

La Tavola Italian Club

created by La Tavola Executive Board

Le Ore di Conversazione

Written by Faith Love

Ora di Conversazione/Conversation Hour is a time outside of class where Italian students have the chance to connect with other classmates, exercise Italian speaking skills, and further grow their understanding of the language. This semester two conversation hours were held each week. One was led by Dr. Francesco Ferrari from noon to 1 pm on Mondays. The second was led by Dr. Laura Edwards on Tuesdays from 2 to 3 pm. During this time, we practiced speaking in Italian by using whiteboards, flashcards, and playing games such as Tombola (Italian Bingo) and Battaglia Navale (Battleship). A special addition this fall were conversation hours held on Monday October 13th, and Monday November 17th for higher-level Italian Students. These advanced-level conversation hours were a great opportunity for students in higher levels of Italian classes to push themselves to interact and practice in an immersive, purely Italian conversation. Students of all levels of Italian are warmly invited to convo hours!



La Tavola Cineforum

Every semester La Tavola picks out 3 movies to be viewed by students in Italian courses. This semester we chose *C'è ancora domani*, *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*, and *Il filo invisibile*. All of the movies approach a form of social progress and a resistance towards injustice. With *C'è ancora domani* we see women's suffrage through the main character who is trapped in an abusive marriage but able to vote for the first time in the 1946 elections at the end of the movie. In *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* we see the average person either confronts or entirely avoids standing up to blatant mafia corruption and the violence that comes with it. In *Il Filo Invisibile* we see an evolving issue within Italy to this day, the struggle with being LGBTQ+ and resisting prejudice. These movies, when watched in succession, show a timeline of the evolution of Italy and its citizens' identity over time.

Written by Luke Faulkner



Serata di Pittura

La Tavola Italian club hosted *Serata di Pittura*, an evening where Italian and other ISU students gathered to enjoy some creativity. All students were welcome to join in creating paintings from the baroque period by the artist Artemisia Gentileschi. La Tavola president Rosa Baker presented a brief history of this female, Italian artist as well as some history of each of the works chosen for students to paint. While students painted they had the opportunity to chat with others and enjoy some snacks from Italy. It was an amazing evening to unwind, honor Italian culture, and connect with fellow Italian students!

Written by Bella Mitchell



Written by Rosa Baker

Serata degustazione formaggi



La Tavola took part in the *Serata degustazione formaggi* (cheese tasting night) in October. This event, co-hosted by La Tavola, Pi Delta Phi, and Sigma Delta Pi was a wonderful evening of sharing our languages, our cultures, and our cheeses! Each club brought cheeses and specialty foods from their respective countries to share. The presidents of each club briefly presented their cheeses and then we spent the night tasting, socializing, and celebrating our cultures. We played songs from our countries and even came together to perform popular dances. This event was a fun way to come find community with other clubs and to express and share the importance of our cultures!



Serata Pasta

Written by Courtney Cairo

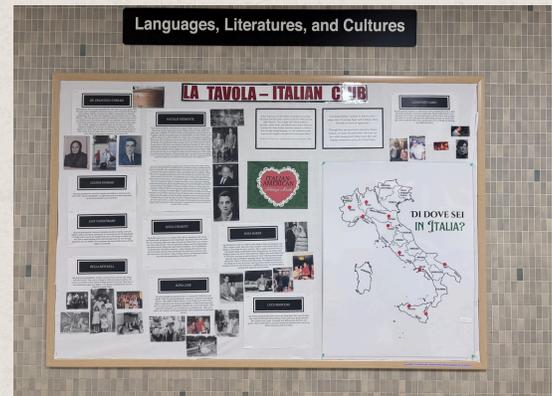
This year's Annual Serata Pasta began with a hands-on pasta making session, guided by the expertise of our advisors. Participants had the opportunity to make fresh pasta from scratch, learning traditional techniques and working together throughout the process. Students from all levels of Italian came together as everyone cooked, talked, and connected with peers they may not usually have the chance to meet. We were treated to Rosa's incredible cannoli that she made and Courtney's nonna even traveled down from the Chicago suburbs with her family to share her delicious homemade Italian cookies. The evening was a great success filled with conversation, collaboration, and of course delicious food. It was an opportunity to strengthen our sense of community while celebrating the Italian love language!



Italian American Month

Italian-American Heritage month is celebrated every October to commemorate the history, culture, and contributions of Italian-Americans. This semester, our club created a bulletin board in the Language hallway showcasing the family histories, immigration stories, and Italian roots of our Italian students and professors. Many also included personal photos, which made the display a meaningful tribute to their heritage.

