

**Italian 220
Fall 2014**

**Instructor: James Michael Fortney
Office: THH - 155 J
E-mail: fortney@usc.edu
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 1:00-3:00
& by appointment**

COURSE OVERVIEW

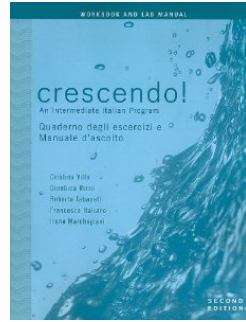
Welcome to the third semester of Italian at USC. During this semester we will explore themes dealing with Italy and Italians to expand and refine your knowledge of Italian language, culture and contemporary life. At our institution we organize the acquisition of Italian language around five key notions: **communication**; **cultures**; **connections**; **comparisons**; and **communities**. Thus, our goal is for you to develop the following abilities:

1. To communicate in Italian (**communication**);
2. To appreciate and understand Italian cultural products, perspectives, and practices (**cultures**);
3. To connect the study of Italian to other fields of knowledge, so that you can deepen your understanding of those disciplines and appreciate their specific features (**connections**);
4. To better understand how language and culture work by contrasting your own culture to Italian culture (**comparisons**);
5. To use Italian and the knowledge you will gain in this course beyond the university setting and in the society at large (**communities**).

More specifically, for point 1 above (**communication**) you will develop competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing in Italian. In order to develop these skills, you will be actively engaged in authentic communicative activities that have real world relevance. Role-plays, pair and group work will provide you with numerous opportunities to interact with other learners in Italian. Authentic materials, such as ads, brochures, videos, songs, newspaper and magazine articles, will be used to expose you to contemporary Italian language and culture.

Our courses are student-centered, so you will have many occasions to practice your developing linguistic skills on a daily-basis. Most of our class time will be spent helping you acquire and practice the linguistic structures, vocabulary, and cultural skills that you will need to function in various real-world, communicative contexts. Pair and group work 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. I will explain and clarify any confusing points, if needed, but please keep in mind that my main role in the classroom will be to help you interact with other students and to maximize your use of all course materials.

REQUIRED TEXTS:



- *Crescendo! 2nd edition*, Francesca Italiano, Irene Marchegiani; ISBN: 9780470425855;
- *Crescendo! Workbook and Lab Manual, 2nd edition*, Villa, Rizzo, Tabanelli; ISBN: 9780470424681
- *Additional materials to be distributed in class and/or posted on Blackboard*

In ITAL 220 we will cover chapters 1 through 6.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance

Be sure not to miss any classes. Daily attendance is a key factor in your learning Italian. Coming to class on a regular basis allows you to 1) practice your oral and listening skills; 2) interact with the other students in Italian; 3) discuss and receive explanations about what you studied at home; and 4) improve your general proficiency in Italian. A maximum of **four** hours of unexcused absences is allowed in order to accommodate personal emergencies. Absences in excess of four will affect your grade adversely. Please remember that, although attendance is not graded *per se*, unexcused absences will have a negative effect on your participation grade (see point 4 below).

USC official policies allow for some absences to be excused. Thus, the following circumstances would not count towards the four absences allowed. 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. Students who are summoned for jury duty are excused as well. Finally, a death in the immediate family would also excuse a student's absence. On the other hand, personal reasons for missing class are not 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), even when plane tickets have already been purchased.

In order to make up any work (assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.) that you miss, you must bring valid, original documentation. 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 my name on it. For university-sponsored events, an original memo from the appropriate advisor must be provided in advance. Documentation from a newspaper, funeral, memorial service, etc., must be provided in the event of absence due to a death in the immediate family. The court papers summoning you for jury duty are required in order to be excused.

2. Tardiness; Leaving Early

It is essential to be on time to class. Late arrivals are disruptive for the other students. Also, they negatively affect your ability to participate fully in the lesson and, in general, your language learning process as a whole. **Two late arrivals** will count as one of the unexcused absences that are allowed without affecting your participation grade. In addition, please do not ask to leave early. The schedule of classes has a 10-minute break between lessons and that is supposed to give you enough time to reach your following destination.

3. Electronic Devices

The use of all kinds of electronic devices is strictly prohibited after the lesson takes off. The language classroom is an engaging, interactive environment that requires your undivided attention and concentration. Therefore, in order to participate fully in all the classroom activities, you must turn off all electronic equipment (Laptops, phones, iPods, etc.). Failure to adhere to this rule, as well as texting during class time, will result in a 0 (zero) grade in participation for that day. In other words, you will be considered absent, because, for the purpose of your learning involvement, you effectively are. Leaving the classroom to take phone calls will also be considered disruptive behavior.

4. Participation

The course will be conducted in Italian only. You are expected to adhere to this course policy and speak only Italian during class time. The use of English will not help you learning Italian and will also adversely affect your grade. You will be guided through a variety of activities that will expose you to a rich input of Italian and allow you to develop your language abilities through interaction and problem solving. You will be involved in small group and pair activities on a daily basis and you must approach these tasks with a cooperative, teamwork spirit. Oral production and comprehension are crucial in any language course. I will assess your participation throughout the semester. Thus, it is very important that you do not miss any classes (see point 1 above), and that you always come to class prepared to participate actively.

