

**Italian 150  
Section 34418R  
Spring 2019**

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Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday: 10:00-10:50  
Thursday: 3:00-3:50  
and by individual appointment**

### **COURSE GOALS**

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

- Report basic information about your activities in the immediate past;
- Create with the language to describe your past self, activities and experiences, such as childhood memories, vacations, special events, etc.;
- Make simple comparisons of people, places and things;
- Express concrete plans, as well as hopes and aspirations for your future;
- Ask and respond to questions in complete sentences to maintain conversations and carry out language tasks in a culturally appropriate manner, both in person and on the phone, give commands and order food,
- Write compositions of up to two pages on controlled topics, employing complete sentences and strings of connected sentences;
- Listen to selected, level-appropriate dialogues and short descriptions, restate the main point, and identify the main facts;
- Identify the text type, extract information from longer texts--such as biographies, interviews, and cultural information--and react or reply to this information;
- Discuss aspects of Italian life, such as meals, traveling, school, and festivals;
- Give examples of important products of different 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 015X: ITALIAN 150 LANGUAGE PRACTICUM**

Please consider enrolling in the one day a week, one-unit, credit/no credit ITAL 015X: Italian 150 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 150 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 150 in the individual custom edition of Percorsi (ISBN-13 978-1-323-86885-0/ISBN-10 1-323-86885-2) 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.

Authors: Francesca ITALIANO and Irene MARCHEGIANI

ISBN-10: 0-205-99895-X • ISBN-13: 978-0-205-99895-1

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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:**

CRSKLUD-682790

**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, 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 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;
- 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.

**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 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. **Writing Assignments**

Compositions will 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, comprehensibility, language control, mechanics and intercultural awareness. You will receive up to 100% 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 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 oral midterm exam; one oral final exam and one written final exam. Each exam will concentrate on the materials covered during the previous 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 final exam will be comprehensive, up to the fifteenth week. Please note that the final written exam is scheduled at the same time for all the students enrolled in ITAL 150. 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.

### **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. James Fortney, the Director of the Italian Basic Language Program ([fortney@usc.edu](mailto:fortney@usc.edu), Taper Hall Room 155 [THH 155]).

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Jan. 25: Last day to register and add classes
- Jan. 25: Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W"
- Jan. 25: Last day to change your enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit
- Jan. 29: Last day to drop a class without a mark of "W" and receive a refund
- Feb. 22: Last day to change a Pass/No Pass course to letter grade
- Apr. 5: 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	Friday, Jan. 25	5%
• Exam 2	Friday, Feb. 15	5%
• Exam 3	Wednesday, Mar. 6	5%
• Midterm Oral Exams	Thurs. and Fri., Mar. 7 and Mar. 8	5%
• Exam 4	Friday, Apr. 5	5%
• Final Oral Exams	Thurs. and Fri., Apr. 25 and Apr. 26	10%
• Final Written Exam	Saturday, May 4, 11:00 AM--1:00 PM	20%
• <i>Scriviamo</i> (Writing Assignments)	Due Dates TBA	5%
• Class Participation	Assessed on a Daily/Weekly Basis	15%
• Two Language-and Culture Events	1st by Fri. Mar. 8 and 2nd by Fri. Apr. 26	5%
• Four TalkAbroad Conversations	By Feb. 8, Mar. 1, Mar. 29 and Apr. 19	5%
• Homework & MyItalianLab	Due Dates TBA	15%

## **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/>*

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

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>WEEKS/DAYS</b>	<b>CHAPTERS</b>	<b>COMMUNICATIVE GOALS</b>	<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b>
<u>Weeks 1—3</u> Jan. 8—Jan. 25	Ch. 6: <sup>1</sup> <b>Casa mia, casa mia...</b>  Ch. 7: <b>Che hai fatto di bello?</b>	-Talking about past events at home; -Discussing how you spend your free time; -Discussing sports; -Describing plans for the weekend and other occasions.	<i>Monday, Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Day</i>  <b>Friday, Jan 25: EXAM 1</b>
<u>Weeks 4—6</u> Jan. 29— Feb.15	Ch. 8: <b>Ti ricordi quando?</b>	-Talking about childhood memories; -Describing past school experiences; -Describing the way life used to be and the changes that occurred.	<b>Friday, Feb. 8: TALKABROAD 1 Due</b>  <b>Friday, Feb. 15: EXAM 2</b>
<u>Weeks 7—9</u> Feb. 19—Mar.8	Ch. 9: <b>Buon divertimento</b>	-Talking about holidays and special days; -Describing holiday meals and traditions; -Ordering food and drinks in a restaurant.	<i>Monday, Feb. 18: President's Day</i>  <b>Friday, Mar. 1: TALKABROAD 2 Due</b>  <b>Wednesday, Mar. 6: EXAM 3</b>  <b>Thursday and Friday, Mar. 7 and Mar. 8: MIDTERM ORAL EXAMS</b>  <b>Friday, Mar. 8: LANGUAGE- AND CULTURE EVENT/BLOG 1 DUE</b>  <i>Mon-Thurs, Mar 12-15: Spring Recess</i>
<u>Weeks 10—12</u> Mar. 19—Apr 5	Ch. 10: <b>Che ricordo splendido!</b>	-Discussing important events in the past; -Talking about present and past relationships; -Recounting good and bad memories; -Talking about memorable trips and vacations.	<b>Friday, Mar. 29: TALKABROAD 3 Due</b>  <b>Friday, Apr. 5: EXAM 4</b>
<u>Weeks 13—15</u>	Ch. 11: <b>E dopo, che farai?</b>	-Talking about your plans for the immediate future	

<sup>1</sup> In Ch. 6 we will cover *Percorso III*.

Apr.9—26		-Making plans on the telephone -Discussing your long-term goals	<b>Friday, Apr. 19: TALKABROAD 4 Due</b>  <b>Thursday and Friday, Apr. 25 and Apr. 26: FINAL ORAL EXAMS</b>  <b>Friday, Apr. 26: LANGUAGE- AND CULTURE EVENT/BLOG 2 DUE</b>
<b>Apr. 27—30: Study Days</b>			
<b>Saturday, May 4, 11:00 AM--1:00 PM: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM [Location to Be Announced]</b>			