Italian Studies (ITL)

Major and Minor in Italian Studies

Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Italian: Business Management (BUS), Comparative Literature (CLT), Economics (ECO), English (EGL), History (HIS), International Studies (INT), Linguistics (LIN), Medieval Studies (MVL), Philosophy (PHI), Political Science (POL), other languages

Italian Studies (ITL)

Italian Studies at Stony Brook is a versatile program that allows the student to concentrate on the study of Italian language, culture, and literature. Students may choose an individualized course of study to fit their needs. Students interested in teaching Italian should concentrate on courses taught in the Italian language, while those interested in other careers should choose courses in culture, film studies, and Italian American social issues.

The Italian Studies major consists of an intensive study of the Italian language along with the study of the culture that has shaped Italian society and its interaction with American society through the study of literature, culture, and film studies.

The undergraduate program in Italian Studies provides training for secondary language teachers and for graduate studies in Italian. In conjunction with other disciplines, the Italian program also provides a basis for careers such as international business, law, and economics.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in Italian Studies (ITL)

Placement in Language Courses for Incoming Students

The prerequisites for courses indicate approximate placement levels. One year of high school foreign language is generally considered the equivalent of one college semester. Students are advised to consult the ITL Program Coordinator if they believe the recommended course is inappropriate.

Requirements for the Major

The major in Italian Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Students must complete Concentration A or Concentration B. These concentrations are designed to allow maximum flexibility in the students' programs and to fulfill their varying needs and interests. Both require as a basis a solid preparation in the language of the major. Concentration A provides preparation for teaching at the secondary school level or for graduate study in literature; Concentrations A and B both provide appropriate background for students preparing for work in law, government, international relations, business, banking, hotel management, or translation and interpretation.

All students should consult with the Coordinator of the Italian program. Students opting for Concentration B must obtain Departmental approval for their program by submitting it in advance, after consultation with the advisor, to the director of undergraduate studies.

All courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Transfer students must take at least 18 credits of the major language in residence at Stony Brook.

Completion of the major requires 36-42 credits for Concentration A and 42-48 credits for Concentration B, depending on language placement. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for placement exam information.

A. Concentration in Language and Literature
1. Required courses:
   • ITL 211 Intermediate Italian I
   • ITL 212 Intermediate Italian II
   • ITL 311 Italian Conversation and Composition II
   • ITL 312 Italian Conversation and Composition II
   • ITL 395 Readings in Italian Literature I
   • ITL 396 Readings in Italian Literature I
   • ITL 411 Advanced Conversation and Composition
• ITL 412 Advanced Conversation and Syntax

2. Elective courses:

• Six additional ITL courses at the 400-level. In consultation with the program coordinator, up to three of these courses may be substituted with relevant HUI courses.

3. Upper-Division Writing Requirement: see C below.

B. Concentration in Italian and a Second Discipline

1. Required courses:

• ITL 211 Intermediate Italian I
• ITL 212 Intermediate Italian II
• ITL 311 Italian Conversation and Composition I
• ITL 312 Italian Conversation and Composition II
• ITL 395 Readings in Italian Literature I
• ITL 396 Readings in Italian Literature II
• ITL 411 Advanced Conversation and Composition
• ITL 412 Advanced Conversation and Syntax

2. Elective courses

• Four additional ITL or HUI courses chosen in consultation with the program coordinator, of which 4 must be numbered 300 or higher
• Four additional courses in a discipline other than Italian chosen in consultation with the program coordinator and approved by the Department, of which three must be numbered 300 or higher. (See Note 4 below.)

3. Upper-Division Writing Requirement: see C below

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

To demonstrate proficiency in writing English, students majoring in Italian must register for the 0-credit ITL 459 and present a dossier of a minimum of two papers of at least three to five pages each. The dossier must be submitted before the end of the second semester of the junior year to the ITL Program Coordinator. The dossier consists of papers previously composed for upper-division courses. If these papers were originally written in Italian, they must be rewritten in English. The papers are judged by a faculty committee for clarity, accuracy, and appropriateness of style. If the dossier is found to be unsatisfactory, the student will be asked to rewrite and resubmit the work in the senior year.

Students should consult with the department advisor to ensure that their plan for completing the Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent with university graduation requirements for General Education. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must complete a course that satisfies the "Write Effectively within One's Discipline” (WRTD) learning objective to graduate. The Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent in most cases with the SBC learning outcomes for WRTD.

Notes:

1. Credits for ITL 411 and ITL 412 cannot be transferred and must be taken at Stony Brook.
2. Students who wish to offer their native language as the main area of concentration are asked to replace ITL 211, 212, 311, and 312 by English courses appropriate to their level of proficiency in that language.
3. Students in the Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program must complete 36 ITL credits.
4. ITL 475, ITL 476 and HUI 475, HUI 476 cannot be applied toward the requirements for the major in Italian.

Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program

See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.

Requirements for the Minor

For students majoring in other disciplines, an Italian minor, is available with two choices of emphasis. Students must complete either Emphasis A Language or Emphasis B Italian Studies.

All courses for the minor must be taken for a letter grade, excluding those graded S/U. All upper-division courses for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Transfer students who wish to graduate with a minor in Italian must take at least six credits of upper-division Italian courses in residence at Stony Brook.

Completion of the minor with either emphasis requires 22-27 credits, depending on language placement. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for placement exam information.

A. Emphasis on Language

• ITL 211 Intermediate Italian I
• ITL 212 Intermediate Italian II
• ITL 311 or ITL 312 Italian Conversation and Composition
• ITL 395 or ITL 396 Readings in Italian Literature
• ITL 411 Advanced Conversation and Composition
• ITL 412 Advanced Conversation and Syntax
• Three additional courses with the designator ITL or HUI, at least one of which must be 300 level or higher

B. Emphasis on Italian Studies

• ITL 211 Intermediate Italian I
• ITL 212 Intermediate Italian II
• ITL 311 or ITL 312 Italian Conversation and Composition
• ITL 395 or ITL 396 Readings in Italian Literature
• Two HUI courses at the 200 level
• Three additional courses at the 300 level or higher in Italian studies chosen in consultation with the student's advisor

Note: Credits for ITL 411 and ITL 412 cannot be transferred from any other institution without prior permission of the department.

Honors Program in Italian

To be eligible to participate in the honors program, majors must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and an average of 3.50 in Italian through the junior year. An eligible student wishing to write a senior thesis must find a faculty member of the Italian program to act as thesis advisor. The student must submit a proposal of a project in writing to the ITL Program Coordinator. Deadline for submission of the proposal for fall semester is April 30 and for spring semester is November 30. Final selection of candidates and topics is determined by an honors committee. Students selected for the program must enroll in ITL 495 for the semester in which the thesis is written. The thesis is evaluated by the thesis advisor, another member of the Italian program, and a third reader from outside the Italian program. For further information consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Italian Studies (Concentration in Language and Literature)

A course planning guide for this major may be found here.

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HUI

Italian Literature and Culture
Courses in English

HUI 216: Italian Civilization Through the Ages
The historical development of civilization in Italy with reference to literature and connection to artistic expression such as visual arts, music, and theatre.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course
DEC: I
SBC: GLO
3 credits

HUI 231: Sex and Politics in Italian Cinema
The cinematic representation of gender, class, and sexual politics in post-World War II Italian films and the relationship of these themes to Italian history, society, and culture are discussed. Films by directors such as Bertolucci, Fellini, and Wertmuller are studied. Readings include selected works of film history, criticism, and theory.
DEC: D
SBC: ARTS, CER
3 credits

HUI 234: Introduction to 20th-Century Drama
A study of avant-garde drama through the analysis of texts by Marinetti, Bontempelli, Pirandello, Betti, Beckett, Ionesco, and Tennessee Williams. Important questions such as identity and diversity are discussed from a variety of perspectives within the social, psychological, sexual, and multicultural context of our time.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course or THR 101
DEC: G
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUI 235: Sex, Love, and Tragedy in Early Italian Literature
A study of the interactions between the sexes, in contrast with humankind's spiritual needs in the major works of early Italian literature. Dante's Inferno and Purgatorio, Boccaccio's Decameron and Petrarch's poetry are analyzed.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course
DEC: G
SBC: GLO, HUM

HUI 236: The Italian-American Scene
Exploration of the phenomenon of Italian-American experiences, with emphasis on issues of immigration and ethnicity. Studies in anthropology, history, sociology, literature, and culture provide historical and theoretical backgrounds of the experience of Italians in North and South America and their contributions to American culture.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course
DEC: K
SBC: HUM, USA
3 credits

