ITALIAN STUDIES at MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Italian Studies at Muhlenberg is an interdisciplinary program in a wide-ranging field with deep connections to ancient and modern Italy and Europe, as well as to our own society and ways of understanding and experiencing the world.

For information on the Italian Studies Program at Muhlenberg College, please follow this link:

http://www.muhlenberg.edu/main/academics/llc/languages/italian/

Or, contact the program director:

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You can also like us on Facebook to stay up to date on our events and initiatives:

The images that follow give a taste of some of the texts, ideas, places, artwork and people we explore together in our courses at Muhlenberg.
The “Veronese Riddle” is the earliest written evidence of a vernacular Romance language (as opposed to Latin). It was discovered on the back of a manuscript in Verona, and dates from the late 8th or early 9th century.

It reads:

\[ + \text{ Separebaboues algapra taliaaraba \& albo uersorio teneba \& negrosemen seminaba} \]

- Se pareba boves
- alba pratalia araba
- et albo versorio teneba
- et negro semen seminaba

- \text{He led oxen in front of himself;}
- \text{white fields he plowed;}
- \text{and a white plow he held;}
- \text{and black seed he sowed.}

Can you figure it out?
Go to the next page for the answer.
The answer is: the riddle describes a hand writing.

Se pareba boves
alba pratalia araba
et albo versorio teneba
et negro semen seminaba

He led oxen in front of himself;
white fields he plowed;
and a white plow he held;
and black seed he sowed.

(a hand guiding its fingers)
(fields = the parchment)
(plow = quill)
(black seed = words of ink)
Venezia
Rita Levi Montalcini (1909-2012), Neurobiologist and Nobel Prize winner
La dolce vita (1960)
directed by Federico Fellini
Monica Vitti and Gabriele Ferzetti in a scene from *L’avventura* (1960) directed by Michelangelo Antonioni
Pitigliano (Tuscany)
Fori imperiali (Roma)
Peppino De Eduardo and Totò in a typical Italian coffee bar, in *La banda degli onesti* (1956).
Chiesa di Sant’Ivo alla Sapienza (Roma), designed by Francesco Borromini (1660).
Se questo è un uomo
by Primo Levi (1947)
Portrait of Simonetta Vespucci (?) by Botticelli (1475)
Firenze at sunset
Incoronazione della Vergine, 
by Fra Aneglico (1432)
The *Doni Tondo*

by Michelangelo (c. 1507)
Illuminated Hebrew Mahzor (prayer book) from Florence (c. 1490s)
Arlecchinella, a stock character of the commedia dell’arte theater tradition
Roberto Benigni, comedian, actor and director (1952-)
Portrait of Vittoria Colonna, poet by Sebastiano del Piombo (c.1520)
Title page of a 1529 edition of Dante’s *Divina commedia*
Portrait of Rudolph II as Vertumnus, by Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1590)
Dario Fo, playwright, actor, director, social activist, and Nobel Prize winner (1926- )
Piazza Navona, Rome
Pizza, olio d’oliva, pomodori, mozzarella, basilico
Portrait of Jeanne Hebuterne, by Amedeo Modigliani (1918)
Flag of the *Giovine Italia* insurrectionist political movement (c. 1830s)
Title page of the Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems, by Galileo Galilei (1632)
Benito Mussolini, Fascist dictator (1883-1945)
Giuditta e Oloferne, by Caravaggio (c.1598)
Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, Palermo (VI – XII centuries)
Title page of a 1550 edition of Niccolò Machiavelli’s *Prince* and other works
Sophia Loren, actress (1934-)
Val di Funes in the Dolomites, Alto Adige
L’Annunciata di Palermo,
by Antonello da Messina (c.1476)
Blow-Up, directed by Michelangelo Antonioni (1966)
Mosaics in the Basilica di San Vitale, Ravenna (6th century C.E.)
Carceri VII
by Giambattista Piranesi (1750)
Piazza del Campo di Siena
The ubiquitous *motorino*
Italian immigrants arriving at Ellis Island (early 1900s)