A beginning course in Italian language and culture, Elementary Italian is devoted to developing all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) within the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, presentational). While studying the language, students will be introduced to Italy and its people and they will gain both language and cultural competence. At the end of full-year Italian 101 sequence, students will be able to handle successfully a few uncomplicated communicative tasks, participate in simple conversations on topics related to personal information, personal preferences, daily activities, and immediate needs. This course is the second in a three-part sequence for beginning students of Italian. Classes are conducted entirely in Italian and are very lively, with lots of give-and-take among participants. Students with some experience in Italian may take the online placement test to place out of any or all of the first-year sequence.
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Italian 102-3 is the third part of the intermediate language sequence. It continues and completes the two-year sequence in Italian language and culture. At the end of the full 102 sequence (102-1,2,3), students are expected to create with the language when talking and writing about familiar topics, to understand the main ideas and some supporting details from a variety of texts (newspaper articles, short stories, etc.), to describe and narrate, with some consistency, in all major time frames while organizing their discourse into paragraphs. Students will significantly increase their knowledge of Italy’s history and culture and they will be guided to become independent learners. After the completion of the entire sequence of Italian 102, students will be eligible to study in Italy and will be ready to embark on the minor or major in Italian. The second-year Italian course sequence fulfills the two-year WCAS language requirement. The classroom is very lively, with lots of conversation, partnering, and small group exercises.
Italian 133-3/134-3 is the third segment of the intensive course that started in the fall. Intensive Italian is a double course that fulfills the WCAS two-year language requirement in one academic year. At the end of the entire 133/134 sequence, students will be able to create with the language when talking and writing about familiar topics; to understand the main ideas and some supporting details from a variety of texts (newspaper articles, short stories, etc.); to describe and narrate, with some consistency, in all major time frames while organizing their discourse into paragraphs. While studying the language, students will be constantly exposed to the Italian culture. By the end of the intensive sequence, students are expected to achieve language, cultural, and intercultural competence enabling them to study in Italy and to embark on the minor or major in Italian. Intensive Italian classes are small and highly interactive.
Throughout the Renaissance, Italian has established itself as a truly European language of culture because of the Petrarchan tradition of love lyric. Just like most courtly poetry of the period, even Shakespeare’s sonnets follow several schemes and stereotypes of Rerum Vulgarium Fragmenta, the masterpiece by Francesco Petrarca (1304-1374). At the end of the 16th century, with the birth of Italian melodrama pioneered by the likes of Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), Italian rapidly became a language widely used by European courtiers and aristocrats, and operatic plays – whether of sacred or lay inspiration, Classical or Medieval – were more and more often performed in courtly contexts, especially to mark special occasions (weddings, victories, coronations and so forth). Italian was, more often than not, the language of such belcanto, and it rapidly became customary for high-class people to study it. In 17th-century England, for example, John Florio and Giovanni Torriano wrote dictionaries and grammars that became best sellers. This course will attempt to draw an outline of the early stages of operatic theatre in Europe, in association with the rapid spread of Petrarchism in the language and style of librettos that were set to music.
Before the advent of anatomy and surgery in 16th century, with chemistry increasingly used for pharmacology soon after, the only way to intervene over human body was nutrition and medicines were essentially a combination of natural elements ("simplici"); thus, human complexion was seen – after a long Classical tradition started by the likes of Hyppocrates and Galenus – as a combination of elements whose balance could be threatened by illness and had to be restored by means of ingestion of counterbalancing principles. Consequently, there was a thin line between the principles of medicine and pharmacology on the one side and those of cookery on the other: the creation of some dishes – including some classics of Italian cuisine! – can indeed be understood as an attempt to create balanced food that respects the natural complexion of human beings. The course will introduce to the principles of Medieval and Renaissance medicine and how they are reflected in contemporary cookbooks, with examples mainly from Italian texts of the 14th and 15th centuries, that will be examined in their specific language, often influenced by regionalism.