

Italiano 224
Spring 2013
Monday-Thursday

Instructor: Francesca Italiano
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Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 1:00-1:50
& by appointment

Course

Overview: Emphasis on contemporary cultural, political and economic issues. Increased emphasis on reading, speaking, and writing skills. Review of more-advanced grammar structures. Authentic materials, such as ads, brochures, songs, videos, newspaper and magazine articles, are used extensively to expose students to contemporary Italian language and culture.

Required

Texts: *Crescendo!*, 2nd edition, Francesca Italiano (Chapters 7-11)
Crescendo, Workbook and Lab Manual, 2nd edition, Villa, Rizzo, Tabanelli (Chapters 7-11)

Class Requirements:

Introduction:

Our goal in this course is to help you acquire the necessary skills to communicate in Italian and to explore some of the recent issues that have profoundly changed Italy and daily Italian life.

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 and to share your views and opinions on a number of contemporary issues. 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 and to practice, practice, practice, and, of course, to have fun learning to communicate in Italian.

The suggestions below will help you succeed in this course:

1. Be sure not to miss any classes.
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.

In addition, you will be required to present several short presentations in class throughout the semester.

However, you should never be afraid of making mistakes. **Remember:** Beginning Italian students are not expected to speak error free. Your accuracy will improve over time and through continuous practice.

3. Purchase a small notebook for vocabulary activities. 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. Then use the words in sentences and later in paragraphs to review the section themes.

As you move through the thematic chapters, your instructor will assign vocabulary activities that will help you retain and use it better. Keep all these activities together in a small notebook, so that you can easily access them, especially when studying for exams or completing assigned writing assignments. And, of course, 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 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 **January 22, 2013**. Homework assignments will not be graded, but the completion of daily homework assignments will be calculated in

your final grade.

5. In addition to the exercises from the textbook, you must also complete assigned activities in the Workbook/Lab Manual. The answers to the Workbook/Lab Manual can be found on the Language Center's Web site: www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/Lang_CTR/ and on Blackboard under the heading **Content**. Workbooks with corrections in red are to be turned-in on **April 30, 2013** and can be picked-up from my office after **May 2, 2013**. Workbooks are considered part of homework and will not be graded but will be calculated in your final homework grade.
6. You are also required to keep a Diary. Specific *Caro Diario...* entries will be assigned at the end of each chapter. Diaries will also be collected on **April 30, 2013** and returned after **May 2, 2013**. Diaries are also considered part of homework.
7. You will also be assigned homework activities on a regular basis. These will be posted on Blackboard.
8. *Per scrivere* writing assignments will be assigned at the end of each chapter. These papers must be typed, double-spaced and 1 to 3 pages long, depending on the topic. Each assignment will be worth 1% of your final grade. You will be graded on both content and accuracy. You will only receive a grade on your second draft. **Use of translators for these assignments is strictly prohibited.**
9. To help you practice your speaking skills in a more formal context, in addition to the regular short presentations, you will be given the opportunity to prepare a group project on a cultural aspect of Italy, and to present it to the class. Your instructor will explain this task in class. **Use of translators for these assignments is also strictly prohibited.**
10. There will be no quiz make-ups. If you miss one quiz, all the others will be worth **slightly more. If you miss more than one quiz, you will receive an "F" for those quizzes.**
11. You should try to attend the Italian Table, a weekly informal conversation hour that meets every **Wednesday** from **12:00 to 12:50** in **Taper 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.
12. 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.
13. And, join the Italian Club and try to participate in all its activities.
14. Don't forget to take advantage of the extra conversation and tutorial sessions available throughout the semester in the Language Center's Conversation Rooms. During these sessions, Italian Department language instructors will be available to explain and clarify any confusing points, or to just practice your Italian. You can find the schedule for these posted in the Language Center, on Blackboard, and on the Center's Web site:
http://www.usc.edu/LANG_CTR/.

On the Language Center's Web site and on Blackboard under the heading **Websites**, you

will also find a list of Italian resources available online, such as: Italian television, Italian dictionaries, Italian magazines and newspapers, Italian music etc. You can find a list of Italian DVDs available for viewing in the Language Center on the center's web site. The Language Center is located in Taper 320.

Grade Distribution:

<u>EXAM</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>
Quiz 1	Thursday, Jan. 31 st	5%
Quiz 2	Thursday, Feb. 14 th	5%
Midterm	Thursday, Feb. 28 th	15%
Quiz 3	Thursday, Mar. 14 th	5%
Quiz 4	Thursday, Apr. 11 th	5%
Oral Final	Thurs. & Fri. May 2 nd & 3 rd (by appointment)	10%
Written Final	Wednesday May 8 th (11:00-13:00)	20%
Presentation		5%
Scriviamo		5%
Class Participation		
& Short oral presentations		15%
Homework & SAM		10%

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:

Jan. 14-31

Capitolo 7: Le tradizioni e la cultura popolare

Caro Diario 7, Per Scrivere 7

(No class

Jan. 21)

Presentazioni orali

Quiz I - giovedì, 31 gennaio

Days:

Feb. 1-14

Capitolo 8: Mangiare all'Italiana

Caro Diario 8, Per Scrivere 8

Presentazioni orali

Quiz II - giovedì, 14 febbraio

Days:

Feb. 19-Mar. 7

Capitolo 9: L'Italia del passato: Il Ventennio fascista e il neorealismo

(No class

Feb 18)

Caro Diario 9, Per Scrivere 9

Presentazioni orali

Midterm - giovedì, 28 febbraio

Days:

Mar. 11-28

Capitolo 10: L'economia: il <<sistema>> Italia e le nuove sfide

Caro Diario 10, Per Scrivere 10

Presentazioni orali

Quiz III- giovedì 14 marzo

Mar. 18-Apr. 4 - Spring Recess

Days:

Apr. 8-May 3

Capitolo 11: La cultura italiana

Caro Diario 11, Per Scrivere 11

Presentazioni Orali

Quiz IV - giovedì, 11 aprile

Oral Final 2 & 3 maggio
(by appointment)

Written Final 8 maggio
(11:00-13:00)

Location to be announced

** Please note: Your instructor will assign daily homework assignments and specific pages from the text that you should study on a daily basis. You will be informed in class of any changes in the syllabus.*