Written by Sofia Link



Written by Rosa Baker

ISU in Bologna



I studied abroad in Bologna, Italy in the Summer of 2024. During my time in Italy, I enhanced my knowledge of the Italian language, immersed myself in the culture, and created friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. We spent our weekday mornings at a school called Academya Lingue, learning Italian with students from all across the world. We then had a class led by Dr. Edwards and Dr. Sciubba most afternoons, where we dove into the rich food and art culture of Italy. After school everyday, we spent time with our classmates at a local coffee shop for something called “pausa caffè,” and went on field trips around Bologna throughout the three weeks, discovering the entire city from wall to wall. Our weekends were free, allowing us to travel around Italy, going anywhere we’d like. My friends and I traveled to Monterosso and spent our weekend on the beach, sipping Aperol spritz! Not only did ISU in Bologna help me advance my understanding of the Italian language and culture, but it furthered my independence and maturity. ISU in Bologna is a great way to finalize your Italian Studies Minor as it counts for two classes (6 credits) necessary for the minor, and even counts towards the Gen Ed: Humanities requirement. I would recommend this program to anyone and everyone who wants to study abroad because of the perfect balance of schooling and independence. My study abroad experience absolutely exceeded my expectations and is something I will never forget!



ITA III Course Review

In ITA 111 students go from having little to no previous experience speaking, reading, and writing Italian at the beginning of the semester to at the end being able to describe themselves and others and how they're doing, talk about the weather, talk about their schedules, their birthdays, do math, tell time, and learn to use and conjugate 100s of verbs! They also learn tons of cultural information about Italian families, friends, where they vacation, important celebrations, what they eat, and Italians across the world.

ITA 115 Course Review

ITA 115 is a 3rd level Italian language course offered at ISU and is required for the Italian Studies minor. At the beginning of the semester we review grammar and vocabulary from previous levels. New grammar concepts learned this semester include future tense, double object pronouns, informal and formal imperative, time expressions, comparatives of equality and inequality, superlatives, present and past conditional tense, relative pronouns, impersonal and passive tense, and negative expressions. We also learned new vocabulary and how to speak about the home, chores, transportation, travel, vacation, things to do in the city, directions, and errands. We watched Fotoromanzo (a fun soap opera) and learned so much more about Italian culture. At the end of the semester, we do a final project to demonstrate how much our knowledge and proficiency have increased over the semester. Students create a video of a skit, song, report, movie scene, or another creative idea that the class watches all together before winter break. This course really helped us to further develop and improve our Italian speaking, grammar, cultural understanding and comprehension skills.

Written by Natalie Piemonte



ITA 221A01 Course Review

ITA 221A01 is an Italian conversation class that helps students improve Italian oral skills through discussion. In this class, we look at Italy through Mass Media using films, literature, articles, social media, modern applications, and more. We explore current events like the environment, demographics, gender inequality, etc. Because this class is solely in Italian, it requires you to push yourself and use your knowledge learned throughout the previous Italian courses. This course is an amazing way to not only finalize your minor requirements, but also to further improve your Italian knowledge and become more confident in speaking Italian.

Written by Rosa Baker



IDS 121A20 Course Review

IDS 121A20 is a class that looks at modern and contemporary Italy through different Italian films. Italian Film counts toward Language in the Humanities gen ed and an elective for Italian Studies minors and Film majors. We watch a number of Italian films in this class from different genres and time periods such as The Great Beauty, Le Quattro Volte, La Mafia Uccide Solo D'Estate, and Miracle in Milan. Watching and analyzing these films allows us to see and learn about Italian history, politics, culture, and even language from a new and different perspective.

Written by Rosie Chappell

Italian Studies Minor

Are you interested in learning/minoring in Italian, but don't know where to begin?

All the minor requires is four semesters of Italian language study plus electives:

- **ITA 111, 112, 115, and 116**

- ITA 112 and 115 count toward the Language requirement and ITA 116 counts toward GE: LH.

- **3 electives**

- (some include ART 156, HIS 222, ITA 221/ITA 222, classes from study abroad in Italy, plus many more!)

See [the Italian Studies website](#) and talk to [Laura Edwards](#) about how to fit it in your schedule!

La Tavola Executive Board

Written by Rosie Chappell

This fall, the La Tavola executive board met once a month to plan events and learning opportunities for students in the Italian program. This year's board is made up of:

Co-Presidents **Rosa Baker** (Financial Accounting major, Italian Studies minor) and **Luke Faulkner** (History major, Political Science and Italian Studies double minor)

Co-Treasurers **Bella Mitchell** (Horticulture major, Italian Studies minor) and **Natalie Piemonte** (Elementary Education major, Italian Studies minor)

Co-Secretaries **Sofia Link** (Psychology major, Sociology and Italian Studies double minor) and **Faith Love** (Political Science and Legal Studies double major, Italian Studies minor)

Co-Social Media Chairs **Rosie Chappell** (Mass Media major, Italian Studies minor) and **Courtney Cairo** (Public Relations major, Italian Studies minor)

Advisors: **Dr. Laura Edwards** and **Dr. Francesco Ferrari**

It has been an absolute pleasure working with this board this past semester and we are looking forward to planning many fun and exciting new events for the new year! We will soon have many executive board positions opening up, so please let us know if you are interested!

Find us on Instagram @latavola_isu and become an official member at Redbird Life!

