

**Italian 120**  
**Section: 344057**  
**Spring 2016**

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**and by individual appointment**

### **COURSE GOALS**

Welcome to your first semester of Italian at USC! After the successful completion of this course, you will be able to perform the following tasks:

- Introduce and talk about yourself, other people and your immediate environment (e.g., hobbies, likes/dislikes, your daily routine, your home and campus), using simple sentences and memorized phrases;
- Begin and maintain conversations by using memorized language and asking some simple questions;
- Report basic information about your activities in the present and immediate past;
- Write one-page compositions on controlled topics (self, friends and family, routine, housing, etc.), using simple sentences;
- Listen to simple dialogues and short descriptions and demonstrate comprehension of the main facts;
- Identify the text type and extract information from short readings (such as menus, ads, web pages and forms), and react or reply to this information;
- Identify some aspects of Italian culture and daily life (such as family, university, food and practices), as well as key products of certain regions in Italy.

### **OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING LANGUAGES**

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 in Italian with other learners. 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. Your instructor will explain and clarify any confusing points, if needed.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Percorsi: L'Italia attraverso la lingua e la cultura--MyLab + Books a la carte, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.

Authors: Francesca ITALIANO and Irene MARCHEGIANI

ISBN-10: 0133934322 • ISBN-13: 9780133934328

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In ITAL 120 we will cover the Preliminary Chapter and Chapters 1 through 7.

**Please note: when you purchase this textbook, you also get a 24-month access code that allows you to complete the online activities on the virtual Workbook (SAM: Student's Activities Manual) on MyItalianLab. In addition you should also use the following code, specific for your course:**

**CRSKLCX-8033203**

**Both codes are needed in order to access the SAM online activities.**

### **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 other students in Italian; 3) discuss and receive explanations about what you studied at home; and 4) improve your general proficiency in Italian. Being absent from class 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. Students who can verify that they were prevented from completing assignments and/or taking exams due to a serious illness or the observance of a religious holiday 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, even when plane tickets have already been purchased.

In order to make up any work (assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.) that you missed because of an excused absence, you must bring a piece of valid, original documentation. For a serious illness, a medical excuse from a doctor or another 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 your instructor's 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.

Please keep in mind that any kind of absence will affect your performance in a negative way, whether or not it is excused. Working at home or just reading the book cannot substitute for your active engagement in class. Thus, you are strongly encouraged to keep the number of absences to the lowest possible amount.

## **2. Tardiness; Leaving Early**

It is essential to be on time to class. Late arrivals are disruptive for the other students and the instructor. 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 absence. Also, 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, unless they are needed for an academic purpose, such as an e-book or a survey. 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 and coming back before the lesson is over is also considered disruptive behavior and is allowed only in case of an unforeseen emergency.

## **4. Participation**

The course will be conducted in Italian only. You are expected to adhere to this course policy and speak only in 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. Your instructor will assess your participation on a daily basis 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:**

- a. Speaking only and always in Italian in class;
- b. Using structures and vocabulary studied at home 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.

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 have proven to be 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. It is much more useful to 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 it 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. In a similar way 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 it 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 appear in a test.

In addition to homework assigned daily, you are required to complete online activities in the Student Activities Manual (SAM). You will need **both** the access code you purchased along with the textbook **and** the course ID code (see section on **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**). Just like daily assignments, these activities will be graded for completion, not for accuracy, and they should be used as a tool for improving your skills. In order to get full credit for your SAM activities you should self-correct your work. In most cases you will realize easily why your answer is not correct. If you have any doubts or questions, please make an appointment with your instructor, so that s/he can explain why a certain answer is right or wrong. The online activities must be completed and self-corrected by the deadlines your instructor will communicate in class and through Blackboard. If you wish, you can redo the same SAM activity for additional practice.

### **8. Work and Preparation Outside of the Classroom**

Acquiring another language requires a steady, constant, commitment on a daily basis. You should 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 the class as a group can move quickly to the activities that will help you reach our interactional and communicative goals.

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 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**

Compositions will be assigned at the end of each chapter to help you develop your writing skills. These must be one to two 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 on your first draft. Each paper is worth 1% of your final grade. **Please remember that 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 its 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 midterm 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 120. Your instructor will announce the location of the final exams 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 or 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

Please do come to your instructor's office hours to clarify any doubts on the topics covered in class, any questions on the course, or simply to discuss your language and culture learning experience. There are four scheduled hours of availability, on a first come first serve basis, but your instructor will also be available by appointment, should you not be able to meet during his/her scheduled hours.

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Here are some ideas for additional activities you might want to consider in order to improve your skills. Although none of them is required, nor gives you any extra-credit, they certainly help you improve your knowledge of Italian language and culture.

- Attend the **Tavola italiana**, a weekly informal conversation hour that meets every Wednesday, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in Taper Hall room 120. Here you will be able to meet other learners of Italian, Italian students at USC, and members of the Italian faculty in an informal setting and practice your language skills over cookies and coffee.
- Attend the screenings of our **Italian Film Club**. This schedule will be posted on Blackboard and the Language Center's Web site ([language.usc.edu](http://language.usc.edu)).
- Participate in the activities organized by the **USC Italian Club**. In the past the club members have organized a wide variety of activities such as Carnival parties; dinners at local Italian restaurants; visits to local museums featuring Italian works of art; soccer games; musical performances; evenings at the opera house; watching Italian films at local theaters; culinary competitions. Also, please let your instructor know if you would like to have an active role in the club, and s/he will put you in contact with the club president and/or its academic adviser, Prof. Antonio Idini ([idini@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:idini@dornsife.usc.edu)). If you cannot commit to an organizational role within the club, you will still receive information on the activities, and you can decide whether or not you want to participate.
- Attend an event sponsored by the Department of French and Italian, e.g. scholarly presentations on Italian literature and culture; readings by Italian writers, etc.
- Watch an Italian film from the media collection of the Language Center (on the Language Center website--[language.usc.edu](http://language.usc.edu)--click on→ Media → Media Catalogue → Italian).\_ Also, Leavey Library has a rich collection of Italian movies that you can check out. Of course, commercial websites such as Netflix have a lot of foreign movies.
- Attend any Italian-speaking/themed activity outside of USC. For example, you can attend events at the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* ([www.iiclosangeles.esteri.it](http://www.iiclosangeles.esteri.it)), opera

performances, a concert by an Italian artist, etc.

