



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

## Ivy Chippendale '09

*Italian Studies, Medical Anthropology*



**Q: Did you know you wanted to major in Italian studies when you came to college?**

A: Originally, I came to college thinking I would major in art history, and I enrolled in Italian 101 in freshman year as a supplementary course for the art history major. I ended up loving my Italian class so much that I decided to declare it as my major.

**Q: Did you have a close relationship with your professors?**

A: All of my Italian studies professors were really accessible. In particular, Professor Sica encouraged my interest in the language and supported my desire to study abroad. Her dedication as a professor and as an academic adviser was unparalleled.

**Q: Does the Italian studies department encourage students to study in other departments?**

A: My Italian studies professors always encouraged me to take classes in many disciplines, and they provided me with the support and flexibility to concurrently pursue my interests in the Italian language and international health.

**Q: Did you study in Italy?**

A: As a junior year, I studied in Siena, Italy, a relatively small city that has an incredible amount of learning and cultural opportunities for students. Since I was a double major in medical anthropology and Italian studies, I enrolled in anthropology classes at the Università degli Studi di Siena, an anthropological experience in itself, which allowed me to actively pursue both of my majors.

## Italian Studies

### Overview

In the Italian studies department, we urge you to go beyond the standard impressions of Italy and explore the country's vital role in the development of relevant cultural trends in a transnational context. We offer a unique balance of language through culture in our introductory courses and explore literature, film and cultural history through various critical and theoretical approaches in the more advanced courses. Our goal is to refine your critical appreciation of Italy, and by comparison, your own native culture, while preparing you for a career as a scholar or as a professional in an increasingly global landscape.

### Independent Study

The department encourages its students to forge many different paths within the major by engaging in independent studies, which may take many forms. Recently, students have chosen to integrate their projects with a study-abroad experience by traveling to Italy to investigate issues such as the emergence of feminist centers, or how China's expanding market is threatening the stability of the Italian fashion industry. Others have secured internships in Italy to study various topics, such as how alternative sources of energy are promoted throughout the country.

### Interdisciplinary Studies

We encourage students to follow their own passions but to adhere to a pragmatic plan. Our students have combined Italian studies with interests in other disciplines including film, art, art history, architecture, fashion, design, literature, music, international politics, economics, history, sociology, gender studies, religion and anthropology. In the past, students have combined internships, research and academic study in Italy by joining the College's interdisciplinary certificate program in international studies. Italian studies majors may also earn Connecticut College's museum studies certificate.

### Study Abroad

Students may spend either one semester or one year in Italy through a variety of study-abroad programs in major cities such as Venice, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Perugia, Rome and Palermo. They may apply to one of the College's own Study Away Teach Away (SATA) programs, which are semester-long courses of study with their Connecticut College professors in Italy and other countries.



## What can you do with a major in Italian studies?

### Vetri Nathan '03

Completing a Ph.D. in Italian studies at Stanford University. Researches contemporary Italian immigration culture.

Teaches undergraduate courses at Stanford in Italian language, culture and Italian cinema.

### Stephanie Herbert '04

Executive assistant and interline representative at Alitalia Airlines in New York City.

Taught English as a foreign language at the American Institute and attended Middlebury College's M.A. program, both in Florence, Italy. Her thesis was "The Effect of the Linguistic Politics of Fascism on Italian Cinema."

### Sam Lindo '08

Legal assistant at Sidley Austin LLP in New York City.

After graduation, traveled for a month in Honduras and Guatemala. Spent his junior year at the Università di Messina in Sicily, Italy, then interned for two months at Libera, Italy's largest anti-mafia organization. His thesis was "Identity in Flux: The Mafia, Antimafia, and Sicily's Discovery of New Italian Unity."

## Beyond Connecticut College

Some of our alumni have gone on to advanced studies in Italian and other disciplines at institutions such as the Università Bocconi in Milan, Italy, Stanford University and The Johns Hopkins University. Others work in finance or fashion or at design firms or art museums. Several have gone on to become language and literature teachers at Italian primary and secondary schools.

## Faculty

### Frida Morelli, *Lecturer*

Ph.D., University of Maryland; M.A., George Mason University; B.A., Scuola Superiore Interpreti e Traduttori di Napoli

Linguistics; language pedagogy; second-language acquisition; interpreting and translation

### Robert E. Proctor, *Joanne Toor*

*Cummings '50 Professor of Italian*  
Ph.D., M.A., The Johns Hopkins University; B.A., University of San Francisco

Medieval and Renaissance literature and culture; history of the humanities and the liberal arts

### Paola Sica, *Associate Professor and Department Chair*

Ph.D., M.A., Princeton University; Laurea, Università degli Studi di Siena  
Modern and contemporary Italian literature and culture in a comparative context; gender and women's studies; theory and translation

## Selected Courses

Elementary Italian; Intermediate Italian; Adesso Scriviamo; Attualità in Italia: Conversazione; Identity and Place in Italian Culture; Contemporary Italian Literature and Film; Dante; Culture of Modernity; The Late Renaissance: Art, Science, and Religion; The Renaissance in Italy; The Cities of Italy: Rome, Florence, and Venice

## About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900 students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the experience of all.

For more information, visit  
[www.conncoll.edu/academics/](http://www.conncoll.edu/academics/)