Successful class participation means:

- Speaking only and always in Italian in class;
- Using structures and vocabulary studied at home as much as possible;
- Working in pairs and groups according to instructions given in class;
- Helping other students while working together;
- Speaking Italian with your classmates, even if you finish your assignment/task before the others;
- Using appropriate communicative strategies to negotiate meaning and interact with other students;

- Successfully completing your assigned task/assignment.

Please note that producing perfect utterances is not listed above. Indeed, 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.

5. Studying Vocabulary

In a communicative language class, vocabulary is very 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 are not very effective learning strategies. 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 a great deal in expanding your vocabulary base.

6. Studying Grammar

While grammar is important, please keep in mind that, in order to be able to communicate in Italian, you will need more than grammar rules. Grammar is only one of the various tools that will help you to express yourself correctly and appropriately. Simply studying grammar rules is not sufficient. Similarly to your acquisition of new vocabulary (see point 5 above), you will have to practice the language continuously in different and meaningful settings and incorporate the grammar into relevant contexts.

7. Homework

Homework assignments are intended to reinforce the grammar and vocabulary 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. Always complete assignments on time and thoughtfully. **Late homework is not accepted.** If you wish, you can turn it in advance or give to another student to bring to class. Homework 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 is essential that you use your mistakes as a tool for improvement. Thus, make sure to clarify challenging areas you identify in your homework, so that you will be ready when similar tasks will appear in a test.

In addition to homework assigned daily, you are required to complete the Workbook activities. Just like daily assignments, these activities 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 for your Workbook activities you should self-correct your work with a pen of a different color. In most cases you will realize easily why your answer was not correct. If you have any doubts or questions, please see me, so that I can explain why a

certain answer is right or wrong. These Workbook activities must be completed and self-corrected by the deadlines I will communicate in class and through Blackboard.

8. Work and Preparation Outside of the Classroom

Language Acquisition requires a steady, constant, daily effort. I encourage you to prepare in advance for the materials that will be covered in class. You are expected to come to class with a certain amount of knowledge on the points being addressed, so that we can move quickly to the classroom activities that will help you reach our interactional and communicative goals.

In addition to written homework, I will assign specific pages from the textbook that you should study on a daily basis in order to be prepared to participate in the activities in class the following day. All assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Please remember that a considerable amount of your language acquisition will happen outside of the classroom. Ideally, you should spend two hours a day practicing Italian outside of the classroom. You are expected to study and practice grammar and vocabulary; complete assignments; and use Italian in a variety of meaningful contexts. Your daily preparation is crucial to the success of your learning process in the classroom. In other words, your progress in the course is a direct result of the amount of time and effort you invest in learning and practicing Italian.

9. Home Writing Assignments

Scriviamo writing assignments will be assigned at the end of each chapter to help you develop your writing skills. These must be 2-3 typed, double-spaced pages (about 500-750 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 I will indicate. Each paper is worth 1% of your final grade. **Please note: the use of translators or any kind of outside help for these assignments is strictly prohibited and constitutes a violation of the university code of conduct.**

10. In Class Tests

There will be four written exams; one written midterm exam; one oral midterm exam; one written final exam; one oral final exam. Each exam will concentrate on the materials covered during the previous two/three weeks. However, this means only that the grammar and vocabulary sections will reflect materials studied during those weeks. In other parts of the exam you will be expected to utilize everything you have learned up to that point. The midterms and final exams will be comprehensive, up to the seventh and fifteenth week, respectively. Please note that the final written exam is scheduled at the same time for all the students enrolled in ITAL 220. I will announce the location towards the end of the semester. The date and time of the final exam are set by the University Scheduling Committee and permission to take the final at a different time/on a different day is granted only in very specific cases, such as if you have two finals at the same time or more than two finals scheduled for the same day.

11. Office Hours

I encourage you to come to my office hours to clarify any doubts on the topics we are covering in class, any questions on the course, or simply to discuss your language and culture learning experience. I will have four scheduled hours of availability, on a first come first serve basis, and I will also be available by appointment, should you not be able to meet during my scheduled hours.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. 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 an informal setting and practice your language skills over cookies and coffee.
2. 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 information below).
3. Join the **USC Italian Club** and try to participate in all its activities.

JEP EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

Italian 220 students will have the opportunity to share with the local community their knowledge of Italian culture and language, by participating in the JEP Program, a University wide Service-Learning experience. This unique community volunteer program will help learners foster meaningful collaborations with members of the local communities and build valuable and significant experiences for their resumes and future career goals. Additionally, students can earn up to 5 points in extra credit to their final course grade.

