

School of Arts & Sciences Prospectus – Fall 2022

First Year Seminar: Italian Foods and Cultures

Course ID and 7-digit Number: ITAL0097- 401

Course Description

One of the first things that come to mind when we think of Italy is its food, celebrated and renowned worldwide. Yet, what makes food important to Italy and Italians? What can food tell us about Italian society, its people, and its cultural practices? As semiologists have observed, food functions as a language that possesses its own structures and communicates different meanings. Indeed, not only does food convey dietary preferences and habits but also subjects' cultural values, class distinctions, social restrictions, power relationships, hopes, and desires, which are not necessarily or strictly connected to the edible sphere. This course will consider food a compelling instrument to investigate what shapes Italian culture and the Italic identity. It will also explore how the development of the Italian culinary tradition and the variety of eating habits mirror Italian society's historical and economic changes over the centuries. Furthermore, the course will include the interpretation and adaptations of Italian and Italian American cuisine in American culture. Students will analyze literary documents, works of art, music, and film, as well as family recipes and cooking tools from ancient Rome to contemporary Italy. **Recommended for First- or Second-Semester Students.**

Class Structure for Fall 2022

- In-Person Sessions Planned
- Students will attend classes TR 3:30-5:00 pm
- Asynchronous work may occasionally be assigned
- Students will complete out-of-class assignments as indicated by the instructor

Out-of-class Activities may include

- Forum discussions on Canvas
- Individual and collaborative research
- Daily assignments (Readings, Videos)

Outline of Assignments and Assessments

- Attendance and Participation 30%
- Blogs/Forum 15%
- Presentations 10%
- Response Papers 15%
- Final Project/Essay 30%

Essential Course Policies

- Course material provided by the instructor
- Access to Canvas

Any student may consult with [Student Financial Services](#) to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

Students needing accommodations of any kind should let the instructor know as soon as they are able.

