Date: October 15, 2013
To: CEP
From: Virginia Scott, Department Chair, in consultation with Elsa Filosa, Letizia Modena, Andrea Mirabile
Subject: Deletion of the minor in Italian

Overview:
The program in Italian has three tenure-stream faculty members for the first time in Vanderbilt’s history. This change in staffing offers an important opportunity to rethink how we can best meet the needs of existing and future students as we increase the visibility and strength of Italian at our institution. Consolidating the two minors into one will help us to build a better-performing, better-focused Italian Studies program for our students and for Vanderbilt. The changes we are proposing revise Italian Studies to incorporate elements of the Italian minor. The reorganized minor in Italian Studies not only caters to the students, but also works in conjunction with the departmental and college goals of increasing the number of minors in Italian Studies awarded.

Delete Minor in Italian
Currently, there are two minors, Italian and Italian Studies, which should be merged into one strong and rationally organized minor in Italian Studies. The former staffing situation did not allow for the rational planning and evolution of the program, but in the past year, with the addition of a tenure-track line and a tenured line, we have been devoted to identifying how to revitalize the program. How can we attract far more students within the College and from Blair? What changes need to be made so that students can complete an Italian minor without relying on independent studies or variance petitions, as they have done so far? What factors cause these two minors to underperform in terms of numbers, when compared nationally? How might we better allocate our faculty resources in order to enhance the student experience?
First, it is crucial to recognize that our faculty resources are limited, compared to those in programs such as French and Spanish. As a program with only one full time lecturer and no teaching assistants, tenured and tenure-track professors in Italian dedicate half of their teaching load to teaching the introductory, intermediate, and intermediate-advanced language courses, such as ITA101a, ITA101b, ITA102, ITA200, ITA201w, and ITA 214. We also are asked to occasionally teach First-Year Writing Seminars, and/or some other course outside of the Italian program. Finally, with three tenure-stream members, academic leaves must also be considered.

After gathering data from past years and information from our current students, it has become evident that many students who had wished to minor in either Italian or Italian Studies had not been able to complete coursework for the minor and therefore abandoned the minor. We have identified a series of structural problems that hindered the successful completion of either of the two minors:

- Unlike students in French and Spanish, who generally come to Vanderbilt with language credits from high school, the vast majority of students who wish to minor in Italian or Italian Studies come to Vanderbilt with no previously earned credits for Italian, so they start at the 101 level. These two classes, 101a and 101b (10 credits), or the intensive class 102 (5 credits) offered in the Spring, do not count towards either of the minors. Therefore, students can only truly start their minor during their second year at the earliest. They have then only 6 semesters in which to take 18 credits, ideally one class per semester, which is difficult to achieve alongside their major requirements. Indeed, since these two minors were put in place, those students who have completed a minor in Italian or Italian Studies could only do so by taking Independent Study classes with faculty and/or by petitioning the College to have one class count for another. These two practices should be exceptional measures, rather than the rule, for students in any minor program in the College.

- Two minors with different requirements cannot be sustained with the current faculty resources, without relying on independent studies and variance petitions. In practice, faculty have had to allow classes
for the Italian Studies minor to count for the Italian minor, and vice versa, since sufficient upper-level courses for both minors could not be offered. With faculty in Italian covering the language courses and/or requirements for the two Italian minors, the variety of upper-level courses that makes a program both viable and interesting for students cannot be achieved. Scarcity of course offerings is compounded by any number of factors. For example, students might have already taken the upper-level course that is being offered in a particular semester, either at Vanderbilt or in Italy during study abroad, or that same course that they need for the minor conflicts with their schedule. Since no other section of the same class is offered, students—regretfully—decide to not take Italian that semester and thereby lessen their chances of completing a minor in Italian or Italian Studies. In several cases, moreover, students do not make progress toward completing a minor because they study abroad in a country other than Italy that allows them to fulfill their major requirements.

The faculty in Italian have recurrent conversations with students who would love to minor but find it very hard; it is extremely frustrating for both us and them. Nationally, Vanderbilt’s peer institutions have not only a stronger minor, but also a major in Italian or Italian Studies. We believe that consolidating the two minors into one will help us to build a better-performing, better-focused Italian Studies program for our students and for Vanderbilt. The changes we are proposing incorporate elements of the Italian minor, but also revise Italian Studies. Reconfiguring the requirements for a single minor in Italian Studies will make the program more flexible for students and allow faculty to provide a greater variety of classes to not only meet the needs of students but also to stimulate growth of the Italian Studies minor.

