

@LATAVOLA\_ISU

# LA TAVOLA ITALIAN CLUB

Spring 2024 Newsletter



## SPRING 24 EXEC BOARD

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This newsletter was written by members of the exec board and edited and published by president Nico Edwards-Testolin.

If you are interested in joining La Tavola Italian Club, find us on Instagram @latavola\_isu and become an official member at Redbird Life!

If you are interested in adding the Italian Studies minor, reach out to Dr. Edwards at Lcedwar@ilstu.edu to talk about how it fits into your schedule. See page 2 for requirements.

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## ORE DI CONVERSAZIONE

Written by Nico Edwards-Testolin



La Tavola Italian Club hosted two conversation hours per week all semester long, including one Tuesdays at lunch time, and the other on Wednesday evenings. With the help of professors and previous students, conversation hour was a time of learning, improvement, and fun with fellow language students!

Some notable events and games we played were Italian Pictionary, group story-writing, and translating music lyrics of Sanremo songs.



# COURSES THAT COUNT TOWARD THE ITALIAN MINOR

Do you have a love of Italian language, literature, and culture? Perhaps some of your ancestors came to the U.S. from Italy? Reconnect with that love by minoring in Italian Studies, get credit toward your language requirement, Gen Ed, and perhaps even study abroad!

## Required courses

Italian 111

Italian 112 (meets B.S. language req.)

Italian 115 (meets GE: QR for some)

Italian 116 (meets B.A. language req.  
and Gen Ed: LH)

## Elective courses - (you need three)

IDS 121A20: (GE: H) Modern and Contemporary Italian and Italian Film

IDS 121A19: GE: LH) The Italian/American experience

ITA 221: Adv. Italian Conversation and Contemporary Society

ITA 222: Intro to Modern Italian Literature and Film

ART 156: (GE: FA) Survey of Art II

HIS 102: Modern Western Civilization (GE: H)

HIS 221: Ancient Rome

HIS 223: The Middle Ages

Others, [found here](#), and courses from an approved study abroad, such as ISU in Bologna and LdM

## ITA 112 TAUGHT BY DR. LAURA EDWARDS

Written by Ellie Popovich (Fashion Design major,  
Italian Studies minor) and Brooke Weller  
(Accountancy Major, December 23' grad )



Italian 112 is a class in which you learn a lot about the culture and the language of Italy. This class involves building on what Italian 111 taught in the fall, such as the basics of learning the language in a cultural way. You also learn a lot about the past tense and how to use each tense correctly. Speaking about your morning routine, clothing, parts of the body and health terms are also largely taught in this class, and you learn how to say each thing in both present and past tense.

I love learning in this class, I feel that I learn a lot in a short period of time. I find that I can pick up on conversational Italian being spoken in movies or TV shows, and I also learn a lot about Italians in general. The class environment is amazing, it is like a family and it is my favorite class in that regard. Overall, ITA 112 is a fast-paced class with a fun social environment that makes learning the language that much more fulfilling and easier in a way.

## ITA 116 TAUGHT BY FRANCESCO FERRARI

Written by Jane Hostert

(Chemistry Major, Italian Studies minor)



This class is essentially the “putting it all together” class, and I’m so glad I’m taking it! Most of the tenses that we have learned up to this point are being used in the same sentences, which gives us the ability to say a LOT, such as wishes, regrets, future plans, yesterday’s events, etc. I also feel like I have a lot of vocab under my “Italian toolbelt” because the vocab focuses on nature, jobs/occupations, and even environmental issues. With all of that comes a difficulty value, but working through the homework and trying to understand the new content has made me realize how far I (and the whole class) have come since we started. The class aims to always use Italian, while instructing and asking questions, and that has drastically improved my comprehension skills. I would recommend this class to anyone looking to challenge their Italian skills!"

# CARNEVALE

Written by Courtney Cairo

This spring semester Italian Club celebrated Carnevale (which takes place over the weeks leading up to Easter) on *martedì grasso* (fat Tuesday). During conversation hour we painted and decorated masks allowing our club members to show their creative sides. It was a fun time where students got to learn about how Carnevale is celebrated in Italy. Students also enjoyed tasty *Chiachiere* and *Fritelle* (names depend on the region in Italy), a fried and sweet treat eaten during this period.



# MULTICULTURAL KARAOKE EVENT

Written by Nico Edwards-Testolin

In February, LAN clubs hosted a multilingual/multicultural karaoke night! Students from every language club were invited to an evening of karaoke, where they were encouraged to try out a song from the language they speak or are learning. With food and drinks provided from each respective club, it was an entertaining night of singing and socializing.



# SAN VALENTINO

Written by Courtney Cairo

For San Valentino we held two conversation hours dedicated to learning Italian expressions one might say on Valentine's Day and then participants made decorations with the sayings. Students snacked on Italian biscotti called Cuoricini (little hearts) as they decorated using a variety of gems to embellish their hearts.



# PASQUETTA

Written by Kiley Beiner

Pasquetta is a holiday which takes place on Easter Monday. In Italian, it literally means “little Easter” and is a continuation of Easter celebrations. For the past few years, La Tavola has celebrated Pasquetta with a scavenger hunt, dinner, and games. This year, unfortunately, Easter Monday was a dreary, rainy day. While the rain poured down, we held our dinner—one that was supposed to be an outdoor picnic—indoors. We indulged in pasta and salad and a surplus of Italian desserts like biscotti and Colomba. In between rain showers, we held our scavenger hunt in the quad. Clues were written in rhyme in Italian, and the first three teams to make it to the end of the scavenger hunt won some Italian goodies as prizes. Students also had the opportunity to play bocce ball and other activities after the hunt. Despite the rain, we had a fun filled evening celebrating Pasquetta. We hope to see you there next year!