HUI 237: Images of Italian-American Women
Examination of the role of Italian-American women through literature, film, politics, and music. The specific ways they have contributed artistically and socially to the American cultural scene from the first wave of Italian-American immigration to the present is considered. This course is offered as both HUI 237 and WST 237.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. B or HUM course
DEC: I
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUI 238: Modern Italy
A survey of contemporary Italy and its political, social, and economic structure, as well as the study of cultural life and institutions, within the context of its historical development, with comparisons to American models and standards.
DEC: I
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUI 306: The Early Renaissance in Italy
Art in Italy in from the late 13th through the 15th centuries, with special emphasis on Florence and Siena, and such major figures as Masaccio, Donatello, Piero della Francesca, and Botticelli. This course offered as both ARH 306 and HUI 306.
Prerequisite: ARH 101 and 102
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 307: The Age of Michelangelo in Central Italy
An exploration of the works of Michelangelo, Da Vinci and other major masters, including Raphael, Bramante and Pontormo, who inspired, were influenced by or rejected the work and ideals of Michelangelo. This course is offered as both ARH 307 and HUI 307.
Prerequisite: ARH 101 or ARH 204
DEC: I
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 310: Splendors of Renaissance Art in Venice
The special qualities of Venetian art, which blends Byzantine, Islamic, and Western traditions, are explored through the works of such major figures as Giovanni Bellini, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, and Palladio. Course offered as both ARH 310 and HUI 310.
Prerequisite: ARH 101 and ARH 102; or ARH 204
Advisory prerequisite: ARH 307
DEC: I
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 331: Italian Literature
A topics course given in English on a major Italian author or literary movement in relation to European or American literature. May be repeated as the topic changes. May be used to satisfy comparative literature major requirements with permission of major department.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 333: The Italian-American Experience in Literature
Literary and historical perspectives on the experience of Italians in America and their contribution to American culture from the earliest wave of Italian immigration to the present day. This course offered as both EGL 333 and HUI 333.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 336: Italian Americans and Ethnic Relations
An historical and sociological examination of Italian-Americans from colonial America to the present with the major focus on the period from 1870 to the present. Comparative experience with other ethnic and minority groups within the U.S., including formation, migration, and conflict.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

DEC: K
SBC: USA
3 credits

HUI 338: Images of Italian Americans in Film
Italian-American ethnicity as represented in mainstream and independent American cinema from the silent era to the present. Particular attention is paid to the origin and existence of the traditional stereotypes associated with these representations, how they reflect the changing role of immigrants from the Industrial Revolution to the present, and how Italian-American filmmakers respond to them.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: HUM 201; HUI 231

DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 390: Italian-American Studies in the Humanities
May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUI 392: Italian-American Studies in the Social and Behavioral Sciences
May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

HUI 447: Directed Readings in Italian Studies
Individually supervised readings in Italian studies. Primarily for students who do not have the language proficiency to take ITL 447. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Permission of department
1-6 credits

HUI 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. In HUI 476, students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice. This course does not count toward the major or minor in Italian.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor and language coordinator

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

HUI 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. In HUI 476, students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice. This course does not count toward the major or minor in Italian.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor and language coordinator

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

ITAL

ITAL 111: Elementary Italian I
An introduction to spoken and written Italian, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Selected texts are read. Practice in language laboratory supplements class work. ITL 111 is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of Italian in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take ITL 111 without written permission from the supervisor of the course. May not be taken for credit in addition to ITL 101.

4 credits

ITAL 112: Elementary Italian II
An introduction to spoken and written Italian, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Selected texts are read. Practice in language laboratory supplements class work. May not be taken for credit in addition to ITL 101.

Prerequisite: ITL 111 or placement into 112. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: LANG
4 credits

ITAL 201: Intensive Intermediate Italian
An intensive course covering the intermediate Italian program (ITAL 211, 212) in one semester. May not be taken for credit in addition to ITL 211, 212.

Prerequisite: ITL 111 or ITL 112 or placement into 211 or 212. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG
6 credits

ITAL 211: Italian Comparisons and Connections
Development of functional competence in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Expansion of insight into the nature of languages and the integration of languages and cultures, with connections to other disciplines. Cultural and linguistic comparisons. May not be taken for credit in addition to ITL 201.

Prerequisite: ITL 101 or ITL 112 or placement into 201 or 211. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, LANG
3 credits
ITAL 212: Italian Cultures and Communities
Development of functional competence in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Emphasis on comparison of languages and cultures and on the use of the Italian language in communities both within and beyond the university setting. Study and discussion of cultures in the Italian speaking world through film, literature, music, newspapers. May not be taken for credit in addition to ITL 201.
Prerequisite: ITL 211 or placement into 212. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.
DEC: S3  
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG  
3 credits

ITAL 311: Italian Conversation and Composition
A course in spoken and written Italian, with emphasis on precision and fluency in the spoken form.
Prerequisite: ITL 201 or 212  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+, LANG, SPK  
3 credits

ITAL 312: Italian Conversation and Composition
Reading of selected short passages of prose and poetry in class, with emphasis on improved writing skills, oral expression, and increased mastery of Italian syntax and techniques of literary analysis.
Prerequisite: ITL 201 or 212  
DEC: S3  
SBC: ESI, HFA+, LANG, WRTD  
3 credits

ITAL 313: Italian Vocabulary
A course designed to increase the vocabulary and oral comprehension of students of Italian through media such as television commercials, popular music, folk songs, etc. The particular theme changes each semester. May be repeated twice for credit as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: ITL 201 or 212  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
1 credit

