

Italian Studies

The graduate program offers in-depth training in the field of Italian Studies, leading to the PhD degree. The program begins with a strong foundation in the critical analysis and historical understanding of Italian literature and encourages exploration of a wide range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary areas. These include (but are not limited to) film studies; comparative literature; literary, rhetorical, and cultural theory; gender studies; history; anthropology; history of art and music; architecture; classics; political science; medieval and early modern studies; and Romance languages and literature.

The Department of Italian Studies offers an integrated MA/PhD program, in which the MA constitutes the first phase in a trajectory leading to the PhD. **Applications are not accepted for the MA degree alone.** Students holding a master's degree or the equivalent in Italian Studies and related fields from other institutions may be admitted directly to the second phase of the program.

Admission to the University

Minimum Requirements for Admission

The following minimum requirements apply to all graduate programs and will be verified by the Graduate Division:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A grade point average of B or better (3.0);
3. If the applicant has completed a basic degree from a country or political entity (e.g., Quebec) where English is not the official language, adequate proficiency in English to do graduate work, as evidenced by a TOEFL score of at least 90 on the iBT test, 570 on the paper-and-pencil test, or an IELTS Band score of at least 7 on a 9-point scale (note that individual programs may set higher levels for any of these); and
4. Sufficient undergraduate training to do graduate work in the given field.

Applicants Who Already Hold a Graduate Degree

The Graduate Council views academic degrees not as vocational training certificates, but as evidence of broad training in research methods, independent study, and articulation of learning. Therefore, applicants who already have academic graduate degrees should be able to pursue new subject matter at an advanced level without the need to enroll in a related or similar graduate program.

Programs may consider students for an additional academic master's or professional master's degree only if the additional degree is in a distinctly different field.

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program that requires a master's degree to be earned at Berkeley as a prerequisite (even though the applicant already has a master's degree from another institution in the same or a closely allied field of study) will be permitted to undertake the second master's degree, despite the overlap in field.

The Graduate Division will admit students for a second doctoral degree only if they meet the following guidelines:

1. Applicants with doctoral degrees may be admitted for an additional doctoral degree only if that degree program is in a general area of

knowledge distinctly different from the field in which they earned their original degree. For example, a physics PhD could be admitted to a doctoral degree program in music or history; however, a student with a doctoral degree in mathematics would not be permitted to add a PhD in statistics.

2. Applicants who hold the PhD degree may be admitted to a professional doctorate or professional master's degree program if there is no duplication of training involved.

Applicants may apply only to one single degree program or one concurrent degree program per admission cycle.

Required Documents for Applications

1. **Transcripts:** Applicants may upload *unofficial* transcripts with your application for the departmental initial review. Unofficial transcripts must contain specific information including the name of the applicant, name of the school, all courses, grades, units, & degree conferral (if applicable).
2. **Letters of recommendation:** Applicants may request online letters of recommendation through the online application system. Hard copies of recommendation letters must be sent directly to the program, by the recommender, not the Graduate Admissions.
3. **Evidence of English language proficiency:** All applicants who have completed a basic degree from a country or political entity in which the official language is not English are required to submit official evidence of English language proficiency. This applies to institutions from Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Latin America, the Middle East, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Southeast Asia, most European countries, and Quebec (Canada). However, applicants who, at the time of application, have already completed at least one year of full-time academic course work with grades of B or better at a US university may submit an official transcript from the US university to fulfill this requirement. The following courses will not fulfill this requirement:

- courses in English as a Second Language,
- courses conducted in a language other than English,
- courses that will be completed after the application is submitted, and
- courses of a non-academic nature.

Applicants who have previously applied to Berkeley must also submit new test scores that meet the current minimum requirement from one of the standardized tests. Official TOEFL score reports must be sent directly from Educational Test Services (ETS). The institution code for Berkeley is 4833 for Graduate Organizations. Official IELTS score reports must be sent electronically from the testing center to University of California, Berkeley, Graduate Division, Sproul Hall, Rm 318 MC 5900, Berkeley, CA 94720. TOEFL and IELTS score reports are only valid for two years prior to beginning the graduate program at UC Berkeley. Note: score reports can not expire before the month of June.

