

# ITALIAN (ITAL)

## ITAL 1110 - Elementary Italian In Rome I (4 Credits)

This introductory course provides a thorough grounding in all the language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with practice in small groups.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: Architecture students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1113 - FWS: Writing Italy, Writing the Self: Jewish-Italian Lit and the Long 20th Century (3 Credits)

The Jewish community of Rome is the oldest one in all of Europe, dating back to 200 B. C., and the authors of some of the most important twentieth century works of Italian literature are Jewish. In this course we will examine how some of these writers (Moravia, Bassani, Primo Levi, Carlo Levi, Ginzburg, Sereni, Bruck, Loewenthal, Janacek, Elkann and Piperno) have articulated the self against the background of the historical events that have shaped the past hundred years; two world wars and different social movements of the pre- and post- WWII eras. This seminar includes two film screenings.

**Distribution Requirements:** (WRT-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2020  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1120 - Elementary Italian In Rome II (4 Credits)

This introductory course provides a thorough grounding in all the language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with practice in small groups.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1110 or equivalent.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: Architecture students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1201 - Italian I (4 Credits)

ITAL 1201 is a fast-paced, introductory-level course, designed for students with no previous knowledge of Italian. Students will be guided in developing four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) in the context of everyday topics (school, housing, travel personal preferences, simple exchanges about past, future and possible events, etc.). They will also be introduced to culturally acceptable modes of oral and written communication in Italian, some fundamentals of Italian history, and select current social and political issues.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (OCL-IL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1202 - Italian II (4 Credits)

This is a fast-paced, introductory course designed for students with some basic knowledge of the language. This introductory course provides a thorough grounding in all language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with practice in small and large groups. Interactive lectures cover grammar and cultural information.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1201, or equivalent.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (OCL-IL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1212 - Italian Food Culture (2 Credits)

The aim of this course is to help students familiarize themselves with one of the most important, and world-renowned aspects of Italian culture, or rather La Cucina Italiana. This course will combine different language learning approaches like grammar and audio/oral activities such as video clips, role play activities in class, interviews regarding food topics, etc., as well as some hand-on lessons. Class will alternate grammar and conversation lessons, while adding a few practical cooking activities that will focus on recipes and traditions that characterize different geographical regions of Italy.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1201 or equivalent, or permission of instructor required.

**Course Fee:** Course Fee, \$50. Course fee.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1213 - Italian for Art, Architecture and Fashion Design (2 Credits)

The learning objectives of this course are, first, to introduce students to some of the crucial moments in the history of Italian figurative arts, architecture and fashion design, but also to a range of social issues relevant for understanding the more recent tendencies in art and design in modern Italy; second, to help students refine the way they speak and write about art, architecture and design through a review of the grammatical and lexical structures of Italian and a reinforcement of idiomatic expressions that will increase their ability to discuss, evaluate, analyze and compare issues of relevance to the field of art, architecture and design.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1201 or equivalent.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 1401 - Intensive Elementary Italian (6 Credits)

An intensive elementary Italian language course. This 6-credit course covers material presented in ITAL 1201 and ITAL 1202 in just one semester. It's offered to students who cannot study Italian in the Fall, but can only do it in the Spring semester.

**Distribution Requirements:** (OCL-IL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## ITAL 2110 - Italian Intermediate Composition and Conversation I in Rome (4 Credits)

This is an all-skills course designed to improve speaking and reading ability, establish a groundwork for correct writing, and provide a substantial grammar review.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1120 or equivalent.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: architecture students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2130 - Italian Intermediate Composition and Conversation II in Rome (4 Credits)**

This course provides a review of composition, reading, pronunciation, and grammar review, as well as guided practice in conversation. It emphasizes the development of accurate and idiomatic expression in the language.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2110 or equivalent.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: Architecture students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2201 - Italian III (3 Credits)**

An intermediate-level course that aims to further develop intercultural, reading, listening, speaking, and writing abilities. Students will be guided in perfecting their communications skills, improving their cultural proficiency, and developing a critical eye toward printed and visual material drawn from literature, history, politics, arts in the Italophone world. Conversation skills will be practiced in daily discussions and in individual or group projects and presentations. A variety of written assignments will help students increase the range, accuracy, and stylistic appropriateness of their writing. Review of select grammar topics is part of this course, as is reading parts of contemporary novels.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 1202, ITAL 1401, LPI score of 49 or higher.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2202 - Italian IV (3 Credits)**

An intermediate-level course that aims to further develop intercultural, reading, listening, speaking, and writing abilities in ITAL 2201. Students will be guided in perfecting their communication skills, improving their cultural proficiency, and developing a critical eye toward printed and visual material drawn from literature, history, politics, science, and arts in the Italophone world. Conversation skills will be practiced in daily discussions and in individual or group projects and presentations. A variety of written assignments will help students increase the range, accuracy, and stylistic appropriateness of their writing. Review of select grammar topics is part of this course, as is reading a short contemporary novel.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2201.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FLOPI-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2203 - Languages-Literatures-Identities (3 Credits)**

