ITALIAN, M.A.

The Italian program offers the master of arts and Ph.D. degrees. In most academic years, a wide array of courses and seminars is offered each semester to provide an even distribution across various literary periods. Courses typically meet two or three times a week and are broad in focus, generally exploring well-defined periods or genres. Seminars are held once a week for two hours and take up narrower topics in greater depth. Typical course offerings over a two- to three-year period cover all centuries of Italian literature and a wide variety of topics, including Italian culture, cinema, civilization, and linguistics. Strong emphasis is placed on the practice of the language; Italian is the usual language of instruction in graduate courses and seminars.

Graduate students gain a solid foundation not only in scholarship and criticism, but also in teaching. Most students have guarantees of support. The standard offer to an incoming teaching assistant provides a guarantee of three or four years of support, depending on whether the student has already done graduate work elsewhere. Study abroad programs and exchange agreements with individual universities provide opportunities for study and research in Italy. For example, the department frequently sends a graduate student to serve for a semester or a year as house fellow for the study program at the Villa Corsi-Salviati near Florence. In addition the department has exchange and cooperation arrangements with the Università di Siena and the Università di Firenze.

The department offers regular workshops designed to give students an overview of the job market and how to best prepare for it, making its placement record outstanding. As one of the largest Italian programs in North America, the department offers an unparalleled opportunity to study Italian literature, linguistics, and culture.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext) in addition to the requirements of the program.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.A.

MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

30 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

16 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT

Over half of degree coursework (18 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed in graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: GRADUATE WORK FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 6 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNDERGRADUATE

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNIVERSITY SPECIAL

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 6 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED

Contact program for list of specific courses.

OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT

3.25 GPA required.

OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS

No other grade requirements.

PROBATION POLICY

The status of a student can be one of three options:

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All students are required to conduct a yearly progress report meeting with their advisor.

ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Formal examination required. No thesis requirement.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.
LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
No language requirements.

ADMISSIONS
The Graduate School sets minimum requirements for admissions (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements). Academic program admission requirements are often more rigorous than those set by the Graduate School. Please check the program website (http://frit.wisc.edu/graduate/italian/application) for details.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
• Demonstrate critical understanding of the major works of Italian literature and culture from the Middle Ages up to the present.
• Lead a well-informed discussion of literature and culture utilizing an adequate proficiency of Italian.
• Master methods of literary and cultural analysis in their specific areas of interest.
• Examine literary texts of various genres and write competent critical and analytical essays.
• Lead a well-informed discussion of literature and culture utilizing an adequate proficiency of Italian.
• Identify, select, and retrieve primary and secondary sources pertaining to questions in Italian literature and culture.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
• Recognizes and applies principles of ethical and professional conduct.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING GOALS
• Create level- and course-appropriate instructional objectives, activities, and assessments for teaching language, literature, and culture.
• Use instructional technologies appropriately to enhance the teaching of language, literature, and culture.
• Incorporate insights from second language acquisition theory and current best practices in foreign language teaching into instruction.

PEOPLE
French Faculty: Professors Bousquet (chair), Debaisieux, Goodkin, Langer, Miernowski, Songolo, Tochon and Vila; Associate Professors Armbrecht, El-Nossery, Willis Allen, and Vatan; Assistant Professors Armstrong, Dima, and Gipson

Italian Faculty: Professors Bousquet (chair), Buccini, Livorni, Rumble; Associate Professors Menechella, Phillips-Court; Assistant Professor Todorovic