ITAL 395: Readings in Italian Literature I
Literary analysis and its application to representative short stories and novels chosen from the various periods of Italian literature.
Readings, writings, and discussions are in Italian.
Prerequisite: ITL 311  
Pre- or Corequisite: ITL 312  
DEC: G & 3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 396: Readings in Italian Literature II
Literary analysis and its application to representative plays and poems chosen from the various periods of Italian literature. Readings, writings, and discussions are in Italian.
Prerequisite: ITL 311  
Pre- or Corequisite: ITL 312  
DEC: G & 3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 410: Business Italian
A course designed for students who wish to become more proficient in reading, writing, and translating Italian. Students are also trained in the use of Italian in business, administration, and everyday professional life. Emphasis is placed on the idiomatic peculiarities of the Italian language and the relation of Italian to the structure of English.
Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 411: Advanced Conversation and Composition
A course designed to develop fluency and accuracy in the use of the spoken language through intensive practice, exposition, class discussion, and the use of the language laboratory.
Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312  
DEC: S3  
SBC: WRTD  
3 credits

ITAL 412: Advanced Conversation and Syntax
A course designed to acquaint students with the subtleties of Italian grammar and style. Extensive practice in composition and in translation from English to Italian.
Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312  
DEC: S3  
SBC: WRTD  
3 credits

ITAL 424: History of the Italian Language
A study of the history of the Italian language from Latin to its present form.
Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 425: Italian and Its Dialects
An examination of the Italian dialects within the larger framework of Romance language development, particularly through primary texts (medieval to modern) in various Italian dialects.
Prerequisite: ITL 311; ITL 312; HUL 324; or permission of instructor  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 426: Italian Linguistics
An examination of the linguistic evolution and the synchronic structures (phonology, morphology, and syntax) of standard Italian and some Italo-Romance dialects.
Prerequisite: ITL 311; ITL 312; HUL 324; or permission of instructor  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 431: Studies in 13th- and 14th-Century Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: ITL 311, 312, 395, and 396  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 432: Studies in 15th- and 16th-Century Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: ITL 311, 312, 395, and 396  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 434: Studies in 19th-Century Literature
Semester supplements to this Bulletin contain specific description when course is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisites: ITL 311, 312, 395, and 396  
DEC: S3  
SBC: HFA+  
3 credits

ITAL 435: Studies in Contemporary Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: ITL 311, 312, 395, and 396

DEC:  S3
SBC:  HFA+

3 credits

ITAL 436: Special Topics in Italian Cinema

A topics course given in Italian on Italian cinema. Topics may include films of a particular actor or director, genre, theme, or historical period. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Pre- or Corequisites: ITL 311 and 312
Advisory Prerequisite: HUI 231

3 credits

ITAL 440: The Italian Scene

The reality of Italy and the Italian people through a study of the evolution of the historical, cultural, political, and social character of the nation.

Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312

DEC:  1 & 3
SBC:  HFA+

3 credits

ITAL 441: Topic Seminar

A seminar built around a theme such as "Cities in Italian Literature," "Women in Italian Literature," "Death and Resurrection in Contemporary Italian Literature," or "Sin and Sensuality in the Italian Short Story."

A detailed description of the seminar may be obtained from the department for each semester it is offered. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Prerequisites: ITL 311 and 312

DEC:  S3
SBC:  HFA+

3 credits

ITAL 444: Experiential Learning

This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a "real-world" setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.

Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

S/U grading

ITAL 447: Directed Readings in Italian

Individually supervised readings in selected topics in Italian language and literature or, alternatively, for the purpose of developing Italian vocabulary in a secondary field, in selected topics in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

1-6 credits

ITAL 449: Write Effectively in Italian

A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level ITL course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.

Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor

SBC:  WRTD

S/U grading

ITAL 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I (in Italian)

Each student conducts a regular problem or tutorial section that supplements a regular language course under the guidance of a master teacher. Responsibilities may include preparing materials for discussion and helping students with problems. Not for major or minor credit.

Prerequisites: ITL 410; permission of instructor and department

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

3 credits, S/U grading

ITAL 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in Italian II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served.

Prerequisites: Fluency in Italian; permission of instructor and department

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

3 credits, S/U grading

ITAL 488: Internship

Participation in local, state, national, and international public and private agencies and organizations to apply and reinforce language skills and knowledge of social and cultural institutions.

Prerequisites: ITL 410; permission of instructor and department

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

0-6 credits, S/U grading

ITAL 495: Senior Honors Project in Italian

A one-semester project for seniors. Arranged in consultation with the department, the project involves writing a paper, under the close supervision of an appropriate instructor, on a suitable topic. Students who are candidates for honors take this course.

Prerequisite: Permission of department

DEC:  S3
SBC:  EXP+

3 credits