Where to Apply

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

We select our graduate students on the basis of their record of academic achievement in the past, and their promise of future success in scholarship and teaching. A bachelor's degree in Italian is preferred but not absolutely required for admission; however, applicants with degrees in other fields must have already undertaken significant coursework in Italian studies.

We accept applications from students holding a bachelor's degree from Berkeley or elsewhere, and from those who hold a master's degree or Italian Laurea. Applicants from Italy should also be aware of the significant differences between the PhD degree and the dottorato di ricerca.

Normative Time Requirements

Total Normative Time

Total normative time is six years.

Curriculum

ITALIAN 205	Proseminar I: Italian Literary Studies	2,4
ITALIAN 290A & ITALIAN 290B	Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies and Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies	4

Select three ITALIAN graduate courses from the following historical periods:

13th-14th Centuries		
15th-16th Centuries		
17th-18th Centuries		
19th-20th Centuries		
ITALIAN 282	Prospectus Tutorial	4
ITALIAN 302	Practicum in College Teaching of Italian	2-4
ITALIAN 303	Practicum in the Teaching of Italian Literature, History, and Culture	2-4
ITALIAN 375	Seminar in Language Pedagogy	4

Italian Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+]Collapse all course descriptions [-]

ITALIAN C201 Linguistic History of the Romance Language 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2011
Linguistic development of the major Romance languages (French, Italian, and Spanish) from the common Latin origin. Comparative perspective, combining historical grammar and external history.

Linguistic History of the Romance Language: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Knowledge of at least two of the major Romance languages (French, Italian, and Spanish)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Romance Philology 200

Also listed as: FRENCH C202/SPANISH C202

Linguistic History of the Romance Language: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN C203 Comparative Studies in Romance Literatures and Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2016
Topics will vary. Comparative studies in literary, cultural, or historical issues that cut across the literatures of the Romance languages. Comparative Studies in Romance Literatures and Cultures: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Navarrete, Hampton, Botterill

Also listed as: FRENCH C203/SPANISH C203

Comparative Studies in Romance Literatures and Cultures: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 204 Contemporary Trends in Critical Theory 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2013

This course is designed to provide the student with a general view of the major developments in contemporary criticism and an opportunity to apply critical methods to literary texts. One oral report and a final paper. Contemporary Trends in Critical Theory: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Contemporary Trends in Critical Theory: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 205 Proseminar I: Italian Literary Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017

This course introduces the study of Italian literature in its historical scope, while presenting the range of research interests represented on the Italian Studies faculty. Required of all Master of Arts candidates.

Proseminar I: Italian Literary Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units do not write a final paper and may enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Proseminar I: Italian Literary Studies: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 212 Seminar on Dante 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2015, Fall 2014

Studies in the and other works.

Seminar on Dante: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units do not write a final paper and may enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Ascoli, Botterill

Formerly known as: 209

Seminar on Dante: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 215 Seminar in Renaissance Literature and Culture 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020, Spring 2018

Investigation of major topics, genres, and authors in Italian literature and culture of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Seminar in Renaissance Literature and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units do not write a final paper and may enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Ascoli, Moses

Formerly known as: 217

Seminar in Renaissance Literature and Culture: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 230 Seminar in 19th Century Literature and Culture 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2014

Investigation of major topics, genres, and figures in Italian literature and culture of the 19th century.

Seminar in 19th Century Literature and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units do not write a final paper and may enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Spackman

Formerly known as: 221

Seminar in 19th Century Literature and Culture: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 235 Seminar in 20th Century Literature and Culture 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2021

Investigation of major topics, genres, and authors in Italian literature and culture of the 20th century.

Seminar in 20th Century Literature and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units do not write a final paper and may enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Spackman, Fuller

Formerly known as: 223

Seminar in 20th Century Literature and Culture: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 244 Special Topics in Genre and Mode 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2016, Fall 2011

Investigation of significant genres and modes of writing as they recur in the course of Italian cultural history.

