

**Italian 120
Spring 2013**

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& by appointment

Course Overview:

Our goal in this course is to introduce students to contemporary Italian language and culture. The acquisition of Italian language and culture is encouraged through thematic, task-based instruction. Learners are actively engaged in authentic communicative activities that have real world relevance. Role-plays, pair and group work provide learners with numerous opportunities to interact with other learners in Italian. Authentic materials, such as ads, brochures, videos, newspaper and magazine articles, are used extensively to expose students to contemporary Italian language and culture. Listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills are integrated in all activities. Through a communicative approach, you will also learn basic grammar structures.

Required Textbooks:

PERCORSI & PERCORSI Student's Activities Manual (SAM) PK, 2nd Ed.



**Francesca ITALIANO and
Irene MARCHEGIANI**

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Please note that the USC bookstore sells the textbook and the Workbook (Student's Activities Manual—SAM) together as a package. If you purchase a used book, you will need to buy a Workbook as well.

Class Requirements:

Our goal in this course is to help you acquire the necessary skills to communicate in Italian. In order to be able to communicate in another language, you will need more than grammar rules. Grammar is only *one* of the many means by which you will learn to express yourself correctly and appropriately. Simply studying grammar rules, or memorizing vocabulary words in a list, is not sufficient. You will have to practice the language continuously in different and meaningful settings.

Our courses are student-centered, so you will have ample opportunities to practice your developing linguistic skills on a daily-basis. Most of class time will be spent helping you acquire and practice the linguistic structures, vocabulary, and cultural skills that you will need to function in different real-world, communicative contexts. Pair- and group- work will be used extensively in class. This will give everyone a chance to participate actively and simultaneously during the lesson. It also will give you a chance to practice your conversational skills more freely and without the fear of making errors in front of the whole-class. Your instructor will explain and clarify any confusing points, but his/her main role in the classroom will be to help you interact with other students and to maximize your use of all course materials. Your instructor will do everything possible to help you develop your communicative skills, but ultimately, it is up to you

to seek help when needed; to practice on a regular basis; and, of course, to have fun learning to communicate in Italian.

The following suggestions will help you succeed in this course:

1. Be sure not to miss any classes. More than four days of absence will affect your grade adversely. Please remember that, although attendance is not graded, participation does have a grade. (See point 2.)
2. Oral production and comprehension are crucial in any language course. Your instructor will assess your oral competence throughout the semester by assigning you a number from **0 to 5** each day. At the end of the semester, a cumulative grade will be assigned for your oral participation based on the following scale: **5=A, 4=B, 3=C, 2=D, 1=F**. You will receive a **"0"** for all missed classes. It is therefore, very important that you don't miss any classes and that you always come to class prepared to participate actively.

By participation we mean:

- a. Speaking only and always in Italian in class.
- b. Using structures and vocabulary studied in class as much as possible.
- c. Working in pairs and groups according to instructions given in class.
- d. Helping other students while working together.
- e. Speaking Italian with your classmates, even if you finish your assignment/task before the others.
- f. Using appropriate communicative strategies to negotiate meaning and interact with other students.
- g. Successfully completing your assigned task/assignment.

However, you should never be afraid of making mistakes. Always keep in mind that beginning Italian students are not expected to speak error free. Your accuracy will improve over time and through continuous practice.

3. In a communicative language class, vocabulary is *extremely* important. You will not be able to express yourself or understand others without a rich vocabulary base. However, memorizing vocabulary words in an alphabetical list or using flash cards with English translations, is not very useful. It's very difficult to retain words in a list. And, unless you study vocabulary in context, you will not know how to use it correctly and appropriately. You should always study vocabulary grouped by theme and always in context. Use photos, drawings and other visuals rather than English translations to learn individual words and expressions.

As you move through the thematic chapters, your instructor will assign vocabulary activities that will help you retain and use it better. Also, making an attempt to use these words and expressions continuously in all your oral and written communicative exchanges will help you tremendously in expanding your vocabulary base.

