDIES

The Italian Studies Minor is intended to offer students a greater knowledge of the language and an understanding of the Italian way of life as seen in the social structure, political institutions, economy, arts, and culture of Italy. A country with a rich artistic and literary history, contemporary Italy plays a prominent role in world affairs as a member of the European Union. Knowledge of Italian language and culture is an asset to students interested in all areas of the Humanities as well as International Business and Foreign Affairs.

A student may complete a Minor in Italian Studies with six one-semester courses (18 credits) including the following:

- Italian language at the level of Italian 103 or higher. Up to two additional language courses may be included.
- Italian literature in the original (i.e., ITA 140 Introduction to Literature: Italian Language or equivalent course).
- The remaining courses may be taken in other disciplines where the content deals substantively with Italian culture. These courses include but are not limited to:
 - ARH 223 Renaissance Art and Architecture
 - CLT 225 Dante's *Comedy*
 - CLT 227 Boccaccio's *Decameron*
 - CLT 266 Italian Cinema

HIS 202 Ancient Rome
POL 338 Nationalism and Fascism
A fifth semester Italian language course.

Depending on the interests of the individual student and the applicability of the course focus in a given term, other courses may be included (HIS 206, HIS 212). Students will be required to demonstrate that they will deal substantively with Italian studies in assignments which may include additional reading materials, special projects and research, or a final paper. These courses must be approved by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures and the faculty member teaching one of these courses. Independent studies, consortium, and study abroad courses may be included. The minor must be planned with the departmental advisor.

Course Descriptions

ITALIAN (ITA)

ITA 101 ITALIAN I

This beginning course offers students the opportunity to acquire communicative skills in Italian and to develop an awareness and appreciation of Italian culture. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. Basic thematic vocabulary and grammatical structures are covered. This course is intended for students with no prior coursework in Italian. Prerequisite: None (Fall)

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 102 ITALIAN II

This course is the second part of the beginning sequence offering students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. The course fosters awareness of Italian cultures through short readings and a variety of oral and written activities. Prerequisites: ITA 101, or one or two years of high school. (Spring)

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 103 ITALIAN III

Continued development of communicative competency in Italian language and culture including a variety of media. Prerequisite: ITA 102, or two or three years of high school Italian, or equivalent. (Fall)

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 104 ITALIAN IV

Integration of all skills. Reading skills using contemporary selections are developed through a process approach. Cultural topics present insights into the characteristics of Italian people, art, and literature. Prerequisite: ITA 103 or equivalent (Spring)

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 120 ITALIAN V: CONVERSATIONAL ITALIAN AND GRAMMAR REVIEW

This course is designed for students who wish to enhance their proficiency in Italian. The main points of Italian grammar will be reviewed and expanded through traditional exercises and conversations on current topics. Italian news as well as magazine articles and literary excerpts will be used. Prerequisite: ITA 104 or equivalent. (Fall)

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 140 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: ITALIAN LANGUAGE

This course is designed to introduce students to the form and structure of various genres of literature through the close reading and analysis of selections from Italian prose, poetry, and drama. Prerequisite: ITA 120 or equivalent. This course fulfills the Core requirement in Literature.

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 160 ITALIAN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE

This course introduces students to various aspects of Italian culture, including geographical regions, politics, film, art, music, social issues, and other elements of Italian civilization. Prerequisite: ITA 120 or equivalent.

Bonanno/*Three credits*

ITA 295 SPECIAL TOPICS

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*

ITA 299 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Subject and/or authors studied to be chosen with approval of professor.

Bonanno, Staff/*Three credits*