Special Topics in Genre and Mode: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis and do not write a final paper.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Genre and Mode: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 248 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Italian Studies 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021

Investigation of topics in Italian cultural history from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Italian Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students taking this course for 2 units enroll in the course on a <satisfactory/unsatisfactory> basis and do not write a final paper.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Italian Studies: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 260 Directed Readings in Italian Literature and Culture 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Directed readings undertaken under the direction of a faculty member of the department of Italian Studies in conjunction with an audit of a 100-series seminar.

Directed Readings in Italian Literature and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Directed Readings in Italian Literature and Culture: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 270 Seminar Research Course 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Directed research leading to the writing of a term paper under the direction of an Italian Studies department faculty member. Requires concurrent enrollment in a 100-series seminar.

Seminar Research Course: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar Research Course: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 282 Prospectus Tutorial 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Directed reading course leading to the production of a formal dissertation prospectus with detailed bibliography. Course is required for all Doctor of Philosophy candidates.

Prospectus Tutorial: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Prospectus Tutorial: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 290A Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

Reports on current scholarly work by faculty and graduate students.

Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Italian studies

Credit Restrictions: M.A. or Ph.D. students who elect to repeat the sequence must do so on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of colloquium per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Formerly known as: 290

Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 290B Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021
 Reports on current scholarly work by faculty and graduate students.
 Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Italian studies

Credit Restrictions: M.A. or Ph.D. students who elect to repeat the sequence must do so on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-3 hours of colloquium per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Formerly known as: 290

Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies: [Read Less](#) [-]

ITALIAN 298 Special Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022
 Designed to allow students to do research in areas not covered by other courses. Requires regular discussions with the instructor and a final written report.

Special Study: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-7.5 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 1.5-5.5 hours of independent study per week
 10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Study: [Read Less](#) [-]

ITALIAN 299 Directed Research 6 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022
 Limited to students engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation.
 Directed Research: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 27-60 hours of independent study per week
 6 weeks - 15-30 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 10-99 hours of independent study per week
 10 weeks - 8-18 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Directed Research: [Read Less](#) [-]

ITALIAN N299 Directed Research 1 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2023 10 Week Session, Summer 2022 10 Week Session, Summer 2021 10 Week Session
 Limited to students engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation.
 Directed Research: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Summer:

6 weeks - 0.5-8 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 0.5-6 hours of independent study per week
 10 weeks - 0.5-4.5 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Directed Research: [Read Less](#) [-]

ITALIAN 302 Practicum in College Teaching of Italian 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Practicum in College Teaching of Italian: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 301. Concurrent service as Italian graduate student instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Practicum in College Teaching of Italian: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 303 Practicum in the Teaching of Italian Literature, History, and Culture 2 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Three hours of classroom teaching per week with regular faculty supervision; attendance at faculty lectures where appropriate; routine meetings to discuss and evaluate teaching methods, including lecturing, discussion, classroom activities, grading and testing, design of syllabi and course materials.

Practicum in the Teaching of Italian Literature, History, and Culture: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Required of Italian Studies Department GSIs not enrolled in 302 or 355 or in an approved Reading and Composition pedagogy course

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Practicum in the Teaching of Italian Literature, History, and Culture: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 375 Seminar in Language Pedagogy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

Required of all graduate student instructors in their first semester of teaching. This course provides instruction on the theory and practice of foreign language teaching and learning with lectures on methodology, testing, grading, class preparation, textbook selection and evaluation, course design and development, and the use of audio-visual and computer aids to instruction. A final research paper is required. It also includes supervised classroom practice.

Seminar in Language Pedagogy: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student instructor status

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Letter grade.

Seminar in Language Pedagogy: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 601 Individual Studies for M.A. Candidates 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Individual study in consultation with faculty member with a view to the M.A. comprehensive examination. May be taken only in the semester of the comprehensive examination.

Individual Studies for M.A. Candidates: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Studies for M.A. Candidates: Read Less [-]

ITALIAN 602 Individual Studies for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Individual study in consultation with a faculty adviser. Intended to provide an opportunity for qualified students to prepare for the Ph.D. qualifying examination. May be taken only in the semester of the qualifying examination.

Individual Studies for Doctoral Students: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Course does not satisfy unit or residence requirements for doctoral degree.

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with advisor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Italian Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Studies for Doctoral Students: [Read Less](#) [-]