



Department of French and Italian

200 Hagerty Hall
1775 College Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1340

Phone (614) 292-4938
Fax (614) 292-7403

September 26, 2017

Dear Meg,

At our meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 the Arts and Humanities Panel reviewed and unanimously approved the proposal for the new Italian Studies major. The Italian program currently has a minor and a major in Italian, both of which require all but one course to be taught in Italian. The new 30-credit Italian Studies major requires 12 credits/four courses taught in Italian (like a minor), and six courses/18 credits taught in English. The courses taught in English are offered in the French and Italian Department and in the departments, centers and schools of Architecture, Classics, English, History, History of Art, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Music.

Enrollment data from 2011 to 2016 demonstrate that although our minors have remained more or less steady (except for a boom in 2012), our majors have been declining steadily, so that we are at almost half our number of majors in 2011. We do not attribute this change to problems in our major, since the same pattern has been identified in other foreign languages. We believe the change to be attributable primarily to national trends. We also believe that student needs are changing and interests are changing and that double majoring is important to students today. Therefore, the primary motivation for the creation of this major is to give students the opportunity to more easily double major. Since this is an interdisciplinary major, including courses that focus on Italian themes from History, History of Art, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Music, Architecture and Classics allows students to overlap courses between two majors and more easily double major. In fact, we plan on providing a 'map of courses' for the path to the double majors in History of Art, History and Classics when we advertise the Italian Studies major. This type of 'overlapping' double major may even allow students to triple major or add on a minor and still graduate in four years. An additional motivation for this major is to better align with our Masters and Ph.D. programs that allow a mix of courses in English and Italian. With the proper approval, advanced Italian Studies majors can petition to take the courses that are taught in English in these programs.

We have already added one 3000-level course taught in English to our curriculum and are almost finished preparing the proposal for a 4000-topics course taught in English that will serve this new major and can be taught by a variety of faculty members.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Aski
Janice M. Aski