

ITAL 526, History of the Italian Language,
ENNIO RAO

This course will begin with an examination of the dynamics of change present within the Latin language from its archaic period to Vulgar Latin, foreshadowing the transition to the main Romance languages. After consideration of the substratum, adstratum and superstratum theory, the course will concentrate on the origins of the Italian language and provide an overview of the principal phases of its evolution, from the earliest documents and medieval vernaculars through the codification of the literary standard during the Renaissance, focusing during this final phase on the "Questione della lingua." The course will also include a survey of modern Italian vernaculars.