



AUF

The American
University of Florence

SYLLABUS

SQUOLA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN STUDIES (IT)

SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE
COURSE TITLE: ITALIAN LANGUAGE INTERMEDIATE I
COURSE CODE: ISITII201
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course builds on and extends fundamental skills developed in the beginner course. Emphasis is placed on developing fluency skills and integration of language and culture through more extensive reading and writing. After taking this course, students will be able to express polite requests using the Present Conditional, making future plans using the Future Tense and develop their language ability by using Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns. This course is aimed at students who already have a basic vocabulary of Italian and some knowledge of elementary language structures.

2. OBJECTIVES

During the course emphasis will be given to all four different abilities to be developed while learning a language: Listening – Speaking, Reading – Writing. Students will be encouraged to try to speak both in and outside class, to have them become more familiar with the Italian language and culture environment in which they are immersed. During this course, students will learn to recount past events, make future plans and ask polite requests.

Grammar

Studying and extending basic knowledge of the grammatical structures needed for correct expression, in statements referring to present, past (passato prossimo /imperfetto) situations.

Vocabulary

Understand the meaning of simple words from the context in which they are used. Expand vocabulary in order to participate in everyday simple and concrete communicative situations.

Listening

Understand the general meaning and the most important information in conversations.

Speaking

Ability to take part in everyday simple and concrete communicative situations.
explaining familiar facts or events.

Reading

Understand simple and short private correspondence (letters/postcards) and simple texts picking up familiar names, words and basic phrases.

Writing

Produce simple texts of a practical nature. Write simple descriptive passages.

3. REQUIREMENTS

This level is for students who already had one semester of Italian language or equivalent.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, and projects. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

Matteo La Grassa – *L'italiano all'università* 1, Corso di lingua per studenti stranieri A1-A2,
Edizioni Edilingua
Webster or Oxford Italian – English Dictionary

These texts have been pre-ordered and should be purchased after the first class meeting **FELTRINELLI, Via de' Cerretani 40.**

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

For each 3-week session:

20% Attendance and Participation

20% Quiz 1
20% Quiz 2
30% Final Exam
10% Oral Presentation

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- =70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

Absences are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category. Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

Two **quizzes** will account for a total of 20% of the final course grade. For time and date refer to course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.**

Format:

- Quizzes are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session.
- The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
- Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

The **Midterm** and **Final** exams each account for 20% of the final course grade. For exam time and date refer to course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.** Format:

- Exams are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session and will test all four abilities (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking).
- Exams may include multiple choice questions, fill-in the blanks, vocabulary exercises, reading with true/false replies, a listening comprehension, and an essential writing exercise.
- The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.

The **Oral Presentation** accounts for 10% of the course grade. Topic, length, guidelines, and due date will be provided on course website.

Vocabulary knowledge and appropriate usage, comprehensibility, pronunciation, content (not reading from notes), ability to answer instructor/classmates and questions during class and completion of all tasks assigned will be assessed

Assignments count for 10% of the final grade. They will consist of different tasks assigned in class by the instructor.

12. LESSONS

LESSON 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Presentation of the course and introduction to the class syllabus. Information on method, objectives, exams, assignments and oral presentation.</p> <p>Present tense: review of regular verbs and most important irregular verbs in the three conjugations <i>-are, -ere, -ire</i></p> <p>Unit 7 - Che tempo fa? COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searching out Italian cities on a map • Talking about weather conditions • Asking and saying how the weather is in a place <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct pronouns: forms and position • Use of direct pronouns with modal verbs + infinitive <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian geography: regions and most important cities • Months and seasons • Weather conditions

LESSON 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 7 – Che tempo fa? COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking a partner what is someone doing • Using <i>molto</i> as an adjective and as an adverb • Describing actions which are going on right now

