

SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

ITALIAN

The Italian programme provides students with the opportunity to acquire a high level of proficiency in the Italian language as well as comprehensive knowledge of Italian culture. The Italian programme is offered both as a major and a minor.

In order to declare a major in Italian, applicants must initially complete two introductory core language courses, i.e. **ITAL1001** and **ITAL1002** (12 credits in all).

In their second, third, and fourth years of study, students pursuing a major in Italian must take a total of 54 credits of courses which should normally be distributed as follows:

- 24 credits from courses at Level 2XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses, i.e. **ITAL2001** and **ITAL2002**, and up to 6 credits may be selected from a list of non-ITAL courses;
- 30 credits from courses at Level 3XXX, of which 12 credits must be from the core language courses, i.e. **ITAL3001** and **ITAL3002**, plus 6 credits from **ITAL3020**, a ‘capstone’ course designed to allow the application of disciplinary knowledge and principles learned in the first, second and third years.

Finally, students will be strongly encouraged to participate in a 3 to 4-week linguistic stay in Italy during the summer or winter either between their second and third year or third and fourth year of studies.

Major (72 credits)

To complete a major in Italian, students are expected to take a total of 72 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**
ITAL1001. Italian I.1
ITAL1002. Italian I.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2.
- **One 6-credit Arts Faculty introductory course to be taken from any Arts programmes except Italian**
- **Core courses (24 credits):**
ITAL2001. Italian II.1
ITAL2002. Italian II.2
ITAL3001. Italian III.1
ITAL3002. Italian III.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.
- **Elective courses (24 credits):**
At least four 6-credit courses from the list below
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4. Up to 6 credits may be selected from a list of approved non-ITAL courses. Students are advised to check with the offering departments about prerequisites and the availability of these courses.

- **Capstone experience course (6 credits):**
ITAL3020. Italian workshop (capstone experience)
This course will be offered to undergraduates in Year 3 and 4.

Minor (36 credits)

Students are expected to take a total of 36 credits with the following components:

- **Prerequisite courses (12 credits):**
ITAL1001. Italian I.1
ITAL1002. Italian I.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 1 or 2
- **Core courses (24 credits):**
ITAL2001. Italian II.1
ITAL2002. Italian II.2
ITAL3001. Italian III.1
ITAL3002. Italian III.2
These courses will be offered to undergraduates in Year 2, 3 and 4.

Students with prior knowledge of Italian are required to take an interview/test with the Programme Director. If course exemption will be granted, they are required to take an elective course in Italian instead in place of the exempted course.

Core Courses

ITAL1001. Italian I.1 (6 credits)

This course is for complete beginners in Italian and does not require any previous knowledge of the language. Students will acquire basic linguistic and communicative skills in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading and writing). The course will also give students an insight to Italian culture and society.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL1002. Italian I.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ITAL1001**. Participants will consolidate their knowledge of the Italian language in the four areas of competence (listening, speaking, reading and writing). The course will also offer insights into the Italian culture and society.

Prerequisite: **ITAL1001. Italian I.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2001. Italian II.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ITAL1002. Italian I.2** and continues to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian. It introduces new syntactic and morphological structures and provides

students with opportunities to practice those learnt previously in a variety of contexts. The course also examines aspects of Italian society and culture. Audio visual materials are used throughout the course.

Prerequisite: **ITAL1002. Italian I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2002. Italian II.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ITAL2001. Italian II.1** and further develops students' skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian to an intermediate level of proficiency. It introduces more complex syntactic and morphological structures and provides students with opportunities to practice those learnt previously in a variety of contexts. The course also examines aspects of Italian society and culture. Audio visual materials are used throughout the course.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2001. Italian II.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3001. Italian III.1 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of Italian II.2. It further explores the different linguistic aspects of the language and continues to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian to an advanced level of proficiency. It introduces new syntactic and morphological structures and provides students with opportunities to practice those learnt previously in a variety of contexts. The course also examines aspects of Italian society and culture, including the North/South divide, organized crime and the media. Audio visual materials are used throughout the course.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3002. Italian III.2 (6 credits)

This course is a continuation of **ITAL3001. Italian III.1**. It further explores the different linguistic aspects of the language and continues to develop students' skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing Italian to an advanced level of proficiency. It introduces new syntactic and morphological structures and provides students with opportunities to practice those learnt previously in a variety of contexts. The course also examines aspects of Italian society and culture, including the North/South divide, organized crime and the media. Audio visual materials are used throughout the course.

