

School of Arts & Sciences - Spring 2025

Prospectus

Advanced Italian II

Course ID and 6-digit Number: ITAL 1200-301

Course Description and Level

In Advanced Italian II, students will strengthen their communication skills and written abilities to narrate, express opinions, hypothesize, use rich and appropriate vocabulary and grammar, and explore significant aspects of Italian history and culture. This course will focus on the Italian film *L'uomo senza gravità* (*The Man Without Gravity*, 2019), which will be used as a point of departure to explore contemporary Italian culture from the '80s to nowadays. Songs, comic strips, photographs, and relevant texts will complement the analysis of the film and allow for an in-depth discussion of several topics, such as the gender roles in matriarchal families, the depiction of physical abilities and disabilities, how diversity challenges individuals to find ways to fit in with society, youth unemployment, the influence of the USA in Italian film and pop culture, the portrait of the consumer society of the '80s and '90s, the role of the television in turning people's lives into a spectacle, and the complex relationship between fiction and reality. Course materials will include works by Calvino, Fellini, Ramondino, Rigoni Stern, Romano, and Tomba, among others, and will be used to investigate the many facets of Italian identity and to prepare those students who will continue their study of Italian literature and culture in higher-level courses. Students are expected to participate in conversations and other activities to improve their communicative competence and explore and research topics related to the course independently.

Prerequisites

Students may register for Italian 1200

- if they completed ITAL1000 (Advanced Italian I) at the University of Pennsylvania or took an equivalent course in another institution
- with permission of the Undergraduate Chair

Class Structure

- Students will attend classes TR 12:00-1:30 pm
- Students will complete out-of-class assignments as indicated by the instructor
- Students' progress will be evaluated in different ways (in class and home activities and compositions, forum discussions, collaborative work, short research, individual and group project)

Out-of-class Activities

- Weekly forum discussion on Canvas
- Weekly Video/Voice recordings
- Daily assignments (handouts, compositions, videos, research, mini-presentations, projects)

- The viewing of sequences from the movie will be followed by written and oral exercises in class and/or at home to assess comprehension, vocabulary, and provide an opportunity for analysis.
- In place of a final exam, students will write a final essay.

Essential Course Policies

- **No textbook is required.** To offer equitable access to resources and course material, instructional material (PowerPoints, handouts, webpages) and other authentic resources (videos, articles, short stories, selections from novels, etc.) will be provided by the instructor
- Access to Canvas and Open Access Resources

Students requiring accommodations of any kind should let the instructor know as soon as possible.