

# Master of Arts in Italian

The Master of Arts in Italian trains students at the highest level to pursue careers teaching Italian language, literature, culture, and cinema studies. Students may also use their acquired skills to pursue careers in publishing, translation, or to work in cultural institutions in the US, in Italy, and abroad.

Requirements and Procedures for the completion of the M.A. in Italian

The M.A. program is open to candidates with academic records of distinction and other evidence of scholarly accomplishments.

The candidates must satisfactorily complete 10 term courses (30 credits) and take a comprehensive examination based on a reading list.

Coursework

The number of course credits required is 30. All graduate students who teach must also take the Methodology of Teaching course.

## M.A. Examination

The examination consists of two four-hour written exams to be taken in two consecutive days in the department. It is based on a reading list available on Sakai (site name "Graduate Students Info").

This is an open-book exam, for which the students will be able to consult the texts assigned in the reading list, in PDF format, on a department computer (no WiFi connection).

EXAM DAY 1. Candidates will be given a choice of three questions and must answer two on texts from the 13th-16th centuries.

EXAM DAY 2: Candidates will be given a choice of three questions and must answer two on the texts (including cinema) from the 17th-20th centuries.

On each day, the choice of three questions will be structured as follows:

- 1) Students will perform a close reading of a particular passage.
- 2) Students will address the historical and aesthetic contexts of a text.
- 3) Students will answer a transhistorical question that addresses changes in trends, themes, and/or forms over time.

The answers should demonstrate a) a knowledge of major canonical works of Italian literature across centuries, through post-WWII period; b) the ability to analyze a given literary text by placing it within the proper historical, cultural, ideological and aesthetic contexts; and c) the ability to identify major trends and themes in terms both of content and of style, and to draw connections between texts and periods. Two questions must be answered in Italian and two in English.

The exam as a whole must address at least four centuries of literary production. In addition, the exam as a whole should answer one of each type of question (see the list of three types of questions above).

Candidates are expected to have completed at least 30 credits before taking the examinations and to take the exams within one year of ending their coursework.

In case of failure, the exam must be taken again within the next semester and may not be retaken more than once.

## Exam Sessions

The calendar of exams will be coordinated in agreement with the Graduate Program Director

## Grades

The grades assigned are High Pass, Pass, Terminal Pass, and Fail.