Finally, we adopt the name of Italian Studies for the revamped minor program that we are proposing because students are allowed to take classes in English if they wish to (based on their interests) or need to (should, say, a scheduling conflict arise one semester). Nationally, Italian minor programs in which English-language courses on Italian topics count, are called Italian Studies. We fully understand the Committee’s concerns as expressed in question n. 6, where it is noted that the minor in Italian fares
better than the minor in Italian Studies. Nevertheless, the revised minor will differ from the current Italian Studies minor, as it is modified keeping the students who preferred the minor in Italian in mind. However, because it accepts courses taught in English and Italian, it should be called “Italian Studies” in keeping with the national norm.

The decision to retain the minor in Italian Studies is based principally on our interest in allowing students with varying interests to pursue their intellectual interests. This flexibility is essential to the growth of our program in particular because we are closely linked with other programs of study that include Italian culture (History of Art, Film Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Blair School of Music) but do not necessarily involve the teaching or use of Italian language.

15-hour Minor in Italian Studies
We decided to change the minor from 18 credit hours to 15 credit hours to increase the possibilities for students who want to minor in Italian Studies. This change is consistent with curricular policies of the College that state that minors must require at least 15 credit hours of course work. Smaller language and culture programs at Vanderbilt, such as Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, have a 15-hour minor. Italian is more similar to these programs than to vast structures such as French and Spanish, with faculty resources to offer a great variety and multiple sections of courses. At the present time, students actually have to take 10 credit hours (101a/101b) of Italian before even starting the minor, which effectively requires them to take 28 Italian credit hours (10 of which cannot count) in order to complete either the minor in Italian or in Italian Studies. By focusing on one 15-credit hour minor track in Italian Studies we will be able to concentrate our energies and offer a sufficient number of courses for students to satisfy the requirements with less difficulty than they have experienced thus far (see attached sheet with description of the Italian Studies minor). In addition, we plan to offer different classes each semester to provide enough variety every year for students who choose to minor in Italian Studies.

Purpose and Goals of the Italian Studies Minor
Students at Vanderbilt are expected to excel in the liberal arts. In several of these fields (e.g., the fine arts, music, theater, architecture, religious studies, philosophy, film, diaspora studies, Jewish Studies), knowledge of
Italian language and culture is paramount. Italy remains one of the U.S.’s most important economic and political partners. Furthermore, Italy is one of the European countries that have most influenced modern American history and society (today over 20 million Americans claim Italian ancestry). Students fulfilling the requirements of the Italian Studies minor at Vanderbilt acquire proficiency in the Italian language, an overview of Italian history, culture, and society and an awareness of the role of Italy within the European Union. Besides fostering linguistic proficiency, faculty in the Italian Program encourage students to explore the connections between the verbal and the visual (courses in classic and contemporary Italian film, and on the city in literature and painting); interactions between the present and the past (courses in Italian literature from the Middle Ages to the present); and multidisciplinary perspectives on modern Italy (courses on Italian culture).

**Staffing:**
The three tenure-stream faculty members, Elsa Filosa, Andrea Mirabile, and Letizia Modena, along with one full-time Lecturer in Italian, will offer a total of 18 courses per year: eight elementary-level Italian language courses taught in Italian (101a-101b, 102); three intermediate-level courses taught in Italian (200, 201w, 214); and a revolving series of upper-level courses, taught in both Italian and English (220, 230, 231, 232, 233, 235, 236, 238, 239, 240, 241, 250).

**Vote: 9 yes; 1 no, 2 did not vote** (12 voting faculty members in French and Italian). The Italian faculty unanimously supported the changes.

**Currently declared Italian minors**
The currently declared Italian minors will be accommodated as follows: we currently have 6 students in the Italian minor. The 2 seniors would finish the minor as is, while the remaining 3 juniors and 1 sophomore would have the option to either complete their current minor or switch to the revised Italian Studies minor (if/when accepted). We understand that the changes approved by CEP, Faculty Council, then the A&S Faculty Meetings do not take effect until the following academic year (Fall 2014), even if approved this semester. In any case, we don’t envision there will be problems, since some of them have already completed the requirements or will apply for variances as is the current practice.
Minor in Italian Studies. Handout for Students.

Students who minor in Italian Studies are expected to achieve intermediate proficiency in oral and written Italian, to demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Italian literatures and cultures, and to develop an awareness of the ways Italian studies intersect with other disciplines. All minors are expected to consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies about their choice of courses. Students are encouraged to participate in the Vanderbilt in Italy program.

