



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS



ITALIAN STUDIES

With Italian culture as the central core and Italy's transnational context as an important complementary focus, the interdisciplinary major in Italian Studies not only gives students knowledge of Italian language and culture, but also equips them with the intellectual tools they need to approach the complexities of Italy's broader historical and cultural context. More specifically, the major in Italian Studies helps students to recognize that an array of social, historical, and political forces always shapes relationships among peoples, ideas, nations, and traditions. This broader focus is consistent with the latest developments in many Humanities disciplines, which give increasing attention to cultural diversity and interdisciplinary studies..

ENGAGING COURSEWORK

A dynamic curriculum builds strong practical knowledge from introductory classes to specialized coursework.

The major is designed to develop skills in reading and writing, promote understanding and appreciation of world cultures and literatures, and enhance students' ability to communicate in Italian. Language study also fosters the understanding of grammar structures in one's native language, improves oral and written skills, and affords a deeper awareness of the dynamics of communicative exchanges.

A selection of program coursework includes:

- ITA 2530 Italian Women Writers
- ITA 2550 Italian-Americans and Film
- ITA 2560 The Italian Southern Question in Literature and Film
- ITA 3020 Conversation and Culture

REWARDING CAREER PATHS

Directly and indirectly, the study of languages and their cultures and literatures will provide you with important job-related knowledge and skills that can give you a competitive edge. These include the ability to solve problems and to think analytically and creatively, to communicate effectively and confidently in writing and in person, and to act with versatility and flexibility. Graduates of the Italian Studies major program pursue careers in business, education, government, and the non-profit sector; and many also pursue advanced degrees.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Teacher of Foreign Languages
Students interested in preparing for a career as teachers of Italian at the secondary and middle school level have the following two options: they may major in Italian and pass the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) to obtain a 5-year preliminary license to teach Italian. Alternatively, they may double major in Italian Studies and Education to obtain an Initial License. Elementary teachers can easily double major in Italian Studies and Elementary Education.



QUESTIONS?

Contact the **Department of World Languages & Cultural Studies** at:

- (978) 837-5376