4. Homework assignments are intended to reinforce the grammar and vocabulary covered in class and to help you practice your listening, reading, and writing skills. Since most of class time is devoted to interacting in Italian with other learners, completing all homework assignments with care and on time is crucial to your success in this course. It will help prepare you for written exams and help you and your instructor understand what points need to be clarified and revisited. Always complete assignments on time and thoughtfully. No late assignments will be accepted

after the third week of classes, i.e. **Monday, Feb. 4, 2013**. Homework assignments will not be graded for accuracy, but the completion of daily homework assignments will be calculated in your final grade. **Although you get credit even if your homework is inaccurate, it's essential that you use your mistakes as a tool for improvement. So, make sure to clarify challenging areas you identified in your homework, so that you will be ready when similar tasks will appear in a test.**

In addition to written homework, your instructor will assign specific pages from the textbook that you should study on a daily basis in order to be prepared to participate to the activities in class the following day. **All assignments will be posted on Blackboard.**

5. In addition to the exercises from the textbook to be turned in on a daily basis, you are also required to complete assigned activities in the Student Activities Manual (SAM). The answers to the SAM activities can be found on the Language Center website (<http://language.usc.edu>). Student Activities Manuals are considered part of homework: they will not be graded for accuracy, only for completion, and they should be used as a tool for improving your skills. In order to get full credit, students should turn the assigned parts of the SAM on the days established by the instructor, with corrections done with a pen of a different color.

6. You should also complete assigned activities on the *Percorsi* Video section at the end of each chapter. The videos can be accessed on the Language Center's Web site:
<http://language.usc.edu/languages/video/italian.html>.

7. Process writing assignments will be assigned at the end of each chapter (**Scriviamo**) to help you develop your writing skills. These must be 1 to 2 typed, double-spaced pages (between 250 and 500 words). You will be graded on both content and accuracy. Your first draft should also include all the pre-writing preparation activities. You will be able to increase your grade up to five points after you make the corrections that your instructor will indicate. Each paper is worth 1% of your final grade. **The use of translators for these assignments is strictly prohibited and constitutes a violation of the university code of conduct.**

8. You should try to attend the *Tavola italiana*, a weekly informal conversation hour that meets every Wednesday, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in Taper Hall room 170. Here you will be able to meet other learners of Italian in a more informal setting and practice your language skills over cookies and coffee. Also, you can earn extra credit by attending (see point 11 below).

9. Be sure to also attend the screenings of our **Italian Film Club**. This schedule will be posted on Blackboard and the Language Center's Web site. Also, you can earn extra credit by attending (see point 11 below).

10. Please join the **Italian Club** and try to participate in all its activities.

11. **Extra Credit.** Complete TWO of the below activities for extra credit points (up to 2 % of your total cumulative grade). There are two components to receiving extra credit: one is required and the other offers two options.

REQUIRED: *Tavola italiana*, Italian Film Club or other departmental sponsored events: Attend the *Tavola italiana* and/or the Italian Film Club and/or other departmental sponsored events at least **four** times over the course of the semester. From Blackboard/Course Information, print the document that contains the image of four *biglietti* (tickets). Each time you attend *Tavola italiana*,

a movie, or a cultural activity, have the supervising instructor sign and date a ticket. You must have all four ticket images signed to complete this part of the extra credit.

OPTION 1: Italian Film: Watch a Italian film from the Language Center (Taper Hall, third floor) and turn in a list of at least 10 new/interesting words and/or expressions that you heard in Italian and their translations and five original Italian sentences using five of the items from your list.

*Instructors must pre-approve the film. You cannot check out the movies, but you can watch them in the Language Center. Other ways of accessing Italian films are also acceptable.

OPTION 2: Attend any Italian-speaking/themed activity. For example: events organized by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Opera, etc. Write a one-page, typed reaction (not a summary of what happened) in English. *Get pre-approval from your instructor and bring her/him the event brochure or the ticket stub.

Notizie settimanali: a weekly list of Italian related events (*in città* and *in dipartimento*) will be emailed to students so that you can plan ahead!

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Please note:

A. You will be informed in class and on Blackboard of any changes in this syllabus.

B. There will be no quiz/exam make-ups, except for the cases listed under the university policies (see below “Policy for Make-Ups”). If you miss a quiz, you will receive a “0” that will average with the others, thus bringing down your grade.

C. Policy for Make-Ups:

Please be aware that the classroom is your primary source of learning, therefore absences (excused or not) will always hinder your ability to improve your proficiency in Italian.

General university policy states that students who can verify that they were prevented from completing assignments and/or taking exams due to illness or religious holidays are permitted to make up the work they missed. Students who miss class because of their performance in university-sponsored events, such as athletic competitions, fine-arts performances, ROTC activities, etc. are also allowed to make up the work they missed. The other valid reason for making up work is a death in the immediate family.