REQUIRED COURSES (6 credit hours)
___ ITA 200        ITALIAN JOURNEYS. (PREREQUISITE ITA101B; ITA102; OR EQUIVALENT)
___ ITA 201W      GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION (PREREQUISITE ITA 200 OR EQUIVALENT) OR ITA 214 CONVERSATION (PREREQUISITE ITA 200 OR EQUIVALENT).

ELECTIVE COURSES FROM AMONG ANY BELOW (9 credit hours)
___ ITA 201W GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION (IF NOT USED AS A REQUIRED COURSE)
___ ITA 214 CONVERSATION (IF NOT USED AS A REQUIRED COURSE)
___ ITA 220 INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LITERATURE
___ ITA 230 ITALIAN CIVILIZATION
___ ITA 231 DANTE’S Divine Comedy
___ ITA 232 LITERATURE FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE RENAISSANCE
___ ITA 233 BAROQUE, ILLUMINISMO, AND ROMANTICISM IN ITALY
___ ITA 235 TWENTIETH-CENTURY LITERATURE: BEAUTY AND CHAOS
___ ITA 236 GANGSTERS, LOVERS, MADONNAS, AND MISTRESSES
___ ITA 238 CITY FICTIONS
___ ITA 239 TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN CIVILIZATION
___ ITA 240 CLASSIC ITALIAN CINEMA
___ ITA 241 CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN CINEMA
___ ITA 242 CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE
___ ITA 250 FAMOUS WOMEN BY BOCCACCIO
___ ITA 294A SPECIAL TOPICS IN ITALIAN LITERATURE

Only 3 of these elective credit hours may be selected from courses in subject areas other than Italian, such as Classical Studies, History, History of Art, Music Literature and History.

___ HIST 222       MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE ITALY, 1000-1700
___ HART 216       RAPHAEL AND THE RENAISSANCE
___ HART 217       EARLY RENAISSANCE FLORENCE
___ HART 217W      EARLY RENAISSANCE FLORENCE
___ HART 218       ITALIAN ART TO 1500
___ HART 219       ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART AFTER 1500
___ HART 219W      ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART AFTER 1500
___ HART 220       MICHELANGELO’S LIFE AND WORKS
___ HART 220W      MICHELANGELO’S LIFE AND WORKS
__LAT 201   CATULLUS
__LAT 202   OVID
__LAT 212   ROMAN COMEDY
__LAT 220   VERGIL: THE AENEID
__LAT 268   LUcretius: DE RERUM NATURA
__MUS 221A   OPERA IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES
__MUS 221B   OPERA IN THE 19TH CENTURY
__MUS 243   MUSIC OF THE BAROQUE AND CLASSIC ERAS
__MUS 244   MUSIC OF THE ROMANTIC AND MODERN ERAS
__MUS 247   OPERA

Other Italy-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs—may be approved towards the minor upon approval by the director of the Italian program. Students are encouraged to attend Vanderbilt in Italy.
Minor in Italian Studies

Students who minor in Italian Studies are expected to achieve intermediate/advanced proficiency in oral and written Italian, to demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Italian literatures and cultures, and to develop an awareness of the ways Italian studies intersects with other disciplines. The minor in Italian Studies requires 15 credit hours of course work, including:

Required courses (6 credit hours):

ITALIAN: 200, Italian Journeys (prerequisite ITA101b; ITA 102, or equivalent); either 201W, Grammar and Composition (prerequisite ITA 200 or equivalent), or 214, Conversation (prerequisite ITA 200 or equivalent).
ITA 101a, 101b, 102 do not count toward the minor.

Elective courses (9 credit hours). Only 3 of these elective credit hours may be selected from courses in subject areas other than Italian, such as Classical Studies, History, History of Art, Music Literature and History:

ITALIAN: 201W, Grammar and Composition (if not used as a required course); 214, Conversation (if not used as a required course); 220, Introduction to Italian Literature; 230, Italian Civilization; 231, Dante’s Divine Comedy; 232, Literature from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance; 233, Baroque, Illuminismo, and Romanticism in Italy; 235, Twentieth-Century Literature: Beauty and Chaos; 236, Gangsters, Lovers, Madonnas, and Mistresses; 238, City Fictions; 239, Topics in Contemporary Italian Civilization; 240, Classic Italian Cinema; 241, Contemporary Italian Cinema; 242, Contemporary Italian Society and Culture; 250, Famous Women by Boccaccio; 294a, Special Topics in Italian Literature.

