

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

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

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

ITALIAN C201 Linguistic History of the Romance Language 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

Linguistic development of the major Romance languages (French, Italian, and Spanish) from the common Latin origin. Comparative perspective, combining historical grammar and external history.

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

ITALIAN C203 Comparative Studies in Romance Literatures and Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: 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.

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

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.

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.

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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2022, Fall 2019

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.

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.

ITALIAN 212 Seminar on Dante 2 or 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2015, Fall 2014

Studies in the and other works.

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

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

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023

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

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

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.

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

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

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

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

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

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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

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

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.

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

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

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

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.

ITALIAN 260 Directed Readings in Italian Literature and Culture 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.

ITALIAN 270 Seminar Research Course 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

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.

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.

ITALIAN 282 Prospectus Tutorial 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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

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.

ITALIAN 290A Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Reports on current scholarly work by faculty and graduate students.

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

ITALIAN 290B Graduate Colloquium in Italian Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Reports on current scholarly work by faculty and graduate students.

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

ITALIAN 298 Special Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.

ITALIAN 299 Directed Research 6 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Limited to students engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation.

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.

ITALIAN N299 Directed Research 1 - 6 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 10 Week Session, Summer 2024 10 Week Session, Summer 2023 10 Week Session

Limited to students engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation.

Limited to students engaged in research for the doctoral dissertation.

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.

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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.

ITALIAN 602 Individual Studies for Doctoral Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

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.

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.