Prerequisite: **ITAL3001. Italian III.1**

Assessment: 100% coursework

Capstone Experience Course

ITAL3020. Italian workshop (capstone experience) (6 credits)

This course is designed as a capstone course offering students the opportunity to reflect and integrate upon what they have learnt during the Italian major, both in terms of language skills and cultural knowledge. Students will be required to complete a portfolio of activities such as reading Italian newspapers and report news, interviewing Italian people, and other activities matching their interests. They will have to present their portfolio at the end of the semester. The details of the activities chosen shall be reviewed and approved

by the teacher at the beginning of the course. Students are expected to regularly meet tutors to review the progress of their portfolio.

Prerequisite: **ITAL3002. Italian III.2;** or

Co-requisite: **ITAL3002. Italian III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

Elective Courses

ITAL2021. Italian reading course (6 credits)

This course is designed to expand students' knowledge of the Italian language through the analysis of authentic texts related to different aspects of Italian culture. The texts studied include literary excerpts, newspaper and magazine articles, and song lyrics. Every week, students are asked to analyze specific texts prior to each lesson for further discussion in class. The main medium of instruction is Italian.

Prerequisite: **ITAL1002. Italian I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2023. Italian lifestyle and culture (6 credits)

This course provides a literary, social, and historical outline of Italian civilization and contemporary culture, with a particular emphasis on youth culture. Topics covered range from the visual arts, music, customs and traditions in different regions and cities, to cinema, cultural tourism, food, fashion, and education. The course examines what it means to be "Italian" in the world today and encourages students to reflect on the elements that contribute to the construction of a national identity. The course is taught in English.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2024. Italian cinema (6 credits)

This course will look at some of the most representative movements of the Italian cinema, from its origin to the present day. The heyday of Italian cinema was the so-called Neo-Realism of the 1940s and 1950s. Rossellini's *Rome Open City* and De Sica's *Shoeshine* or *The Bicycle Thief* were internationally regarded as the prototypes of a new genre of cinema. Since then, Italian cinema has regularly won international awards. The course will acquaint students both with the great masterpieces of Italian cinema as well as with the work of famous contemporary Italian filmmakers, including Gabriele Salvatore, Giuseppe Tornatore, Nanni Moretti, etc. Students will be introduced to films that touch on some of the key issues in modern Italian society. The course is taught in English.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2025. 700 years of Sino-Italian relations (6 credits)

From the Venice Republic to the fall of the Chinese Empire, Italy and China established numerous cultural relations and exchanges through merchants, traveling monks, envoys and diplomats. The stories of the first travelers have exerted strong appeal for the Orient, which inspired many Italian scholars and artists through the centuries.

In the last two centuries the institution of political and economic relations between Italy and China have enabled to greatly improve the understanding of Chinese society and culture. Nevertheless, in books, films and commercials China is still often depicted by means of gross stereotypes, some of which have been handed down from the literary tradition.

Students will be introduced to the representations of Chinese society and culture in Italy since Marco Polo's "Il Milione" book, through various sources including literature, opera plays and - more recently - film and television. The course will also present direct source materials and accounts. The course is taught in English.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2026. A comparative overview of the Romance languages (6 credits)

This course will provide students with an overview of the historical development of the Italian and other Romance languages deriving from Latin. We will discuss some of the major transformations between Latin and Romance languages. Using the methodology of comparative linguistics, we will present both similarities and differences among Romance languages including Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The course will focus on the semantic, phonetic and syntactic aspects. This course is taught in English.

Prerequisite: **ITAL1002. Italian I.2** or **FREN1002. French I.2** or **PORT1002. Portuguese I.2** or **SPAN1002. Spanish I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL2027. Italian grammar (6 credits)

This course will reinforce students' knowledge of the Italian grammar aspects previously studied, including word formation, lexicon, word order, etc. Students will be encouraged to reflect on and analyze the form and meaning of important grammatical structures, in order to increase their proficiency in the Italian language.

