

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3524
DEAN Decision Approved
Date 09/05/2025
Is this course intracollegiate or intercollegiate? Intracollegiate
DEAN Comments revitalizing this minor will include the addition of 3000-level offerings
SCHOOL EPC Decision Approved
Date 10/01/2025
GEC Decision Approved
Date 01/09/2026
APIRC Decision Approved
Date 02/02/2026
Begin Form
Today's Date 09/04/2025
Your Name: Megan Fenrich
Your Email: mfenrich@highpoint.edu
Are you a Department Chair?

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No

Department Chair Name

Daliang Wang

Email address of your Department Chairdwang@highpoint.edu**By checking below, I certify that my department chair has seen and approved the new course that I am proposing.**

Yes

Please select the appropriate school overseeing this proposal:

Humanities and Behavioral Sciences

When should this proposal take effect?

Fall 2026

Information for the Registrar**Choose the department designator from the list below.**

ITA

Proposed Course Number?

3150

Is this course cross listed?

No

Does this course replace a current course?

No

What is the title of the new course?

Twentieth-Century Italian America in Literature and Film

Write the catalog description of your proposed course:

This course explores the history and representation of Italian American identity and culture in the United States during the twentieth century. Students will read, watch, and analyze primary and secondary sources that examine ways in which an Italian American identity was conceptualized by Italian Americans and non-Italian Americans of the period and today. This course embraces a variety of texts—fictional, non-fictional, cinematic, visual, and academic—and explores topics such as assimilation and traditions; race and ethnicity; labor exploitation; economic marginalization; politics, crime and justice; and the roles of family, women, food, and religion. This course is taught in English.

How many credit hours will this course be?

4

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3524**How will the course be graded?**

Letter grade

Please select the course repeat option for this course:

Repeatable for credit once

What is the offering cycle for this course?

Alternate years

Does your course have any prerequisites?

No

Is this new course being proposed because of a new or revised major or minor proposal?

No.

Gen Ed and Academic Programs**Is this course part of Gen Ed?**

- Yes

Does your course count in any general education categories that can be double-dipped in the core or in a major/minor?

- Diversity
- The American Context

Does this course count towards a major or a minor?

Yes

Please list the Major / Minor and if it is Required or Elective

Italian Studies

Is this course part of an academic program?

- This course does not fulfill academic program requirements

Does this course include any community engagement?

No

Does this course participate in the GoGlobal Program?

No

Information for Curriculum Review

A - New Course Proposal V. 7.2022 : Entry # 3524**Rationale and evidence for new course's consistency with departmental mission:**

I am proposing this course for several reasons. First, Italian currently provides only a few elective options for students undertaking an Italian minor. Given the lack of breadth, this course will provide an additional option for these students. Second, a solid chunk of students taking elementary Italian come from Italian American backgrounds. This course is a pathway to bolster the Italian minor while also providing an avenue for students to explore their heritage in the context of twentieth century history and representations of Italian America. Third, this course broadens the study of Italian culture to encompass the part of the large Italian diaspora of the twentieth century, thereby engaging in the transcultural and global reach of Italy and its culture in the contemporary period.

List all student learning outcomes for this course.

1. Analyze significant connections between the worldviews, power structures, aesthetics, and experiences of multiple cultures historically or in contemporary contexts, incorporating respectful interactions with other cultures. (Analytic Skills #3)
2. Reflect critically on their own values in light of alternatives. (Ethical Reasoning #3)
3. Analyze significant connections between the worldviews, power structures, aesthetics, and experiences of multiple cultures historically or in contemporary contexts, incorporating respectful interactions with other cultures. (Appreciation of Difference #1)
4. Identify and describe how power and privilege, particularly as determined by racial and socioeconomic inequality, impact their own life circumstances and those of other people both locally and globally. (Appreciation of Difference #3)
5. Both orally and in writing, identify, communicate, and analyze central foundational elements of the Italian American identity during the twentieth century
6. Critically interpret and analyze depictions of Italian Americans and their culture in fictional and non-fictional texts, comparing and contrasting ways in which different texts communicate diverse and/or similar stereotypes and tropes
7. Develop an individualized research question on Italian America in which they can support their question and thesis with evidence and clearly communicate their research findings

List any units or content areas that will be required for all sections of this course.

Race and Ethnicity
 Crime and Justice
 Labor Exploitation
 Family

List any assignments, tests, or other assessments that will be required for all sections of this course.

Discussion Leader
 Research Project
 Midterm Exam
 Final Exam

List any readings or other materials that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

List any course policies that will be required for all sections of this course.

N/A

If you would like to specify how requirements for contact hours must be met for all sections of this course, please indicate below. (e.g., if any experiential learning activities will replace seat time)

N/A

Is there anything else the reviewing parties should know about this new course proposal that hasn't been addressed?

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N/A

Sample Syllabus

- [ITA-Italian-America-Fenrich-Revised-19-December-2025.pdf](#)