



# Casa Italiana

Prof. Paolo Pucci, Program Director

Casa Italiana will provide an introduction to different aspects of Italian culture with a special focus on Italy's traditions, language, and contemporary every-day life. Students in the Italian house will enjoy a unique learning experience in which the rich culture of Italy will be explored through a variety of monthly activities. Students do not need prior coursework in Italian language. We will adapt the language component of the course to program members' background. The only requirement is a genuine interest in Italian culture!

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Each member will broaden his or her understanding of Italian culture.

Bi-weekly meetings will be held to assess the progress of the program, to discuss issues concerning life in the suites, and to prepare the following events.

### ***Fall Semester 2009:***

During the fall semester, we will meet in a classroom once a month for a discussion on Italy's different **cities and regions**: northern, central, and southern Italy (one city or region per month). Students will learn about the different Italian geographical areas, exploring their history and traditions through the invaluable exposure to first-hand experience. All faculty members of the Italian program in the department of Romance Languages at UVM, along with outside guests, will be invited to lecture on his/her city and/or region of origin. Each will be given the choice of talking about every-day life in general, or about a specific aspect of it.

Also, we will meet twice a semester in the International Lounge for dinner. Each dinner will be devoted to the celebration of the corresponding **Italian holiday and tradition** (a calendar will be made and posted in the common room of both suites). We will discuss the history of the holiday and the way it is celebrated nowadays, while eating its characteristic dishes cooked by us. Every faculty member of the Italian program in the department of Romance Languages at UVM will be invited, in order for students to have an opportunity to practice their language skills with native speakers.

Other activities will include **movie** screenings. The focus will be on family relationships

and the changes occurred in the Italian family since WWII. Flyers will be distributed inviting anyone who would like to attend. Information about the movie director and a brief introduction to the theme of each movie will precede the screenings. A discussion will follow.

We will keep an eye on program offerings at the Flynn Center and the Lane Series, and will attend a performance that is most relevant to Italian culture.

### ***Spring Semester 2010:***

We will continue to watch recent movies.

Also, we will meet in a classroom every other month to explore **masterpieces of Italian visual arts and music** with the help of UVM faculty members. CI students will be asked to assist the involved professors in the organization of these events, in particular those with a previous knowledge of the subjects. In addition, students playing an instrument will be invited to perform at the end of the presentations devoted to music.

Last Spring semester, we organized a very successful event, *Caffe' Italiano*. We set up a café in the Fireplace Lounge offering several kinds of hot beverages, in particular espresso and cappuccino. We would like to repeat this event.

On the last day of Carnival (in February) we will throw a costume party and watch a documentary on Carnival in Venice.



### **About the Global Village**

This program is part of the Global Village Residential Learning Community (RLC). For UVM students interested in exploring other cultures, studying abroad, or pursuing lives and careers in an increasingly interconnected world, the Global Village may be just the place for you! Drawing on the resources of the Living/Learning Center and its dynamic network of student- and faculty-led programs, the community of learners that make up the Global Village will be engaged in coursework, lectures, concerts, exhibits, faculty and peer mentoring, social connections with international students, group meals, and trips that:

- Explore the many connections among language, art and culture at regional, national, and international scales.
- Share disciplinary expertise within an environment that values a holistic approach to “living and learning.”
- Encourage formal and informal contacts among students, faculty, and staff within the Global Village, the Living/Learning Center, the other Residential Learning Communities, and the university as a whole.
- Aim to be a complement to existing international and cross-cultural programs at UVM.

- “Think globally and act locally” by outreach to the international community at UVM and within the greater Burlington area.

More information about the Global Village RLC can be found at: <http://www.uvm.edu/globalvillage>

### **GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar**

GRS 095/096: The Global Village Seminar is a largely self-paced, one-credit course designed to help you get the most out of your experience as a citizen of the Global Village Residential Learning Community. All new Global Village residents **must** enroll in GRS 095 for one credit during the fall semester or GRS 096 for the spring semester. (Returning Global Village students who have not yet satisfactorily completed the class must enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester.) This course will be graded on a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” basis. The course will be partly comprised of a series of “Common Hour” community gatherings held on Thursday afternoons. The primary purpose of the Common Hour meetings is to build a stronger sense of community among the members of the many Global Village houses and programs. As well, the Common Hour gatherings will help Global Village citizens build a common knowledge and skill set, including such topics as intercultural communication, globalization, etc. A variety of program offerings will take place during Common Hour meetings, such as special guest lectures, interactive dialogue and social gatherings. During weeks when the Common Hours are not held, you are expected to participate in one educational event or activity with a global cultural theme. We’ll provide you with a list of suggested events and activities, or you can identify other events/activities with a global cultural theme; you choose which ones you wish to attend.

We’ll provide you with a Global Village Passport; use it to keep track of your activities and explorations. In addition to documenting participation in Common Hours and the educational events/activities, you will need to do reflective writing in the form of five short journal entries on the cultural/educational events that you participated in, along with a lengthier essay looking back on your most meaningful experience of the semester within the Global Village.

Returning Global Village students are also invited (but not required) to enroll in GRS 095 during the fall semester. Enrollment in GRS 096 for one credit during the spring semester is optional and encouraged for all students.

If you anticipate a problem with fulfilling this course expectation (such as if you will already be enrolled in 18 credits), please contact Prof. Joseph Acquisto, Faculty Director of the Global Village, at [Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu](mailto:Joseph.Acquisto@uvm.edu)

For more details about this course, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~gvrlc/passport/GRS095096.pdf>