This course aims to introduce students to Italian literature mainly through readings in prose and poetry from the 20th and 21st century. The course includes significant practice in grammar, vocabulary building, and composition. Course Topic: Living Together in a multicultural society. Our principal reading will be *Scontro di civiltà? Un ascensore a piazza Vittorio*, a 2006 award-winning novel by Algerian-Italian writer Amara Lakhous who came to Italy in 1995 as a political refugee; with this novel, he invites Italian readers to examine their 21st-century reality through the eyes of the immigrant.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2201 or equivalent.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2204 - The Cinematic Eye of Italy (3 Credits)**

In this film and culture course dedicated to Italian cinema, we will be looking at and reflecting on some of the most important films that made history both in Italy and the world from the end of the World War II to today.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2202 or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2240 - One Italian Masterpiece I (1.5 Credits)**

This course will introduce students to sustained study of one Italian masterpiece (a literary, philosophical, historical, or scientific work, or a major achievement in the visual, performance, or media arts). Italian 2400 (first part of semester): One Italian Masterpiece. We will focus on Vittorio De Sica's moving 1953 film *The Bicycle Thief* with supplementary readings and discussions on Italian culture after WWII and Fascism, from architecture and urbanism to politics; from soccer to cinema itself. We will think with this film about issues such as: What is poverty and what does it mean to represent it on screen? What is the value of work? How can a community come together in the wake of war? One Italian Masterpiece (second part of the semester): We will focus on Federico Fellini's epic 1961 film *La dolce vita* (the sweet life), with supplementary readings and discussions on topics including: Fashion, Style and Architecture; scandal and the birth of the paparazzo; Modern Rome and Ancient Rome; culture after war and Fascism, and even: Should *La dolce vita* be cancelled?

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2290 - Italian Mysteries (3 Credits)**

In this class we will trace the genre of the mystery story in Italy from Pinocchio (the mystery of who or what qualifies as a human being) through the 20th century across Italian art, literature, and cinema. Works by Carlo Collodi and Leonardo Sciascia will be featured along with classic cinema from Italy in order to answer a question that haunts Italian culture: who is the puppet and who is the master?

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2201 or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 2900 - Perspectives in Italian Culture (3 Credits)**

This course serves as an introduction to the close reading of, and critical engagement with, a range of sources from various periods of Italian literary and cultural history. In fact, since Italy doesn't really cohere as a political entity until late in the nineteenth century, this course could just as easily be called Perspectives in Pre-Italian Culture. The questions of perspective-of who's looking, what's being looked at, and what we're looking through-will haunt our readings from sources as varied as Dante's *Commedia*, the reception history of St. Francis of Assisi, medieval visionary women, Michelangelo's love lyrics, the novel (e.g. Moravia), the short story (e.g. Celati), film, and political philosophy. We'll pay special attention to the way in which desire, pleasure, excess, and resistance structure the articulation of Italian-or more local, frequently urban-identities, and we'll attempt too grapple with how, even as we get a kind of perspective on Italy, Italy always looks back at us with questions, desires, and a gaze of its own.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3010 - Screening Cosa Nostra: The Mafia and the Movies from Scarface to The Sopranos (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PMA 3410

From Al Capone to Tony Soprano, the mafia has been the subject of numerous films over the course of 70 years, so many in fact that one might well speak of a mafia obsession in American popular culture. Drawing upon a large number of American and Italian films, this course examines the cultural history of the mafia through film. We will explore issues related to the figure of the gangster, the gender and class assumptions that underpin it, and the portrayal-almost always stereotypical-of Italian-American immigrant experience that emerges from our viewings. The aim will be to enhance our understanding of the role of mafia plays in American and Italian culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. Film screenings will include *Little Caesar*, *Scarface*, *Shame of the Nation*, *The Godfather Parts I and II*, *Goodfellas*, *The Funeral*, *Donnie Brasco*, episodes from *The Sopranos*, and *Gomorra*.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2018, Spring 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3020 - Italian Practicum (1 Credit)**

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Spring 2012

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3240 - One Italian Masterpiece II (1.5 Credits)**

This course will introduce students to sustained study of one Italian masterpiece (a literary, philosophical, historical, or scientific work, or a major achievement in the visual, performance, or media arts).

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Fall 2019, Fall 2014

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3485 - Cinematic Cities (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SPAN 3485, FREN 3485, COML 3485, PMA 3485

Beginning in the early days of silent cinema, a rich tradition of what are called city films, combines technological innovation with the exploration of specific urban spaces. Students in this class will learn how to think about the possibilities of limits of cinema as a way of knowing a city and its cultures, including linguistic cultures. This course will be offered in English and is open to all students. The focus will be on the relationship between the cinema and the development of urban centers, including Madrid, Rome, Paris, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Venice.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2019, Summer 2019, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3580 - Creating Renaissance Man (and Woman) (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 3588

This course is dedicated to studying important works of literature that address what it means, in the Renaissance, to strive for excellence as a man or as a woman, especially in the public sphere and in love. Topic for Spring 2025: Baldassar Castiglione's *Il libro del corteiano* (1528).