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching weather forecast videos. <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive form with <i>stare + gerundio</i> • Present gerund forms of regular and irregular verbs <i>dire, fare, bere</i> • Adverbs of quantity <i>molto, abbastanza, poco, per niente</i> • <i>Molto</i> as an adjective and as an adverb <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful expressions for asking and giving information about the weather • Climate and temperature <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <i>Espressioni metaforiche e luoghi comuni sul tempo</i> • Weather in Italy • Idiomatic expressions related to the weather
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	LESSON 3
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 8 – Che cosa hai fatto nel fine settimana?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking about Saturday nights and week-end activities • Reading a cultural program • Using time expressions <i>già, ancora</i> • Inquiring about someone's past actions • Describing one's daily routine in the past <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Di +</i> definite articles • Past tense: review (verbs taking <i>essere</i> and agreement of the past participles) • Past tense: <i>passato prossimo</i> form of reflexive verbs <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure activities <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: newspaper article

	LESSON 4
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 9 – La nuova famiglia italiana</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking about one's family and family relationships • Describing a family tree

	<p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possessive adjectives (all forms) • Possessive adjectives + nouns referring to family relationships • Verbs related to love relationships <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family • Marital status • <i>Innamorarsi, fidanzarsi, sposarsi, litigare, separarsi, divorziare</i> <p style="text-align: center;">QUIZ 1</p>
	Assignment number 1

	LESSON 5
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 9 – La nuova famiglia italiana</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talking about events that will occur in the future • Making planes • Writing a short story using future tense <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future tense: regular and irregular forms • <i>Ma, o, perché</i> • Time expressions: <i>all'inizio, alla fine, dopo, poi</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian family <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <i>L'evoluzione della famiglia italiana</i> Italia family in modern society

	LESSON 6
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 10 – Mi sembra...</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and giving physical descriptions • Describing someone • Describing one's personality • Expressing opinions on someone • Expressing agreement and disagreement • Submitting a questionnaire and presenting its results <p>GRAMMAR:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect pronouns • Direct pronouns vs indirect pronouns • <i>Anche / neanche</i> • <i>A me sì / A me no</i> • <i>Mi sembra / mi sembrano</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nouns and adjectives for physical description • Personality adjectives • Questionnaire <i>Che tipo sei?</i> <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <i>Essere o apparire?</i> • Italians and look <p>General Review</p>
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	LESSON 7
Meet	In class
Exam	MIDTERM EXAM
	Assignment number 2

	LESSON 8
	Break

	LESSON 9
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 11 – Prendiamo il treno?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pros and cons of travelling by train • Making, accepting and refusing an invitation • Reading timetables • Buying a ticket • Asking for and providing information on means of transport, prices and time • Expressing distances and durations <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of <i>nessuno, niente</i> • Past tense: <i>imperfetto indicativo</i> (forms and use) • <i>Imperfetto</i> forms of irregular verbs <i>essere, fare, bere, dire</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means of transport • Trains and stations

	LESSON 10
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Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 11 – Prendiamo il treno?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing past situations and actions that occurred repeatedly • Describing a place • Talking about one's childhood • Writing a short story about one's childhood <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Passato prossimo vs imperfetto</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High speed trains <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <i>Frecciarossa. L'eccellenza italiana al servizio del Paese</i> • High speed trains in Italy

	LESSON 11
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 12 – Ti vesti alla moda?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressing opinions • Pointing something • Asking for and saying one's size • Asking for discounts • Expressing likes and dislikes <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns: <i>questo, quello</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colours, fabrics and fabrics patterns • Clothing • Clothing and shoe sizes • <i>Ti sta bene, ti sta male</i>

	LESSON 12
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 12 – Ti vesti alla moda?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shopping for clothes and shoes • Describing one's look • Giving advice <p>GRAMMAR:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Imperativo informale singolare</i> (affirmative and negative forms) • Irregular forms of <i>imperativo</i>: <i>abbi, bevi, sii</i> • Contracted forms of <i>imperativo</i>: <i>va', da', sta', fa', di'</i> • Position of direct and indirect pronouns with <i>imperativo</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessories and shops <p>CULTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <i>Pitti Immagine, la moda a Firenze</i> • Italian fashion
	Assignment number 3

	LESSON 13
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching short videos • Making polite requests • Expressing wishes • Giving advice and recommendations <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Present conditional</i> (regular and irregular forms) <p>General review</p>

	LESSON 14
Meet	In class
Exam	ORAL PRESENTATION

	LESSON 15
Meet	In class
Exam	FINAL EXAM