

## UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

### DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN

#### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FOR YEAR 1, ENTRY SEPTEMBER 2014

Congratulations on your results! We look forward to meeting you in person in early October. What follows will serve to give you some idea of the structure of the First Year and of the proposed texts.

#### **Degree programmes with Italian**

As a new student in the Department of Italian, you will register for one of the following degree programmes:

- **Italian Single Honours**
- **Modern Languages (Italian and Czech, French, German, Portuguese, Russian or Spanish)**
- **Joint Schools (Italian and Drama, History of Art, Music, Philosophy or Politics)**

#### **Beginner (*Ab initio*) or post A-level?**

In your first year, you will find yourself in one or the other of two main groups according to your knowledge (or not) of the language, i.e. beginners (*ab initio*) or post-A. **The beginners always predominate in numerical terms, so don't panic if you haven't studied Italian before!** Students who come between these two categories, for instance those with GCSE or AS Italian, should count themselves as beginners in the first instance and negotiate a different categorisation on arrival if appropriate. If you feel that you would like to begin in the post-A group even though you do not have an A-level you may take a diagnostic test at the beginning of the year. Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to do so.

### **BOOK ACQUISITION**

#### **Language Books for ITAL10002 *Ab initio* Language**

- Details on textbooks will be given by the tutor at the start of term.
- A good modern large bilingual dictionary, such as the most recent edition of the Oxford/Paravia *Italian Dictionary*, or the Collins/Zanichelli *il Ragazzini Italian dictionary* is a necessity throughout your four years of study.

#### **Language Books for ITAL10001 Post-A-Level Language**

- Details on textbooks will be given by the tutor at the start of term.
- A good modern large bilingual dictionary, such as the most recent edition of the Oxford/Paravia *Italian Dictionary*, or the Collins/Zanichelli *il Ragazzini Italian dictionary* is a necessity throughout your four years of study.

#### **Booklist for Culture Units**

In the first year, the core culture unit for all students is ITAL10029: Modern Italy. The core texts for this course will be provided via the course pack, but the reference text for the course is John Foot, *Modern Italy* (Palgrave, 2014). This book is widely available, and students may find it helpful to acquire their own copy. We will also be referring to Paul Ginsborg, *Italy and its Discontents 1980-2001* (Penguin, 2001).

Many of the texts to be studied on this unit will be supplied by the department, and all the films will be available in the Multimedia Centre in the School of Modern Languages.

Literary texts to be studied include:

- Emilio Lussu, *Un anno sull'altipiano* (Turin: Einaudi, 2014). Beginners can read this in English: *Emilio Lussu, A Soldier on the Southern Front: The Classic Italian Memoir of World War I* (New York: Rizzoli, 2014).
- Rosetta Loy, *La parola ebreo* (Turin: Einaudi, 2006); the English translation is *First Words: a Childhood in Fascist Italy*, and will be made available to beginners.
- Dario Fo, *Morte accidentale di un anarchico* (Turin: Einaudi, 2007); the English translation to be used is *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, translated by Simon Nye (Methuen, 2003).

A useful and readable introduction to the study of modern Italy, though not a set text, is Tobias Jones, *The Dark Heart of Italy* (Faber, 2007). Likewise, if you are able to pick up a cheap copy of *Italian Cultural Studies*, ed. by Forgacs and Lumley (Oxford, 1996), and/or *Italian Cinema*, by Mary Wood (2005), you will find them useful preparation for studying Italian culture and cinema

**Single Honours and Post-'A' Level students will also take ITAL10025 Reading Medieval Italy. For this unit the core texts are:**

- Dante Alighieri, *Vita Nuova*, ed. by Anthony Mortimer (London: Oneworld, 2012)
- Jacoff, Rachel (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Dante*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)