

ITALIAN 224

Spring 2011

THH 107 (M-T-W-TH)

9:00-9:50

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Office Hours: TBA

SYLLABUS

Posso dire che conosco il paese in cui sono nato e vissuto? Sì e no. Le sue virtù continuano a stupirmi come i suoi difetti. Dopo avere per due volte primeggiato nel mondo, ne siamo ancora in certo modo estranei: i nostri imperi non hanno lasciato il segno nel nostro carattere, i santi, gli eroi, i navigatori hanno vissuto invano, non hanno lasciato una traccia nel nostro modo di essere e forse questa è la nostra peculiarità: dobbiamo ancora imparare a vivere in società, a essere Stato, inutilmente furbi, inguaribilmente infantili, ma molto umani nelle debolezze come nelle virtù, in un certo senso rassegnati a questa nostra umanità: capaci di fermarci prima della ferocia e del fanatismo. Un paese spesso logorante nei suoi sprechi, nelle sue occasioni mancate, ma pietoso e vivibile. Le vicende storiche e politiche di questo Belpaese, come lo chiamano, sono un vai e vieni come l'acqua sulla battigia, un ricominciare sempre dal principio, una serie di illusioni, di entusiasmi sui nostri cambiamenti e miglioramenti, sempre smentiti. Forse è così di tutti i paesi e di tutte le storie, ma qui nel paese "c'Appennin parte, e 'l mar circonda e l'Alpe" ci troviamo sempre al punto di partenza. [...]

Giorgio Bocca, *Fratelli Coltelli. 1943-2010. L'Italia che ho conosciuto*. Feltrinelli, 2010. pp. 9-10.

La "grandezza" degli italiani: irrimediabilmente compromessa o periodicamente "ridisegnata"? Viaggio nell'Italia di ieri e di oggi, al di là di miti e preconcetti.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Emphasis on cultural aspects of contemporary Italy. Increased emphasis on reading, speaking and writing skills. In depth review of basic grammar structures. Authentic materials, such as historical photographs and propaganda, ads, newspaper articles, book excerpts, music, videos are used extensively to expose students to contemporary Italian language and culture. In this course students are strongly encouraged to practice and use more complex, refined grammatical structures and vocabulary. Great emphasis will be put on oral expression through presentations that students will prepare individually. Particular attention will be devoted to the “character” of the Italians and to major historical events that have shaping the “Bel Paese” for the past 100 years.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Crescendo!* 2nd edition, Italiano/Marchegiani (Chapters 7-11)
Crescendo! Workbook, 2nd edition.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class will be conducted in Italian at all times.
2. Students must attend everyday and participate actively in all activities and discussions. Students are NOT allowed to use their cell phones and other electrical devices in class. So please keep them in the OFF mode at all times.
3. Students are required to come to class prepared.
4. Daily homework assignments must be completed and turned in a timely manner. No late homework assignments will be accepted.
5. Students are required to complete and correct assigned activities in the Workbook/Lab Manual. The answers can be found on the Language Center’s website:
http://language.usc.edu/languages/audio/crescendo_answerkey.html .
Workbook with corrections (in red) are to be turned in before midterm and final exams.
6. “*Per scrivere*” writing assignments will be assigned at the end of each chapter. All papers must be typed, double-spaced and carefully edited. Length will vary from 2-3 pages. **Use of translators for these assignments is strictly prohibited.**
7. Students will be asked to give two oral presentations on topics covered in class. They will be able to choose the topic of the first presentation, while the second will be suggested by the instructor.
8. There will not be make-up exams. If you miss one quiz, the other three will be worth slightly more. If you miss more than one quiz, you will received an F on the missed quiz(zes).
9. You should try to attend the Italian Table, a weekly informal conversation hour that

meets every Wednesday, starting January 19th 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.

10. Be sure to also attend the screenings of our Italian Film Club. This schedule will be posted on Blackboard and on the Language Center's Web site

11. 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 and on the Center's Web site: http://www.usc.edu/LANG_CTR/. On the Language Center's Web site, you will also find a list of Italian resources available online, such as: Raiclick, Italian television, Italian dictionaries, Italian magazines and newspapers, Italian music etc. You will also find a list of Italian DVDs available for viewing in the Language Center. The Language Center is located in Taper 320.

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.

FINAL COURSE GRADE:

Quiz 1	January 27	10%
Quiz 2	February 16	10%
Midterm	March 10	15%

Quiz 3	April 6	10%
Quiz 4	April 26	10%
Oral Presentations (2)	Dates to be assigned	5%
Papers (5)		5%
Participation		10%
Homework		5%
Final		20%

COURSE OUTLINE:

Chapter 7: Le tradizioni regionali e la cultura popolare.	January 10-31
Chapter 8: Mangiare all'italiana.	February 1-17
Chapter 9: L'Italia del passato: il Ventennio fascista e il Neorealismo.	February 22-March 10
Chapter 10: L'economia: il "sistema" Italia e le nuove sfide.	March 21-April 7
Chapter 11: La cultura italiana.	April 11-28

Please note that this is only a tentative schedule that might be subject to changes. Students will be promptly notified in case of any changes.