FRENCH AND ITALIAN STUDIES

Education

The Department of French and Italian Studies (FIS) has among the largest number of French majors of any university on the West coast and offers a vibrant Italian minor. Recently revised curricula in both wings of FIS have invigorated undergraduate study, articulating coursework in the department with exciting new areas of study at the UW in Environmental Humanities, Digital Humanities, Socio-linguistics, Translation, and Film and Media.

Nearly 2400 students enroll in FIS courses every year, from elementary through advanced language courses, to upper division courses on Dante and the Middle Ages, science fiction, Italian film, immigrant cultural production, and translation, to graduate seminars in qualitative research and digital editing. In these courses, students learn language and research skills that are essential to succeeding in the 21st-century global workplace.

In addition, FIS offers exciting study abroad programs and exploration seminars for undergraduates in Paris, Nantes, Québec, and Rome (UW Rome Center). Travel support for conferences and research is available to graduate and undergraduate students in FIS.

Research

FIS faculty engage in cutting-edge research in a range of fields and time-periods. This work covers France, Italy, the Caribbean, Francophone Africa, and Québec and employs a range of approaches from ethnographic fieldwork to literary and cultural analysis to archival research. Current projects explore the early manuscript traditions of Dante's works; images of women in Renaissance portrait books; the politics of water usage and consumption in the French Antilles; multilingualism among Senegalese immigrants in Paris, Rome and New York; the history of literacy and typography in the 17th and 18th centuries; French cultural attitudes towards animals; and modern Italian cinema.

Recent and soon-to-be-published books by FIS faculty include Senegal Abroad: Linguistic borders, racial formations, and diasporic imaginaries and Dante's Convivio: The Creation of a Cultural Icon.
Faculty

The Department of French and Italian Studies has 12 full-time faculty, with an additional 6 adjunct faculty. Faculty distinctions include:

- Celebrating UW Women Award
- Finalist for the Prix Anne-Hébert
- Finalist for the Prix Marguerite-Yourcenar
- Chevaliers dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques
- Harry Ransom Center Research Fellowship
- Modern Language Quarterly Editorial Board Members
- PMLA French Advisory Committee Member
- Newberry Library Fellowships
- Oxford Studies in the Enlightenment Editorial Board Member
- Renaissance Society of America-Kress Bodleian Library Fellowship
- UW Royalty Research Fund Recipients
- Society of Scholars Research Fellowships, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities
- UW Solomon Katz Distinguished Lectureships in the Humanities
- Sixteenth Century Society & Conference Literature Prize
- Woodrow Wilson Fellowship

Numerous Course Development Grants (Center for West European Studies, Canadian Studies Center, Foster School of Business, Center for Teaching and Learning Technology Teaching Fellows Institute)

Outreach

FIS places a high priority on outreach to the Northwest community. Departmental benefactors include distinguished representatives of the regional French and Italian communities. We regularly schedule lectures, conferences, and film series open to the public, as well as workshops for K-12 teachers. We also have assisted local high schools with curriculum development. Our faculty work closely with the consulates for France and Italy and are actively involved in local organizations such as the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association, SIFF, and the Dante Alighieri Society. In addition, many of our graduate students and faculty volunteer for University Beyond Bars.

Endowments

Carmine Smeraldo Endowed Fund in Italian Studies
Di Capua-Magnotto Endowed Fund for Italian Studies
Eugene Vance Endowed Fund
Gloria and Daniel Woodward Endowed Fund
Italian Studies Advisory Board Endowed Fund
Jeff Alfieri Endowment for Italian Studies
Joan Cremin Endowed Fund in French Studies
Joe and Mary Zavaglia Family Endowed Fund for Italian Studies
Mario Pastega Endowment for International Travel
Nesholm Family Endowed Fellowship for French Studies
The Pasquale and Lidia Perrina Endowed Fund for Italian Studies
Pia Friedrich Endowment for Graduate Student Support in Italian Studies
Richard Altig Jr. Family Endowed Fund for Italian Studies
Simone Angelillo Memorial Endowed Fund for Italian Studies
Thomas Hubbard Endowed Fund for French Studies
William B. and Adelaide L. Kimball Endowed Fund

Faculty

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

- Modern Literature and Culture in France and Italy
- Contemporary French and Italian Cinema
- Francophone Postcolonial Cultures
- Medieval and Early Modern French and Italian Literature and Culture
- Environmental Humanities
- History of the Book and Textual Studies
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Intellectual and Cultural History
- Second Language Acquisition
- Applied Linguistics

ucci Beyond Bars.