

Proposal Brief

Date: August 29, 2015

Program Closure: **ITALIAN CULTURE**

Background Information

The Italian Culture Honours Minor BA Program was introduced in 2007-08. In 2009-10 Italian Culture was launched as an Honours Major BA Program. The Italian Studies section initially wanted Italian Studies and Italian Culture to be two different streams in one single program but, at the time (2008-09), this was not a possibility for a variety of administrative challenges.

The Italian Studies section in DLLL is proposing the closure of the degree in Italian Culture. Degree options include an Honours BA (120 credits) and a BA (90 credits) in Italian Culture and other possibilities such as an Honours Minor, a double major and a major/minor option linked to other programs at York University. Requirements for the 90 credit degree in Italian Culture include 12 mandatory core credits + 18 credits chosen from a list of Italian Culture courses both from within Italian Studies and from other departments such as HIST, HUMA, GSWST, VISA. For the 120 credit degree in Italian Culture, students require 12 mandatory core credits + 30 credits chosen as above. This degree is offered in English.

In recent years, the Italian Culture major, although an interesting and robust degree program according to external reviewers' comments from a recent UPR (2010), has failed to attract the number of majors that would ensure its sustainability. It is for this reason that the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, in the recent AAPR, has insisted upon its closure. The Italian Studies section recognizes that in 2015-16 there are no majors in the program and now wishes to propose its closure.

There would be no impact on other units.

There would be no impact on students as there are no majors in the program.

There would be no impact on faculty members in Italian Studies as the courses offered as part of the degree in Italian Culture are already part of, or could be taught towards, the degree in Italian Studies. The section is currently revising its Italian Studies degree requirements to encompass these offerings and new ones outside of the traditional fields.

This proposal was approved on September 3, 2015 by the Italian Studies Section.

This proposal was approved on September 9, 2015 by the Coordinators' Committee DLLL.

Memo

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Kim Michasiw,
Vice Dean

Date: December 1, 2015

Subject: Approval of the Closure of the Italian Culture Degree Program

On behalf of Dean Ananya Mukherjee-Reed, I have reviewed the proposal to close the degree program in Italian Culture in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

Proposing to close the program marks the Italian section's recognition that the program is a noble, but failed, experiment. Despite the program's being assessed as interesting and robust in design by the Italian section's most recent Cyclical Program Review, it failed entirely to draw students, perhaps because they could not distinguish it clearly enough from its sibling program in Italian Studies. All of the courses that contributed to Italian Culture will remain in the repository because they all contribute to Italian Studies. So the closing of a program with no students and no unique courses will have no impact. It will vanish as if it had never been.

