**Italian 120 Instructor: Antonio Idini**

**Section 34403D Office: THH 176**

**Fall 2018 E-mail: idini@usc.edu**

**Office Hours: Mon. 1-2 pm; Wed. 1-2 pm, 4-6 pm**

**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;
* 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.

**OPTIONAL CONCURRENT ITAL 012X: ITALIAN 120 LANGUAGE PRACTICUM**

Please consider enrolling in the one day a week, one-unit, credit/no credit ITAL 012X: Italian 120 Language Practicum. This course provides students with a better understanding of English grammar as it relates to Italian in order to improve students’ Italian language skills. The course emphasizes similarities, differences, and pitfalls, and it provides learning strategies such as semantic mapping for generating and organizing ideas, amongst others. Repetition and study habits will also be addressed.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL**

For Italian 120 you will need to purchase four ten-minute online conversations from TalkAbroad and either the custom edition of or the entire textbook Percorsi.

a. TALKABROAD

You will receive information during class on how to register for four ten-minute online conversations from TalkAbroad.

b. PERCORSI TEXTBOOK

You may purchase from the bookstore EITHER the chapters/materials covered in ITAL 120 in the individual custom edition of Percorsi (VP-9781323862513)/132386251X OR the entire textbook which includes chapters/materials for ITAL 120, ITAL 150 and ITAL 220.

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

Authors: Francesca ITALIANO and Irene MARCHEGIANI

ISBN-10: 0133934322 • ISBN-13: 9780133934328

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**Please note: when you purchase either the custom edition or the entire textbook, you also get an access code that allows you to complete the online activities on MyItalianLab. In addition, you should also use the following code, specific for your course:**

**CRSKLQ5-636344**

**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 valued at 15% of your cumulative 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, 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 are allowed two “self-care” days upon presentation of the “Medical absence Excuse Form.” 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 an 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. 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. 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. **Tardiness and leaving early will have a negative effect on your participation grade valued at 15% of your cumulative grade (see point 4 below).**

3. **Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices may be used in class for activities related to our learning goals (e.g. if you have an electronic copy of the textbook). However, the use of all kinds of electronic devices for personal reasons is strictly prohibited. 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 refrain from checking personal messages, texting, engaging on social media platforms, etc. Failure to adhere to this rule 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.

4. **Participation**

Participation makes up 15% of your cumulative grade (equivalent to three chapter exams combined). Therefore, low participation scores can quickly add up to have an adverse impact on your grade.

**HOW YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ASSESSED**: 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;

1. Using structures and vocabulary studied at home as much as possible;
2. Working in pairs and groups according to instructions given in class;
3. Helping other students while working together;
4. Speaking Italian with your classmates, even if you finish your assignment/task before the others;
5. Using appropriate communicative strategies to negotiate meaning and interact with other students;
6. 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.

**HOW UNEXCUSED ABSENCES, TARDINESS AND LEAVING EARLY IMPACT YOUR PARTICIPATION AND OVERALL GRADE**: Unexcused absences, tardiness and leaving early lower your participation and overall grade as you are not able to participate. These points may not be reclaimed. Each week you earn up to 1% of your cumulative grade through participation as detailed above, for a total of 15% over 15 weeks. **For example, four unexcused absences translate to an automatic reduction of 1% of your final grade**. Tardiness and leaving early reduces your participation grade as well. Keep in mind that unexcused absences also have a serious impact on your assessment in other ways. Students with numerous unexcused absences do not have the exposure to the language and the practice to do well on exams and in other forms of assessment.

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 oneof 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 MyItalianLab. You will need **both** the access code you purchased along with the textbook **and** the course ID code (see section on **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**).

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. **Writing Assignments**

Compositionswill be assigned for each chapter to help you develop your writing skills. These assignments will vary in length throughout the semester but will generally be between one to two typed, double-spaced pages (between 250 and 500 words). Your writing will be assessed according to how well you complete the task, the richness of your vocabulary, language control, mechanics, comprehensibility and the level of discourse. You will receive up to 80% for the first draft that you submit which should include all the pre-writing preparation activities completed in and outside of class. You will be able to increase your grade up to 20% after you make the corrections and follow the suggestions that your instructor will indicate in feedback on your first draft. Each writing assignment is worth 1% of your final grade. **Please remember that the use of translators or any kind of outside help for these assignments defeats the purpose of the assignments, is strictly prohibited and constitutes a violation of the university code of conduct. Your instructor may require you to resubmit assignment for partial or no credit.**

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 eighth 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.

12. **Language- and Culture-Related Events**

You learn Italian language and culture not only in your lessons here at USC but by chance meetings with Italians on campus, when shopping for pasta and ingredients for an Italian recipe at Trader Joe's, while watching Italian movies on Netflix with friends, discussing past vacations to Italy with family and anywhere and everywhere that you experience an Italian connection. Italians contribute to visual and performing arts, fashion, automotive and architectural design, cinema, political thought, diet and lifestyle and much more. The more that you open your mind to the influences that Italian culture makes on the communities in which you live, the more you can realize the immediate application and connection of your studies of the language. Research shows that these connections translate to increased enjoyment and enthusiasm in your studies, better language proficiency and grades, and even more opportunities with Italian language and culture that may lay in store for you in the future.

To help you connect your studies of Italian to your community, and as part of your cumulative course grade, you will participate in two Italian language- and culture-related events this semester⎯THE FIRST EVENT/BLOG MUST BE COMPLETED BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 IN WEEK 7 AND THE SECOND EVENT/BLOG BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 IN WEEK 15.

