• At Bryn Mawr, **ITALIAN** is a small, zestful community that encourages students to pursue interdisciplinary interests—Italianists believe in **cultural curiosity, relax, lively communication, intellectual friendship, and eating well.**

• Jodie Foster, Kobe Bryant, George Clooney, Colin Firth, and the Pope are fluent in Italian, Lady Gaga took Italian at NYU, **Jhumpa Lahiri** (one of the greatest living American authors, who now only writes in Italian) wrote on the New Yorker “I am, in Italian, a tougher, freer writer, who, taking root again, grows in a different way.”

• A recent **UNESCO** report states that over 60% of the world’s art treasures are to be found in Italy. Italian language is key to study, do research, and eventually work in the fields of:

  A) **literature** (Dante, Petrarch, Ariosto are prime influences throughout the history of poetry and fiction)

  B) **archaeology** (Latin, Roman empire, Pompei)

  C) **art history** (Giotto, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Caravaggio, Antonio Canova, Giorgio de Chirico, Renzo Piano, the Venice Biennale, the Sixtine Chapel)

  D) **diversity, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity studies, the history of the Jewish diaspora, postcolonial studies.** Did you know that Michelangelo was queer, that the first duke of Renaissance Florence was a black man, that the word “ghetto” comes from Venetian dialect, or that the first European treatise on Africa was written in Italian by an African scholar at the court of pope Leo X?

  E) **music and opera.** Even non-Italian masters of the past like Haydn, Gluck, and the great Mozart wrote their operas for Italian librettos, and some of the greatest musicians in the world (from Ennio Morricone to Claudio Abbado and Riccardo Muti) are Italian. Today, Italy is full of edgy indie bands, dialect hip hop crews, and songwriters that draw on a glorious poetic and musical tradition.

  F) **cinema,** with great classical masters like Rossellini, Fellini, Pasolini, Visconti, but also genre cults that inspired American iconic films (like Quentin Tarantino’s ones): Sergio Leone’s spaghetti westerns for instance, or Dario Argento’s gialli and horrors, or Lucio Fulci splatters. Directors like Sorrentino, Tornatore, and Benigni recently won academy awards, and with works like Gomorrah and the imminent series on Elena
Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels, Italy is entering the world of high quality TV shows.

G) feminism and philosophy. The #metoo hashtag was re-launched after the Italian campaign #quellavoltache, and Italian actress Asia Argento is one of the most vocal leaders of the movement. If you want to read legendary texts of 20th century feminism by Adriana Cavarero, Luisa Muraro, and Carla Lonzi, learn Italian.

H) ecology. From the Mediterranean to the Alps, Italy is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world: a fact that makes it unique in Europe. Italian can give you access to an incredible variety of parks, landscapes, and climates.

I) fashion (Versace and Armani revolutionized the taste of the planet, Donatella Versace and Miuccia Prada are global icons), luxury (Ferrari, Lamborghini, Eataly, Bulgari, Seletti, Fornasetti), and business (over 7,000 American firms do business with Italy and over a thousand US companies have offices in Italy, Chrysler, General Electric, ExxonMobil, IBM, and Citibank).

J) food studies and the Slow Food Revolution, a movement initiated in Italy in 1980 and now with a world-wide following to counteract fast food and to promote local food traditions.