Personal reasons for missing class cannot be excused. These include personal trips to attend university-sponsored events as a spectator, to visit family, to attend weddings (and similar events), to attend court (except for jury duty), and other personal reasons, even when plane tickets have been purchased.

In order to make up any work (assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.) that you miss, you must present valid, original documentation to your instructor. For illness, a medical excuse from a doctor or other appropriate health-care provider is required and is subject to confirmation. Students using the University Park Health Center should have a valid release on file at the UPHC with their instructor’s name on it. For university-sponsored events, an original memo from the appropriate advisor must be provided. Documentation from a newspaper, funeral, memorial service, etc., must be provided in the event of absence due to a death in the immediate family.

Important Dates:

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| Feb. 1: | Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit. |
| Feb. 1: | Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W”. |
| Apr. 12: | Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W”. |

Components of Final Grade:

Quiz 1	Thursday, Jan. 31	4%
Quiz 2	Thursday, Feb. 14	4%
Oral Midterm Exam	Thursday, Mar. 7	5%
Written Midterm Exam	Wednesday, Mar. 6	15%
Quiz 3	Thursday, Mar. 28	4%
Quiz 4	Thursday, Apr. 11	4%
Quiz 5	Thursday, Apr. 25	4%
Final Oral Exam	Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3	10%
Written Final	Saturday, May 11 (11:00 AM-1:00 PM)	20%
<i>Scriviamo</i> (Writing Assignments)		5%
Class Participation		15%
Homework & SAM		10%

Grades:

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

Statement on Academic Integrity:

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty.

Academic Accommodations Based on Disability:

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability will need to make arrangements with the office of Disability Services and Programs (DSP) at the beginning of the semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is located in the Student Union, Room 301. Their telephone number is (213) 740-0776.

Course Outline:

DAYS	CHAPTERS	IMPORTANT DATES
Week 1 Jan. 14-17	Jan. 14-15: Prelim. Ch.: Tanto per cominciare Jan. 16-17: Ch. 1: Come va, ragazzi?	
Week 2 Jan. 22-24	Ch. 1: Come va, ragazzi?	<i>Monday, Jan. 21, MLK Day, university holiday</i>
Week 3 Jan. 28-31	Jan. 28-29: Jan. 16-17: Ch. 1: Come va, ragazzi? Jan. 30: Ch. 2: Che bella la vita da studente!	Thursday, Jan. 31: QUIZ 1
Week 4 Feb. 4-7	Ch. 2: Che bella la vita da studente!	
Week 5 Feb. 11-14	Feb. 11-12: Ch. 2: Che bella la vita da studente! Feb. 13: Ch. 3: Mi riconosci?	Thursday, Feb. 14: QUIZ 2
Week 6 Feb. 19-21	Ch. 3: Mi riconosci?	<i>Monday, Feb. 18: Presidents' Day, university holiday</i>
Week 7 Feb. 25-28	Feb. 25-26: Ch. 3: Mi riconosci? Feb. 27-28: Ch. 4: Giorno per giorno	
Week 8 Mar. 4-7	Ch. 4: Giorno per giorno	Wednesday, Mar. 6: WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAM Thursday, Mar. 7: ORAL MIDTERM EXAMS
Week 9 Mar. 11-14	Mar. 11-13: Ch. 4: Giorno per giorno Mar. 14: Ch. 5: Ecco la mia famiglia	
	SPRING RECESS MARCH 18-23	
Week 10 Mar. 25-28	Ch. 5: Ecco la mia famiglia	Thursday, Mar. 28: QUIZ 3
Week 11 Apr. 2-5	Apr. 2-3: Ch. 5: Ecco la mia famiglia Apr. 4-5: Ch. 6: Casa mia, casa mia...	
Week 12 Apr. 8-11	Ch. 6: Casa mia, casa mia...	Thursday, Apr. 11: QUIZ 4
Week 13 Apr. 15-18	Apr. 15-16: Ch. 6: Casa mia, casa mia... Apr. 17-18: Ch. 7: Che hai fatto di bello? ¹	
Week 14 Apr. 22-25	Ch. 7: Che hai fatto di bello? ¹	Thursday, Apr. 25: QUIZ 5
Week 15 Apr. 29-May 2	General Review Chs. 1-7	
		Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3: FINAL ORAL EXAMS
		Saturday, May 11, 11:00 AM--1:00 PM: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM (location to be announced)

¹ In ch. 7 we will cover *Percorso I* and *II* and only the Grammar section for *Percorso III*.