## CERIMONIA DI LAUREA FOR ITALIAN MINOR GRADUATES

ISU in Bologna participants, observing Italian students on their graduation day wearing *corone di alloro* out on the streets of Bologna, asked if we could start a tradition of Italian graduates wearing them here. La Tavola Italian Club exec board organized the purchase of Bay Laurel branches and assembled the crowns the day before. The ceremony included words about students’ years at ISU, particularly Italian culture and traditions that they’ve learned; we read a Gianni Rodari poem, and the exec board handed out Italian Club certificates to recipients of awards created by La Tavola.



# ISU IN BOLOGNA

Written by Kiley Beiner

Studying abroad in Bologna was one of the most fun and exciting experiences of my life. While only a three week short trip, I felt as if I had been there for months. ISU in Bologna is a program that I highly recommend any Italian language students to take, especially those who are minoring in Italian. The program offers six credits toward the Italian Studies minor, which, after taking ITA 116, would only leave you with three more credits until completion. On the trip, you will make tremendous progress with your Italian language skills. Understanding spoken Italian will become easier and speaking in Italian will feel more natural. Being immersed in Italian language for just three weeks can make a huge difference in your abilities. Besides the language aspect, Bologna is a beautiful city, often deemed one of the cities with the best cuisine in Italy. Just walking through the streets can feel awe-inspiring at times due to the portici that line each street and the assortment of red, orange, and yellow buildings laced with centuries of history. The apartment you reside in for the short trip is in the center of town, near Le Due Torre and a short walk from Piazza Maggiore. The location really helps you to feel immersed in the city and its culture, unlike the more touristy areas in cities like Rome and Venice. While on the trip, you will also have opportunities to travel to other cities in Italy or just explore all of what Bologna has to offer. While the cost may seem expensive, depending on your situation, it can actually be cheaper in the long run to go on the trip. It helped me in knocking off an extra semester of college, saving me thousands. There is nothing I would recommend more than going to Bologna. It was a city I never really thought about or even knew about prior, but ever since my stay there, I've wanted nothing more than to go back. It is a wonderful place, away from tourist traps and the hustle-and-bustle of large cities. I assure you that if you take a chance on studying in Bologna, you will not regret it.



Want to know more about studying abroad in Bologna? --->



# UNA STUDENTESSA ALL'ESTERO: A FIRENZE

Sofia Link (Psychology major, Italian minor)

Studying in Florence has been quite different from my experience in the U.S. Here, classes meet just once a week for 2.5 hours, with the exception of my photography class that spans five hours. There's no graded homework; instead, our performance is assessed through midterms, finals, and oral presentations. One of the coolest things about studying here is the absence of a campus. Instead, classes are scattered across the city in beautiful historic buildings. This semester I'm taking "Palaces of Florence," which delves into renaissance history, "Introduction to Digital Photography," a fun way to document my time here, "Sociology of the Italian Mafia," which has by far been my favorite, and "Italian Language Elementary 2," helping me improve my Italian skills! My confidence with speaking Italian has grown significantly since being here, and there truly is no better place to practice. However, in Florence English is quite prevalent so at times

so it can be scary to speak in Italian, if I am getting spoken to in English. When traveling within Italy there are also many dialects, which can be tricky to pick up on. I am very thankful I took a semester of Italian with Dr. Edwards before coming to Florence. Not only did it give me a solid framework for my language learning but provided me with cultural knowledge that made my transition smooth. ISU required multiple culture modules before departure which were also beneficial! Studying in Italy has broadened my perspectives on life in ways I couldn't have ever imagined. Having the opportunity to live in a place where history seeps into every aspect of daily life is truly amazing. Learning to navigate life in a foreign country has not been easy and I have been forced to step outside of my comfort zone nearly daily. With that being said, I have developed a sense of resilience I don't otherwise think I would have had. I'm truly grateful for this experience and always remember my time here in Florence!



Want to know more about studying abroad in Florence? --->



## LAN BANQUET

Written by Nico Edwards-Testolin

The Languages Banquet provided an opportunity for students in every language course and club at ISU to come together, socialize, and enjoy an evening of food and drinks that represented each language's culture. The event was held in the Aaron Leech club in the Hancock Stadium, a venue with panoramic windows and great views. Participants dressed up, danced, sang karaoke, took funny photo booth pics, and most importantly celebrated and were recognized for their many accomplishments over the past academic year.



## CINEFORUM

All students in Italian classes must attend one or two movies per semester. This year's Cineform included three movies, one per month. First was *Nuovomondo* (2006) directed by Emmanuele Crialesi, a film about a family's migration from Italy to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. The second film was *Per lanciarsi dalle stelle* (2022) directed by Andrea Jublin about a girl with extreme anxiety who confronts her fears in order to honor her best friend's last wish. The final film was *Le meraviglie* (2014) directed by Alice Rohrwacher about a family of beekeepers living in rural Tuscany in the 1990s whose life is interrupted when their daughter enters a competition on a reality TV show.



## MANIA MUSICALE

A most popular event this semester was Italian Club's adaption of the *Manie Musicale* contest created by two Maine high school French teachers to Italian. In the spirit of March Madness, Social Media Chair Alison Skelton took the top 16 songs from Sanremo 2024 and created a bracket and shared on Insta several times per week over one month. ISU Italian students and club members voted on the songs and the winner was Angelina Mango's *La Noia*. Needless to say, a number of Italian pop songs have taken over the halls of Stevenson, many students listening to their favorites even at home.

## SUMMER PLAYLIST SANREMO 2024

