

# ITALIAN AND LINGUISTICS (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/italian/>)

**NYSED:** 08182 **HEGIS:** 1199.00 **CIP:** 16.0900

## Program Description

### Italian

New York University's Department of Italian Studies is the largest free-standing Italian department in North America, with faculty expertise that includes a range of historical periods and methodologies, spanning from medieval literature to neorealist cinema. Students can take courses in topics such as Renaissance epic, Futurism, literary translation, avant-garde literature, opera, Italian American culture, and Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Classes are conducted in both Italian and English.

We offer one-on-one faculty advising for students who choose to write honors theses and/or present their work at our annual undergraduate research symposium. Through our department, students have access to the bountiful event programming of the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò and have the opportunity for internships and scholarships. Majors and minors are encouraged to enrich their studies by spending at least one semester at NYU's breathtaking Florence campus.

Students of Italian Studies gain cultural fluency and research experience that prepares them for graduate study and for careers in a range of fields.

### Linguistics

Linguistics is the science of human language. It seeks to determine that which is necessary in human language, that which is possible, and that which is impossible. While linguists work to determine the unique qualities of individual languages, they are constantly searching for linguistic universals—properties whose explanatory power reaches across languages. The discipline of linguistics is organized around syntax (the principles by which sentences are organized), morphology (the principles by which words are constructed), semantics (the study of meaning), phonetics (the study of speech sounds), phonology (the sound patterns of language), historical linguistics (the ways in which languages change over time), sociolinguistics (the interaction of language with society), psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics (the representation of language in the brain). Current research by faculty members extends across the field, including topics in the interaction of syntax and semantics, phonetics and phonology, languages in contact, pidgin and creole languages, urban sociolinguistics, and computer analogies of syntactic processes.

## Joint Honors

Joint majors must choose to complete their honors thesis in Italian or Linguistics. This choice should be outlined in a two-page proposal submitted by April 15 of junior year.

### Italian Honors Track

To qualify for honors, a student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.65 and a major GPA of 3.65 or higher. Students who wish to pursue honors should contact the director of undergraduate studies for an application during their junior year. The director of undergraduate studies may, by

petition to the director of college honors, consider strong candidates who do not meet the GPA threshold of 3.65.

Honors majors complete an 8-credit sequence consisting of ITAL-UA 999 Senior Honors Seminar, taken in the fall of senior year, and ITAL-UA 990 Honors Independent Study, taken in the spring of senior year. Both count as advanced courses for the major. Students work closely with a departmental faculty member who becomes the honors thesis adviser (chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies). The thesis should be a work of scholarship and/or criticism from 40 to 60 pages in length. In consultation with a second faculty reader, the student's thesis adviser determines whether or not to recommend them for honors in Italian. A grade of at least A- is required for the award of honors. Students receiving a lower grade will simply be awarded 8 credits toward the major.

## Linguistics Honors Track

Students whose primary adviser and thesis research is in Linguistics must complete an honors thesis, which is an original research project of 40 to 50 pages conducted over two semesters. The thesis is due on April 1st of the student's senior year. Additionally, students must take two advanced courses: LING-UA 102 Senior Honors Thesis Seminar (4 credits) in the fall semester, and one other advanced undergraduate course, graduate course, or independent study, chosen in consultation with the thesis adviser (totaling 8 credits). The Senior Honors Thesis Seminar and the additional course chosen with the student's adviser may be counted as advanced electives. The thesis must be presented either at an oral conference presentation or in a private defense/discussion with the thesis adviser and a second reader.

Students who excel in linguistics are encouraged to begin developing their honors project as early as the second semester of their sophomore year. To pursue honors, students should have a strong background in linguistics, typically gained through high-level coursework.

Admission to the honors program is by application (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8qx-YoX2mPlwZLcrSL4Vz2-DfZHWf8xKjOPdZekoxZuCPGw/viewform/>) in the second semester of the junior year. To be eligible, students must have a GPA of 3.65 or higher both overall and in linguistics. Applications are due by April 15th and must include a one- to two-page description of the proposed thesis topic. The student must select faculty members from both departments to serve as co-advisers. The thesis topic must reflect contributions to both disciplines.

## Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

## Program Requirements

The major in Italian and Linguistics requires the completion of nine 4-credit courses (36 credits), four in Italian and five in Linguistics, comprised of the following:

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4

Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>	16
Quantitative Reasoning	4
Physical Science	4
Life Science	4
Texts and Ideas	4
Cultures and Contexts	4
<b>Major Requirements</b>	
<i>Italian Courses</i>	
ITAL-UA 30 Advanced Review of Modern Italian	4
Select one of the following:	4
ITAL-UA 101 Conversations in Italian	
ITAL-UA 104 Translingual Writing in Italian	
ITAL-UA 107 Italian Through Cinema	
ITAL-UA 110 Translation	
Select two advanced courses in Italian literature and/or Italian culture and society <sup>2</sup>	8
<i>Linguistics Courses</i>	
LING-UA 1 Language	4
or LING-UA 3 Language and Mind	
LING-UA 11 Sound and Language	4
LING-UA 13 Grammatical Analysis	4
Select two courses from two different fields of linguistics:	8
<i>Historical Linguistics</i>	
LING-UA 14 Language Change	
<i>Sociolinguistics</i>	
LING-UA 15 Language & Society	
LING-UA 18 Bilingualism	
LING-UA 30 Language in Latin America	
LING-UA 57 English Dialects	
<i>Phonology</i>	
LING-UA 12 Phonological Analysis	
<i>Semantics</i>	
LING-UA 4 Intro to Semantics	
<i>Computational Linguistics</i>	
LING-UA 6 Patterns in Language	
<i>Psycholinguistics</i>	
LING-UA 5 Intro Psycholinguistics	
LING-UA 43 Neural Bases of Language	
LING-UA 54 Learning to Speak: First and Second Lang Acquisition of Sound	
LING-UA 59 First Language Acquisition	
<i>Structure of a Modern Language</i>	
LING-UA 10 Structure of The Russian Language	
LING-UA 42 Romance Syntax	
LING-UA 44 Field Methods	
LING-UA 9032 The Structure of French (in French)	
<b>Electives</b>	
Other Elective Credits	48
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>128</b>

accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

<sup>2</sup> To be determined in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA 10	Intensive Elementary Italian <sup>1</sup>	6
LING-UA 1 or LING-UA 3	Language or Language and Mind	4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA 20	Intensive Intermediate Italian <sup>1</sup>	6
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>18</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA 30	Advanced Review of Modern Italian	4
LING-UA 11	Sound and Language	4
Elective		4
Physical Science		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA XXX	Advanced Language Course in Conversation or Composition <sup>2</sup>	4
Life Science		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA XXX	Advanced Literature OR Culture & Society Course 1 of 2	4
LING-UA 13	Grammatical Analysis	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
ITAL-UA XXX	Advanced Literature OR Culture & Society Course 2 of 2	4
LING-UA XXX	Linguistics Elective 1 of 2 <sup>3</sup>	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
LING-UA XXX	Linguistics Elective 2 of 2 <sup>3</sup>	4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
Elective		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>132</b>

<sup>1</sup> The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be

**Note:** Students may choose the "extensive" sequence of ITAL-UA 1, 2, 11, and 12 in lieu of the "intensive" sequence of ITAL-UA 10 and 20, and graduate with the minimum 128 credits.

<sup>1</sup> Prerequisite for entering major; does not apply toward major requirements.

<sup>2</sup> Chosen by advisement from a list of approved courses.

<sup>3</sup> Chosen by advisement from a list of approved courses. Each course must represent a distinct field of linguistics.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will have:

1. Written and oral competence that will enable them to use Italian in communication with Italian speakers worldwide.
2. Knowledge of Italian transnational history, culture, and literary traditions, with a focus on how Italian culture has spread globally.
3. The ability to study textual and cultural objects by acquiring skills in close reading and in analysis of both textual and audio-visual sources (including music and film).
4. An understanding of how to approach the study of human language scientifically.
5. The ability to analyze linguistic data in the subfields of phonetics, phonology, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics.

## Policies

### Program Policies

#### Policies Applying to the Major

1. All courses for the major must be completed with a grade of C or better and cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis.
2. Internships do not count toward the Italian major.
3. Transfer students must complete at least five courses (20 credits) of the nine courses (36 credits) required for the major while in residence at New York University.

### NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

### College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).