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. A complete list of graduate academic departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/programs/list/).

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 can be found on the Graduate Division website (http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/).

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 (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/).

Where to apply?

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

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.
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 C202/SPANISH C202

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.

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.

Instructors: Navarrete, Hampton, Botterill

Also listed as: FRENCH C203/SPANISH C203
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: Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2020
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.

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 More [+] 

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.

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.

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.

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 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 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 - 10-199 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.
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 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.
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 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.
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.