Participants in the JEP Program will work in teams and teach Italian culture and relevant vocabulary and phrases to children in K-12 classrooms under the direction of teachers in the community. JEP assignments typically begin the sixth week of the semester. JEP students spend 20-25 hours per semester providing direct service, preparing lesson plans, and participating in mandatory training sessions and discussions. In addition, students are usually required to submit weekly prompted essays that encourage them to reflect on the connections between their experiences in the community and their learning in the classroom. Students are evaluated by JEP Program Assistants, who assign points for students' reflective work, attendance at the site, and overall participation. Both your Italian instructor and the Director of the Italian Basic Language Program, Prof. Antonio Idini, are available as a resource should you need help with materials for your mini-courses. Again, although this is optional, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to reach out and share with our community your Italian skills in a real-life setting.

POLICY FOR MAKE-UPS

There will be no quiz/exam make-ups. If you miss a test, you will receive a "0" that will average with the others, thus bringing down your grade. If you have to miss a test because of an excused absence (see **Class Requirements, 1. Attendance**) you have a week from the date of your absence to make up the written work.

The same university rules apply in case a student misses the final exam. If the final exam cannot be re-scheduled before the end of the semester, the student must request a grade of "I" (Incomplete) and complete the missing portion(s) of the course within one academic year. **Please note: a grade of Incomplete cannot be assigned by the instructor without an official request from the student.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the course, the Italian Language Program, our semester and study programs in Italy, our major and minor in Italian, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me or Prof. Antonio Idini, the Director of the Basic Italian Language Program (idini@usc.edu, Taper Hall Room 176 [THH 176]).

IMPORTANT DATES

- Sept. 12: Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit.
- Sept. 12: Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W".
- Nov. 14: Last day to drop a class with a mark of "W".

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

COMPONENTS OF YOUR FINAL GRADE

• Exam 1	Monday, Sept. 15	5%
• Exam 2	Monday, Sept. 29	5%
• Written Midterm Exam	Monday, Oct. 13	15%
• Oral Midterm Exams	Monday, Oct. 27	5%
• Exam 3	Monday, Nov. 10	5%
• Exam 4	Monday, Nov. 24	5%
• Final Oral Exam	Friday, Dec. 5*	10%
• Written Final	Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:00--10:00 AM	20%
• <i>Scriviamo</i> (Writing Assignments)	Due Dates TBA	5%
• Class Participation	Assessed on a Daily Basis	15%
• Homework & SAM	Due Dates TBA	10%

* The date of the individual final oral exam can be re-scheduled on the basis of other commitments the student or the instructor may have. However, this exam cannot be scheduled before the last class meeting on Dec. 4 or after the written final exam on Dec. 13.

STATEMENTS 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 the Section on University Governance, part B. "University Student Conduct Code", Sections 10.00—17.00 (scampus.usc.edu). 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 ACCOMODATION 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. Please visit their website for further information:

http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. The DSP office is located in the Student Union, Room 301. Their telephone number is (213) 740-0776; you can also email them at ability@usc.edu.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEKS/DAYS	CHAPTERS	IMPORTANT DATES	COMMUNICATIVE GOALS
<u>Weeks 1-2</u> Aug. 25—Sept. 4	Chapter 1 Conosciamoci meglio	<i>Monday, Sept. 1: Labor Day</i>	--Talking about past memories during childhood and adolescence; --Describing relationships with family and friends; --Recounting memorable events from the past.
<u>Weeks 3-4</u> Sept. 8—18	Chapter 2 Tanti ricordi del passato	Monday, Sept. 15: EXAM 1	--Talking about past memories during childhood and adolescence; --Describing relationships with family and friends; Recounting memorable events from the past.
<u>Weeks 5-6</u> Sept. 22—Oct. 2	Chapter 3 Tanti sogni nel cassetto!	Monday, Sept. 29: EXAM 2	--Talking about future plans; --Discussing work, career, and internships.
<u>Weeks 7-9</u> Oct. 6—20	Chapter 4 Tu vuoi far l'americano	Monday, Oct. 13: WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAM	--Talking about the influence of Anglo-American culture in everyday Italian life; --Discussing the perception of Italy and Italians abroad.
<u>Weeks 9-11</u> Oct. 21—Nov. 6	Chapter 5 Migrazioni: chi va e chi viene	Monday, Oct. 27: ORAL MIDTERM EXAMS	--Discussing immigration issues in Italy; --Talking about past and present emigration from Italy.
<u>Weeks 12-14</u> Nov. 10—25	Chapter 6 E il mondo si fa sempre più piccolo: l'Italia nell'Unione Europea	Monday, Nov. 10: EXAM 3 Monday, Nov. 24: EXAM 4	--Discussing policies and issues related to the European Union
<u>Weeks 15</u> Dec. 1—4	Review Chapters 1-6	Friday, Dec. 5: FINAL ORAL EXAMS¹ <i>Wed.--Thurs. Nov. 26- -27: Thanksgiving</i>	
Dec. 6—9: Study Days			
Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:00--10:00 AM: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM			

¹ The date of the individual final oral exam can be re-scheduled on the basis of other commitments the student or the instructor may have. However, this exam cannot be scheduled before the last class meeting on Dec. 4 or after the written final exam on Dec. 13.