ITALIAN, PH.D.

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.

FUNDING

Prospective students should see the program website (http://frit.wisc.edu/graduate/italian/financial_assistance) for funding information.

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.

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Ph.D.

MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

51 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

32 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT

Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 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 ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral 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 ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED

Contact program for list of specific courses.

DOCTORAL MINOR/BREADTH REQUIREMENTS

All doctoral students are required to complete a minor.

OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT

3.30 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
Qualifying exam (if M.A. is from another institution); preliminary examinations; dissertation proposal; oral examination; dissertation; dissertation defense.

TIME CONSTRAINTS
A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Reading proficiency in two languages other than English and Italian.

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 thorough knowledge and critical understanding of their area of specialization.
• Synthesize and define a field of inquiry in a persuasive, coherent, and original way.
• Make effective use of research sources, tools, and strategies in the field of Italian literature and culture.
• Demonstrate, in the writing of their Ph.D. dissertation, an originality of thinking and insight that reaches beyond the current boundaries of knowledge within the field of study.
• Articulate awareness of various questions, problems, and limitations implied by their framing of their topic.
• Contribute substantially to their area of specialization, and engage in a dialogue with other experts in that area.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT
• Fosters ethical and professional conduct.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING GOALS
• Communicate and defend complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner, in both Italian and English.
• Show reading knowledge of a second foreign language pertinent to their research specialty.
• Be prepared to be effective teachers of Italian culture, and language at the college and university levels.

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