The University of Memphis offers Italian as a major, as a minor, and as a concentration for the B.A. in World Languages. Substantial scholarships are available for students interested in spending a semester or summer abroad at various Italian universities.

Contact: Dr. C. Gaudenzi (cgaudenz@memphis.edu)
Italian at UM

The Italian program at the University of Memphis offers a major and a minor in Italian with beginning, intermediate, and advanced courses in Italian language, literature, and business Italian, as well as courses in English on topics such as Dante, Italian cinema, and Italian food and culture. In language courses, the communicative approach is employed, and classroom instruction is complemented by social media and audio-visual media. We regularly view beautiful slides of Italy and we even make Italian films!

Requirements for the major: 24 upper division semester hours (8 courses). (To declare a major go to Scates 107.)

Requirements for the minor: a total of 18 semester hours (6 courses): ITAL 1020, 2010, and 2020 (or their equivalents); and 9 upper division semester hours (3 courses) in the Italian program. (To declare a minor go to Scates 107.)

Requirements for a two-language concentration: 27 upper division semester hours (9 courses) with a minimum of 9 semester hours in each language.

Requirements for a three-language concentration: at least 33 upper division semester hours (11 courses) to include at least 12 semester hours in each of two languages plus approved course work in a third language.

ITALIAN COURSES

ITAL 1010 - Elementary Italian I (3)
ITAL 1020 - Elementary Italian II (3)
ITAL 2010 - Intermediate Italian I (3)
ITAL 2020 - Intermediate Italian II (3)
ITAL 3301 - Conversation/Composition I (3)
ITAL 3302 - Conversation/Composition II (3)
ITAL 3311 - Advanced Conversation/Composition I (3)
ITAL 3312 - Advanced Conversation/Composition II (3)
ITAL 3411 - Introduction to Italian Literature (3)
ITAL 3900 - Italian Culture and Society (3-6)
ITAL 4411 - Dante (3)
ITAL 4780 - Individual Studies Italian (1-3)
ITAL 4791-99. Special Topics in Ital. Literature, Language, and Civilization (3)
ITAL 7690. Research in Italian Studies (3)
LALI 4441/6441 - Dante (3) Study of the Il Nuovo and the Divine Comedy in English translation. This course can be taken to satisfy the three hours of upper-division coursework in Humanities. It has no prerequisites
LALI 4442- Italian Cinema (3) Screening and discussion of major contemporary Italian movies in context of 20th century and early 21st-century Italian culture and society. This course can be taken to satisfy the three hours of upper-division coursework in Humanities. It has no prerequisites
LALI 4011 Culture/Business Italian Style (3) This course investigates Italy’s excellence and creativity through topics such as food and wine, fashion and automobiles, and interior design and technology
LALI 4792 Italian Women Writers in Translation (3) Study of major Italian women novelists of the 20th century. This course is taught in English and can be taken to satisfy the three hours of upper-division coursework in Humanities. It has no prerequisites
LALI 4797 Food Culture and Italian Identity (3) Study of the historical development of the relation between food culture and Italian identity. This course is taught in English and can be taken to satisfy the three hours of upper-division coursework in Humanities. It has no prerequisites

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND INTERNSHIPS

Ciee (http://www.ciee.org/); Icon (http://www.iclcenter.it); Niaf (http://www.niaf.org/); Rotary (http://www.rotary.org/); Unico (http://www.unico.it/); Order Sons of Italy in America (http://www.osia.org); UM Mary Pettus Thomas Scholarship (http://www.memphis.edu/f/scholarships/index.php); UM Study Abroad Scholarship (http://www.memphis.edu/abroad/scholarships.php); Italy internships (http://export.gov/italy/internshipprogram/index.asp); Site internships (http://siteprogram.wix.com/site)

Career Opportunities

A Major or Minor in Italian at UM prepares you linguistically and culturally for many career paths, including challenging and rewarding jobs in government, international nonprofit organizations, business, communications, sciences, and teaching. Knowing Italian in particular is beneficial in several career fields where contemporary Italy is a world leader: fashion; culinary arts; interior, graphic, and furniture design; machine tool manufacturing, robotics, electromechanical machinery; transportation equipment, shipbuilding, and space engineering. Since language skills complement other fields of study so well, students majoring in Italian are encouraged to double major and minor in areas such as Art History, Music, International Business, International Studies, Political Science, and Hospitality and Resort Management. The Italian Program at the University of Memphis puts special emphasis on academic topics such as Dante, Italian Cinema, Food, Music, and Business Italian, and aims at helping students spend time in Italy to gain a well-rounded education and expertise.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ITALY: PAST AND PRESENT

Over the centuries, Italy has produced some of the most remarkable cultural works in the western canon, from Dante’s Divine Comedy to Michelangelo’s frescoes in the Sistine Chapel; from Machiavelli’s Prince to Castiglione’s The Courtier; and from the neorealist films of Vittorio De Sica to the post-modernist novels of Italo Calvino. According to UNESCO, over 60% of the world’s art treasures are found in Italy. Historically, too, Italy has been of great importance. The Roman empire had a profound influence on the development of Europe and subsequent Western Civilization. In the Middle Ages cities such as Florence and Venice were among the richest and most powerful of Europe. Italy was the birthplace of the Renaissance, the culture and values of which provided foundations for much of life in the West over the last five hundred years. Today Italy is a key ally to the U.S.; it hosts more NATO and U.S. military bases than almost any country. In addition, Italy is one of the world’s leading industrial democracies. It is the seventh largest global market. The USA–Italy bilateral relationship is strong and growing. The two countries cooperate closely on major economic issues. With a large population and high per-capita income, Italy is one of the United States’ most important trade partners. Moreover, the Italo-American community, the fifth largest ethnic group in the U.S., has been a driving force for the development of cultural and economic bonds between the two countries. An estimated 7,500 American companies do business with Italy and more than 1,000 U.S. firms have offices in Italy, including IBM, General Electric, Motorola, and Citibank. Consequently, many employers in the United States are seeking people who speak both Italian and English.