What we call the Italian language today—the Italian of newspapers and television, of Italian language tuition, of street signs, of the Italian parliament—is only one variant among many languages spoken within the Italian peninsula throughout its history. Local dialects and regional variants of Italian continue to have a significant cultural role in literature, music and cinema. The rich linguistic map of Italy is not an exceptional case, and the same interplay between one standard literary language and several non-standard dialects is found in many other countries around the world, including, to an extent, English-speaking countries. In this course students will be encouraged to provide examples from their linguistic background, and to become aware of the socio-linguistic norms of their own community. This course is taught in English.