Events organized by the department, the conversation hour *tavola italiana*, the Italian Club's monthly informal film screenings, and other events around Los Angeles and agreed upon with your instructor during office hours are just some of the many options you have to fulfill this requirement. **Students in ITAL 220 can fulfill this requirement by participating in the JEP Program, a University wide Service-Learning Experience that helps learners foster meaningful collaborations with members of the local communities.**  Once you have attended an event, you will share your reflections and images/videos with your peers on the course blog on Blackboard. Please see Blackboard Blog for complete details about these assignments.

13. TalkAbroad Online Conversations with Native Italians

Interactions with native speakers early on in one’s study of a language can have far-reaching and lasting effects. Thanks to social media and various websites on the Internet, students can easily begin having conversations and authentic experiences with Italians even before studying abroad in Italy. Studies suggest that videoconferencing conversations with native speakers impact students’ perceptions of Italians, motivate them to attain real proficiency gains, increase their interest in the language and culture and even may be a catalyst to encourage them to continue to study the language and to study abroad. This semester, as part of your cumulative course grade, you will be required to engage in four ten-minute conversations with native speakers using the online service TalkAbroad. You will choose a trained speaking partner based on his or her background and hobbies, choose a time that fits in your schedule for the conversation to take place, complete exercises to prepare for the conversation, converse about topics related to content and vocabulary addressed in class, and complete follow-up exercises to reflect on the experience. You and your instructor will be provided with a recording of your conversation and you are encouraged to attend your instructor’s office hours to discuss your conversation and strategize ways to prepare for future conversations.

**POLICY FOR MAKE-UPS**

There are no make-ups for missed exams. 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. James Fortney, the Director of the Italian Basic Language Program (fortney@usc.edu, Taper Hall Room 155 [THH 155]).

**IMPORTANT DATES**

* Sept. 7: Last day to register
* Sept. 7: Last day to change your enrollment option from Letter Grade to

Pass/No Pass or Audit.

* Sept. 7: Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W” and receive a refund.
* Oct. 5: Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W”.
* Oct. 5: Last day to change your enrollment option from Pass/No Pass or Audit to

Letter Grade

* Nov. 9: 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 Thursday, Sept. 6  5%
* Exam 2 Thursday, Sept. 20 5%
* Written Midterm Exam Tuesday, Oct. 9 10%
* Oral Midterm Exams Wed. and Thurs., Oct. 10 and Oct. 11 5%
* Exam 3 Thursday, Oct. 25 5%
* Exam 4 Thursday, Nov. 8 5%
* Final Oral Exams Wed. and Thurs., Nov 28 and Nov 29 10%
* Written Final Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:00--10:00 AM 20%
* *Scriviamo* (Writing Assignments) Due Dates TBA 5%
* Class Participation Assessed on a Daily/Weekly Basis 15%
* Two Language-and Culture Events 1st by Fri. Oct. 5 and 2nd by Nov. 30

and Four TalkAbroad Conversations By Sept. 14, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Nov. 23 5%

Homework & MyItalianLab Due Dates TBA 10%

**STATEMENTS ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

**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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/. 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>.

**Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

*Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: http://sarc.usc.edu/

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

*Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

*Diversity at USC – https://diversity.usc.edu/*

Tabs for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **WEEKS/DAYS** | **CHAPTERS** | **IMPORTANT DATES** | **COMMUNICATIVE GOALS** |
| Weeks 1—3  Aug. 20—Sept. 6 | Prelim. Ch.:  **Tanto per cominciare**  Ch. 1:  **Come va, ragazzi?** | *Monday, Sept. 3: Labor Day*  **Thursday, Sept. 6: EXAM 1** | -Negotiating the exchange of information;  -Greeting people;  -Making introductions;  -Exchanging personal information. |
| Weeks 4—5  Sept. 10—20 | Ch. 2:  **Che bella la vita da studente!** | **Thursday, Sept. 20: EXAM 2** | -Identifying people and objects in a classroom;  -Describing the structures and buildings of a typical university campus;  -Talking about students’ activities on campus. |
| Weeks 6—8  Sept. 24—Oct.11 | Ch. 3:  **Mi riconosci?** | **Tuesday, Oct. 9: WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAM**  **Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 10 and Oct. 11: ORAL MIDTERM EXAMS** | -Describing people’s physical appearance, personality, and articles of clothing;  -Talking about favorite activities. |
| Weeks 9—10  Oct. 15—25 | Ch. 4:  **Giorno per giorno** | **Thursday, Oct. 25: EXAM 3** | -Telling the time;  -Discussing food, drinks and meals;  -Talking about daily routines and eating habits;  -Describing weather and seasonal activities. |
| Weeks 11—12  Oct. 29—Nov. 8 | Ch. 5:  **Ecco la mia famiglia** | **Thursday, Nov. 8: EXAM 4** | -Talking about your family and relatives;  -Describing family holidays, special occasions and  parties;  -Talking about household chores. |
| Weeks 13—15  Nov.12—Nov. 29 | Ch. 6:**[[1]](#footnote-1)**  **Casa mia, casa mia...** | *Wed.--Thurs. Nov. 21—22: Thanksgiving*  **Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 28 and Nov. 29: ORAL FINAL EXAMS** | -Describing houses and apartments;  -Talking about furniture and appliances;  -Negotiating prices; |
| **Dec. 1—4: Study Days** | | | |
| **Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:00--10:00 AM: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM [Location to Be Announced]** | | | |

1. In Ch. 6 we will cover *Percorso I-II*. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)