Prerequisite: **ITAL1002. Italian I.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3010. Field trip to Italy (6 credits)

This field trip course supplements the Programme's home-campus based curriculum by enhancing students' experiential knowledge of the culture and society of Italy. Locations to be visited during the one-week trip to Italy in summer may vary depending on the years when the course is offered. Students will be engaged in cultural activities, including visiting historical sites, museums and other points of interests and will be hearing on-site lectures. After their return, students will be required to complete a written report based on their experience and knowledge they have acquired during the field trip.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3021. Contemporary Italian literature (6 credits)

This course introduces students to some of the most prominent Italian writers of the 20th century and their literary masterpieces. These include Primo Levi, Alberto Moravia, Cesare Pavese, Italo Calvino and Pier Paolo Pasolini. The works of contemporary writers, such as Antonio Tabucchi, Susanna Tamaro, and

Andrea Camilleri are considered. The selection of texts will also serve as a basis for discussion of various aspects of Italian culture and society. Students are required to read excerpts from these texts in their original language.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3023. Internship for students of Italian (6 credits)

This course offers students an internship learning experience by allowing them to take their classroom knowledge into the community. Students will have an opportunity for experiential learning, earn credits towards their degree, and engage in a rich experience while working in an organisation that demonstrates a real impact on society. The internship experience draws on the Italian Programme coursework to encourage students to apply their classroom knowledge to work in organisations that demonstrate the use of Italian in the community. Internships may be conducted at any point between the summer before a student enters Year 3 and the second semester of Year 4. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement made between the student and the organisation, but should involve approx. 120 contact hours of committed service for the host organisation. Internships can be conducted during the semester (e.g. 8 hours/ week) or at full-time equivalent during the lecture-free period. Students should spend at least 15 working days with the organisation. Staffing resources and operations mechanisms allowing, students will be assessed by the organisation contact throughout the duration of the internship and will also, if possible, receive a letter of reference from the organisation at the end of the internship. A written report (800-1,000 words) with a description, critical assessment of and reflection on the internship experience, will be assessed by the course supervisor at HKU. Students are asked to make their own internship arrangements with an organisation of their choice. They are asked to do this in liaison with a relevant teacher at the Italian Programme of HKU.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2** or **ITAL3002. Italian III.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a distinction/pass/fail basis)

ITAL3024. Italian in the business context (6 credits)

This course is intended for students who want to develop their language and cultural skills for their future career at an Italian speaking company or institution. A variety of topics and situations will be studied such as job applications, interviews, business correspondence, transactions and contracts, marketing strategies, business trips, etc. Guest speakers from Italian-speaking institutions and companies located in Hong Kong are occasionally invited to the classes.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework

ITAL3119. Overseas immersion language course – Italian (6 credits)

This course provides an opportunity to study Italian and to experience linguistic and cultural immersion in a partner institution located in a [Italian-speaking] country. The course usually takes place during the summer months (e.g., June, July and/or August) (courses may also be offered in the winter break) and the duration of the stay may vary from two weeks to one month, but must include at least 60 hours of formal class tuition. Students typically take part in this course after the completion of their second year of language studies at HKU. The course is designed to build on and to reinforce the language competence acquired during the previous years of study as well as to prepare the participants for more advanced work in the final years of the Programme.

Prerequisite: **ITAL2002. Italian II.2**

Assessment: 100% coursework. In order to be granted credits for this course, participants have to ensure that the course builds on their previous work done at HKU and is offered at the A2 level or above of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL) and, after completing of the course, students have (1) to produce a formal statement of attendance and certified transcript bearing mention of the final grade(s) obtained from the host institution, as well as the level attained according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages; (2) to provide a portfolio including i. a learning journal written in Italian of approximately 1,000 words relating to daily class activities and, ii. samples of assessments (written assignments, tests, examinations, projects etc.) along with evaluation results.

Approved non-ITAL elective courses:

Please note that these courses may have prerequisites. Students should also confirm the availability of these courses with the respective units.

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

AMER2045. Film beyond the mainstream: American art cinema (6 credits)

EUST2010. European identity (6 credits)

EUST2012. Problems of contemporary European politics and society (6 credits)

EUST2015. From cinema to society: Understanding Europe through film (6 credits)

EUST2031. Introduction to the syntax of Romance languages (6 credits)

GCIN2052. Luxury markets in Europe (6 credits)