ITALIAN STUDIES (IST)

IST 150 Ital Cinema-Neoreal to Present (3 credits)
This course investigates major Italian films as both aesthetic and cultural objects. It offers an introduction to Italian cinema from the 1940’s to the Present, and also to Italian social and cultural history of that time. It introduces major directors, movements, and genres in Italian cinema, focusing on movies that not only are influential masterpieces, but also offer incisive interpretations of their cultural and social milieus, including regional, ethnic and religious diversity; gender diversity; social tensions and class issues. Visconti, De Sica, Fellini, Scola, Belloccchio, Giordana are among the directors we study.

Attributes: First-Year Seminar, GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate

IST 350 Mangia! Flavors of Italy (3 credits)
The expression "Mangia, mangia!" is commonly associated with American stereotypes of Italians. But is the perceived Italian love of food the same in the United States and in Italy? Is it an issue of quantity or quality? Of socio-economics, politics, or education? Is it global, local or both? In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore the role of food in Italian culture and in the shaping of Italian identity, in Italy and abroad. We will trace its evolution through a variety of texts: literature, works of art, music, and film, as well as family recipes. Guest lectures made by Italian chefs in Philadelphia, food tastings, and a visit to the Italian Market, will enrich the course. Fulfills the GEP Art/Lit requirement

IST 360 Italian Identities (3 credits)
In this course, taught in English, we will explore the complex nature of Italian Identities, focusing on race, sex and gender roles, religion, food, art and science. Fulfills the GEP Art/Lit requirement. Does not count toward a minor in Italian. Counts towards a major in Italian Studies and it may count toward the major in Italian, with permission of the Chair of Modern and Classical Languages.

Attributes: GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate

IST 370 Topics in Italian Studies (3 credits)
The purpose of this course is to explore specific topics within the Italian-Speaking World. Topics will vary according to the semester in which the class is offered; check the semester listing for current topic. Classes are taught in English.

Attributes: GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate

IST 375 Shadow State: Mafia in Italy (3 credits)
This course explores the nature of organized crime in Italy, its origins, its economic aspects, its connection with politics, its reality beyond stereotypes, and finally, the way it is portrayed in Italian Arts and literature. No prerequisites required. Does not count toward a minor in Italian. May count toward the major, with permission of the Chair of Modern and Classical Languages. Fulfills the GEP Art/Lit requirement.

Attributes: GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate

IST 420 Italian Cinema and the Sacred (3 credits)
Italian culture has been widely influenced by the sacred and many intellectuals have used the Bible as source of inspiration. In this course, we will analyze how Italian filmmakers have approached the dimension of the sacred and how they have depicted it in their movies. We will explore a range of directors from 1940’s Neorealism to the present in order to understand how the relationship with the sacred has evolved over time. Throughout our analyses, we will engage in dialogue with selected Italian writers in order to see how they have approached the sacred. The course also considers the role of Jesuits in Italian society through the study of a film set in a Jesuit monastery in contemporary Venice. Fulfills the GEP Art/Lit requirement.

Attributes: GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate

IST 460 The Art of Dante's Inferno (3 credits)
An interdisciplinary reading of Dante's Inferno from the perspectives of the history of art, music and cinema provides the focal point for this course. Primary sources from across the fine arts span seven centuries of reception, and include architectural (Terragni’s “Danteum”), visual (medieval manuscripts, Doré, Greenaway), musical (Franz Liszt, Puccini) and sculptural (Rodin) interpretations of the poem. Visits to the Saint Joseph’s University art collection and to the Rodin Museum will complement the course. Taught in English. Fulfills the Art/Lit requirement of the GEP. Counts toward a major in Italian Studies. Counts towards a minor in Art History.

Attributes: GEP Art/Literature, Undergraduate