### **POLICY FOR MAKE-UPS**

There are no make-ups for missed exam. 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 your instructor or Prof. Antonio Idini, the Director of the Italian Basic Language Program ([idini@dornsife.usc.edu](mailto:idini@dornsife.usc.edu), Taper Hall Room 176 [THH 176]).

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Jan. 29: Last day to register;
- Jan. 29: Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W" and receive a refund;
- Feb. 26: Last day to change your enrollment option from Letter Grade to Pass/No Pass or Audit, and viceversa;
- Feb. 26: Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W";
- Apr. 8: Last day to drop a class with a mark of "W".

### **GRADES**

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

## **COMPONENTS OF YOUR FINAL GRADE**

|  |                                |     |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|
| • Exam 1                                 | Thursday, Jan. 28              | 5%  |
| • Exam 2                                 | Thursday, Feb. 18              | 5%  |
| • Written Midterm Exam                   | Thursday, Mar. 3               | 15% |
| • Oral Midterm Exams                     | Thursday, Mar. 10              | 5%  |
| • Exam 3                                 | Thursday, Mar. 31              | 5%  |
| • Exam 4                                 | Thursday, Apr. 21              | 5%  |
| • Final Oral Exam                        | Friday, Apr. 29*               | 10% |
| • Written Final                          | Saturday, May 7, 2:00--4:00 PM | 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 Apr. 28 or after the written final exam on May 7.

## **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

### **1. Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

### **2. Support Systems**

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html) provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.



**COURSE OUTLINE**

| <b>WEEKS/DAYS</b>  | <b>CHAPTERS</b>   | <b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>  | <b>COMMUNICATIVE GOALS</b>  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <u>Weeks 1-3</u><br>Jan. 11—29   | Prelim. Ch.:<br><b>Tanto per cominciare</b><br><br>Ch. 1:<br><b>Come va, ragazzi?</b> | <i>Monday, Jan. 18:</i><br><i>Martin Luther King Day</i><br><br><b>Thursday, Jan. 28:</b><br><b>EXAM 1</b>            | -Negotiating the exchange of information;<br>-Greeting people;<br>-Making introductions;<br>-Exchanging personal information.   |
| <u>Weeks 4-5</u><br>Feb. 1—11  | Ch. 2:<br><b>Che bella la vita da studente!</b>                                       |   | -Identifying people and objects in a classroom;<br>-Describing the structures and buildings of a typical university campus;<br>-Talking about students' activities on campus. |
| <u>Weeks 6-7</u><br>Feb. 16—25   | Ch. 3:<br><b>Mi riconosci?</b>  | <i>Monday, Feb. 15:</i><br><i>Presidents' Day</i><br><br><b>Thursday, Feb. 18:</b><br><b>EXAM 2</b>                   | -Describing people's physical appearance, personality, and articles of clothing;<br>-Talking about favorite activities.   |
| <u>Weeks 8-9</u><br>Feb. 29—Mar. 10  | Ch. 4:<br><b>Giorno per giorno</b>  | <b>Thursday, Mar. 3:</b><br><b>WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAM</b><br><br><b>Thursday, Mar. 10:</b><br><b>ORAL MIDTERM EXAMS</b> | -Telling the time;<br>-Discussing food, drinks and meals;<br>-Talking about daily routines and eating habits;<br>-Describing weather and seasonal activities.                 |
| <i>Mar. 14—20</i>  |   | <b><i>SPRING RECESS</i></b>   |   |
| <u>Weeks 10-11</u><br>Mar. 21—31   | Ch. 5:<br><b>Ecco la mia famiglia</b>   | <b>Thursday, Mar. 31:</b><br><b>EXAM 3</b>  | -Talking about your family and relatives;<br>-Describing family holidays, special occasions and parties;<br>-Talking about household chores.                                  |
| <u>Weeks 12-13</u><br>Apr. 4—14  | Ch. 6:<br><b>Casa mia, casa mia...</b>  |   | -Describing houses and apartments;<br>-Talking about furniture and appliances;<br>-Negotiating prices;<br>-Talking about past events at home.                                 |
| <u>Weeks 14-15</u><br>Apr. 18—28   | Ch. 7:<br><b>Che hai fatto di bello?</b> <sup>1</sup><br><br>General Review Chs. 1-7  | <b>Thursday, Apr. 21:</b><br><b>EXAM 4</b><br><br><b>Friday, Apr. 29:</b><br><b>FINAL ORAL EXAMS</b> <sup>2</sup>     | -Talking about past events done in your free time;<br>-Describing sports  |
| <b>Apr. 30—May 3: Study Days</b>   |   |   |   |
| <b>Saturday, May 7, 2:00--4:00 PM: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM [Location to Be Announced]</b> |   |   |   |

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 Apr. 28 or after the written final exam on May 7.