The Italian PhD program at Johns Hopkins emphasizes work in three complementary areas: literary history, close textual analysis, and theory of interpretation, with a focus on the study of evolving cultures of literacy—from manuscripts and the material history of the book to performance, film, and emerging digital cultures. Specializations involving other languages, literatures, and humanistic disciplines can also be arranged by our PhD students.

Contact

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The Graduate Program in Italian at Johns Hopkins University

Courses
Along with seminars in Italian studies, students are expected to take occasional courses outside their field of specialization, especially in the areas of linguistic and literary theory, comparative literature, philosophy, history, and history of art. Students will also demonstrate a reading knowledge of at least two other languages besides English. Training in research and methods includes a variety of activities held at the Special Collections of the University Library.

Teaching
Teacher training and teaching practice are an essential part of the Italian graduate program. Supervised teaching is required of degree candidates, in every year but the fourth. Opportunities outside of language instruction for teaching include teaching the undergraduate survey course and supervising senior seminars. The Dean’s Teaching Fellowship.

Study abroad
Graduate students normally devote the fourth year of study to research in Italy for their dissertations. Travel grants are available through the department (Singleton Travel Fellowships) and through the Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe. Furthermore, our students benefit from a variety of graduate exchange programs with prestigious institutions such as the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Università di Venezia, the University of Oxford, the University of Warwick.

Careers
Recent graduates of the PhD program in Italian have tenured or tenure-track appointments at Pace University, Fordham University, Georgetown University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Syracuse University, the University of Delaware, Villanova University, Ghent University, and Trinity College, Dublin. A number of Hopkins graduates in Italian Studies have also secured post-doctoral positions such as the prestigious and competitive Marie Curie Fellowships.

Faculty
Laura Di Bianco | lauradibianco@jhu.edu
Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies; PhD, The Graduate Center, CUNY. Research interests: Italian Cinema, 20th and 21st Italian Literature, Women’s and Gender Studies, Eccriticism

Walter Stephens | walter.stephens@jhu.edu
Charles S. Singleton Professor, Director of the Italian Subdivision and Director of Graduate Studies; PhD, Cornell University, PhD, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. Research interests: Medieval and Renaissance Italian literature, history and theory of forgery, the literature of witchcraft

Bernadette Wegenstein | berna@jhu.edu
Professor of Media Studies; Director, Center for Advanced Media Studies; PhD University of Vienna. Research interests: Film and media studies, body and media theory, gender studies

Recent graduate courses
- Translating Knowledge in Medieval Italy
- Voicing the Body: Sex and Desire in Medieval Poetry
- The Renaissance Comic Romance
- Staging the World: Allegory, Metaphor, and Drama
- Tasso the Madman
- Vico and the Old Science
- Dissolving Margins: Space and Female Subjectivity in E. Ferrante
- Flânerie and Female Authorship in Contemporary Italian Cinema
- Crumbling Beauty: Environmental Crises in Literature and Cinema
- First-person Cinema: Ethics and Aesthetics of Italian Documentary Filmmaking

Language program director
Alessandro Zannirato | zannirato@jhu.edu
Associate Teaching Professor and Italian Language Program Director; PhD, University of Cape Town. Research interests: foreign language pedagogy; foreign language teacher training; liaison, community and conference interpreting; program evaluation

Extras
Along with curricular activities, the Italian program runs a series of invited talks, the Lector(es) in Fabula reading group of literary theory and criticism, as well as film screenings and panel discussions with authors and film directors. Our students are also active in the organization of graduate conferences. Recent conferences include The Many Forms of the Decameron: Interpretations, Translations and Adaptations (2015), and Versus: Antagonism, Self-Criticism, and Hostility in Literature and Art (2016). Finally, our advanced graduate students have the opportunity to collaborate to the editing of the Italian issue of the journal Modern Language Notes.

Deadlines
January 9 Deadline for submission of all materials
January–February Faculty review applications
March Admissions visiting day; decision letters are mailed
April 15 Deadline for admitted students to accept or decline our offer

Affiliated Faculty
Stephen J. Campbell | Henry and Elizabeth Wiesenfeld Professor, Department of Art History. Research interests: Renaissance and Baroque, notions of style and visual communication
Christopher S. Celenza | Dean of Georgetown College at Georgetown University, professor of history and classics; PhD, Duke University; DrPhil, University of Hamburg. Research interests: Renaissance Latin, paleography, history of classical tradition
Gianna Pomata | Professor, Institute of the History of Medicine. Research interests: early modern European social and cultural history
Eugenio Refini | Assistant Professor, NYU; PhD, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa; affiliated faculty, Department of Classics. Research interests: Renaissance poetics, rhetoric, drama; reception studies; Latin and vernacular humanism; the intersections of music and literature
Susan Weiss | Professor of Musicology, The Peabody Institute at JHU. Research interests: Medieval music and learning; music and memory