Classical Studies: LAT 201, Catullus; LAT 202, Ovid; LAT 212 Roman Comedy; LAT 220, Vergil: The Aeneid; LAT 268, Lucretius: De Rerum Natura.

History: 222, Medieval and Renaissance Italy, 1000–1700.

History of Art: 216, Raphael and the Renaissance; 217, Early Renaissance Florence; 217W, Early Renaissance Florence; 218, Italian Art to 1500; 219, Italian Renaissance Art after 1500; 219W, Italian Renaissance Art after 1500; 220, Michelangelo’s Life and Works; 220W, Michelangelo’s Life and Works.

Music Literature: 221a, Opera in the 17th and 18th Centuries; 221b, Opera in the 19th Century; 243, Music of the Baroque and Classic Eras; 244, Music of the Romantic and Modern Eras; 247, Opera.
Other Italy-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs—may be approved towards the minor upon approval by the director of the Italian program. Students are encouraged to attend Vanderbilt in Italy.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION WITH CORRECTIONS

Minor in Italian Studies
Students who minor in Italian Studies are expected to achieve intermediate/advanced proficiency in oral and written Italian, to demonstrate a general understanding of the history of Italian literatures and cultures, and to develop an awareness of the ways Italian studies intersects with other disciplines. The minor in Italian Studies requires 15 credit hours of course work, including:

Required courses (6 credit hours):

ITALIAN: 200, Italian Journeys (prerequisite ITA101b; ITA 102, or equivalent); either 201W, Grammar and Composition (prerequisite ITA 200 or equivalent), or 214, Conversation (prerequisite ITA 200 or equivalent).
ITA 101a, 101b, 102 do not count toward the minor.

Elective courses (9 credit hours). Only 3 of these elective credit hours may be selected from courses in subject areas other than Italian, such as Classical Studies, History, History of Art, Music Literature and History:

ITALIAN: 201W, Grammar and Composition (if not used as a required course); 214, Conversation (if not used as a required course); 220, Introduction to Italian Literature; 230, Italian Civilization; ITA 231, Dante’s Divine Comedy; 232, Literature from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance; 233, Baroque, Illuminismo, and Romanticism in Italy; 235, Twentieth-Century Literature: Beauty and Chaos; 236, Gangsters, Lovers, Madonnas, and Mistresses; 238, City Fictions; 239, Topics in Contemporary Italian Civilization; 240, Classic Italian Cinema; 241, Contemporary Italian Cinema; 242, Contemporary Italian Society and Culture; 250, Famous Women by Boccaccio; 294a, Special Topics in Italian Literature.

Classical Studies: LAT 201, Catullus; LAT 202, Ovid; LAT 212 Roman Comedy; LAT 220, Vergil: The Aeneid; LAT 268, Lucretius: De Rerum Natura.

History: 222, Medieval and Renaissance Italy, 1000-1700

History of Art: 216 Raphael and the Renaissance; 217 Early Renaissance Florence. 217w. Early Renaissance Florence; 218, Italian Art to 1500; 219, Italian Renaissance
Art after 1500; 220, Michelangelo's Life and Works; 220w, Michelangelo's Life and Works.

Music Literature: 221a, Opera in the 17th and 18th Centuries; 221b, Opera in the 19th Century; 243, Music of the Baroque and Classic Eras; 244, Music of the Romantic and Modern Eras; 247 Opera.

Other Italy-related courses not listed here—such as those in study abroad programs—may be approved towards the minor upon approval by the director of the Italian program. Students are encouraged to attend Vanderbilt in Italy.
To: A&S Faculty Council
From: Prasad Polavarapu, Chair, Committee on Educational Programs (CEP)
Ref: Italian Studies Minor

The CEP met on October 22, 2013 to discuss the proposal submitted by Professor Virginia Scott of Department of French and Italian for deletion of Italian Minor and revising the program for Italian Studies Minor. The committee approved the proposal with a vote of 6-0, subject to recommended revisions.

The recommended revisions have now been incorporated.

The revised proposal is attached to this email.

Best,
Prasad

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From: Muise, Michael R
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Polavarapu, Prasad L
Subject: RE: Deletion of Italian Minor

Dear Prasad,

That one looks ready to go.

I see only one small thing, but, at this point, it has no real impact, and it can be fixed in catalog implementation. MUSL 247 was deleted long ago, yet it keeps showing up in the document. This will automatically be corrected in catalog editing. (I have a process that removes all such references to deleted courses). Between now and implementation other courses may be deleted, which is normal.

Sincerely,
Michael

Michael Muise
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