In this course, students will explore themes dealing with Italy and Italians to expand and refine their knowledge of Italian language, culture and contemporary life. They will listen to and discuss some popular Italian songs and classical arias, they will read and analyze Italian fiction and poetry, watch and review some classic and contemporary Italian movies, and they will examine some relevant events and phenomena that shaped contemporary Italy. Students will also become familiar with some specific traditions and customs, with the gastronomical variety, and with a few vernacular traits typical of various Italian regions. There will be an increased emphasis on reading, speaking and writing skills. Students will learn new grammar structures and review those already studied. The course is taught entirely in Italian.