**Prerequisites:** one Italian course at the 3000-level or equivalent, or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3600 - Machiavelli, Yesterday and Today (3 Credits)**

This course, offered in Romance Studies in the Italian Section, is meant for students who have no prior knowledge of Machiavelli, political science, or for that matter the Renaissance. It is both an introduction to one of the greatest political thinkers of the modern period, the father for many of what has come to be called political science, and a chance to reflect upon why it is that no thinker has been more cited or called upon in the last decade. Whether it be on questions of populism or the effects of climate change how people are governed, Machiavelli seems to speak to us directly in ways that few others do.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3730 - Italian Modernities (3 Credits)**

This course introduces students to special topics in twentieth-century Italian politics, history, and culture, with an emphasis on critical thinking and interpretation. Students who have already taken ITAL 3730 for credit may retake the course, provided that its topic and readings have changed. Conducted in Italian.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2202 and ITAL 2203.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2020, Fall 2017, Fall 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 3890 - Modern Italian Novel (3 Credits)**

The class will focus on the marvelous *Il gattopardo* (The Leopard, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, 1956) but with many different side topics and questions including: Sicily-history and geography, the politics of Right and Left in the writing and reception of novels and films, fashion history, sex and ethics, translation, literary prizes and the mourning of lost pets.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 2202 or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2017, Fall 2015, Spring 2014

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 4190 - Special Topics in Italian Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study of special topics.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 4200 - Special Topics in Italian Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study of special topics.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 4250 - Introduction to Biopolitics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 4450

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the relation between biological and the political, power and resistance, and life and death. Fifty years ago, the philosopher Michel Foucault offered two terms to describe it: biopolitics and biopower. In this introduction to both, we take up Foucault's writings on biopolitics in a series of interdisciplinary contexts, including but not limited to the philosophical, anthropological, and political. In addition to Foucault, we will be reading elaborations on what has been called the biopolitical paradigm from writers as diverse as Agamben, Arendt, Arif, Biehl, Butler, Esposito, Fassin, Mbembe, and Sloterdijk. Questions to be asked include how to describe relation between biopolitics and racism and in what ways has the pandemic altered our understanding of biopolitics.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 4290 - Honors in Italian Literature (4 Credits)**

Consult director of undergraduate studies for more information.

**Enrollment Information:** Primarily for: juniors and seniors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 4300 - Honors in Italian Literature (4 Credits)**

Consult director of undergraduate studies for more information.

**Prerequisites:** ITAL 4290.

**Enrollment Information:** Primarily for: juniors and seniors.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 6224 - Beauty, Grief (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 6224, COML 6424, FREN 6424, SPAN 6224

This course is for anyone drawn to beauty-and anyone who, within the beautiful, finds the trace of a loss. What do we grieve, what do we miss, when we find ourselves in the presence of beauty? And what, in every retrospective, prospective or otherwise non-present beauty, do we nonetheless crave and nonetheless mourn? What is the beauty hidden within mourning? We'll take a look at thinkers, poets, and artists from both modern and premodern culture, potentially including Anne Carson, Augustine of Hippo, Fra Angelico, Gillian Rose, Herve Guibert, Pepe Espaliu, and others, as we try to sit with dual summons of beauty and grief: beauty or grief.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 6250 - Introduction to Biopolitics (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ANTHR 7450

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the relation between biological and the political, power and resistance, and life and death. Fifty years ago, the philosopher Michel Foucault offered two terms to describe it: biopolitics and biopower. In this introduction to both, we take up Foucault's writings on biopolitics in a series of interdisciplinary contexts, including but not limited to the philosophical, anthropological, and political. In addition to Foucault, we will be reading elaborations on what has been called the biopolitical paradigm from writers as diverse as Agamben, Arendt, Arif, Biehl, Butler, Esposito, Fassin, Mbembe, and Sloterdijk. Questions to be asked include how to describe relation between biopolitics and racism and in what ways has the pandemic altered our understanding of biopolitics.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 6270 - Dante's Commedia (3 Credits)**

In this seminar, dedicated to a close reading of Dante's *Commedia* (1321), we will consider how Dante's poem explores such issues as: the search for language adequate to convey experience surpassing human comprehension; the creation of a narrating I; the education of the reader; the relation between truth and enterprise; the redemptive potential of art (and its ability to deceive as well as to enlighten and console); the call to bear witness, both to life and to loss.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2016, Spring 2012

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 6390 - Special Topics in Italian Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study for graduate students.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**ITAL 6400 - Special Topics in Italian Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study for graduate students.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)