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**ITAL 120: Italian I**

**Section Number 34404D**

**Units: 4.0**

**Term-Day-Time: Fall 2021-Mon. & Wed. 4:00—5:50 pm**

**Location: Zoom on Mondays; THH 211 on Wednesdays**

**Instructor: Antonio Idini**

**Office: Personal Zoom Meeting Room**

https://usc.zoom.us/j/9572457696 (Meeting ID: 957 245 7696)

**Office Hours: Mon. & Tue. 1:00—3:00 pm; also by individual appointment**

**Contact Info: idini@usc.edu**

**Prerequisite: Students with previous experience with Italian are REQUIRED to take the Italian placement exam. D-clearance for Italian I is available at**[**language.usc.edu**](http://language.usc.edu/)**.**

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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., food, daily activities, free time, studies, likes and dislikes and your city), 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, meals, your day, free time, where you live etc.), using simple sentences;
* Listen to simple dialogues and short descriptions and identify 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 formal and informal interactions, food and practices, features of Italian towns and cities), as well as Italian geography.

**OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING LANGUAGES**

At our institution we utilize ACTFL and the National Standards to 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, and interactions with your instructor 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.

**STUDY ABROAD: ROME, SICILY, FLORENCE AND MILAN**

Start packing today! Dornsife's Department of French and Italian and Overseas Studies have numerous study abroad options to fit into almost every student's course plan and to help accelerate language study. Whether you are interested in a Maymester in Rome, a Julymester in Sicily or in completing a semester/academic year in Milan or Florence, you have options! Please feel free to email fortney@usc.edu and start planning your trip today.

**INTERNSHIPS, ITALIAN MINOR/MAJOR, AND PROGRESSIVE DEGREE (MAT/MAT-TESOL)**

Put your Italian to work! All students who complete the third semester of Italian at USC or its equivalent (ITAL-220) qualify for an internship opportunity with Italian owned and operated businesses in Los Angeles and organized through the Italy-America Chamber of Commerce West (ITAL-222). In addition to minoring in Italian, consider a major that can lead to Rossier's School of Education's Progressive Degree (MAT/MAT-TESOL) with teaching credentials. Please email the Director of the Italian Basic Language Program at fortney@usc.edu for more information.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIAL**

For Italian 120 you will need to purchase the following materials: a. the textbook *New Italian Espresso: Beginner and Pre-Intermediate Italian Course for English Speakers* from USC's bookstore; b. three fifteen-minute online conversations on TalkAbroad.

1. NEW ITALIAN ESPRESSO: Beginner and Pre-Intermediate Italian Course for English Speakers (Authors: Paolo BULTRINI and Filippo GRAZIANI)
* In USC's bookstore, students will need to purchase the paper textbook ISBN 9788861826830 for $61.00 and the online workbook ISBN 9788861825123 for $18.75. These materials will be used in subsequent courses in the Italian Basic Language sequence.
* You will need the following course ID to register for the online workbook: **CL74292135**
1. TALKABROAD
* You will receive information on Blackboard and during the lesson on how to register for three fifteen-minute online conversations on TalkAbroad.

**CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Attendance**

**In response to the mask mandate and its ramifications for instruction, foreign language courses at USC this fall are in hybrid mode.  All lessons are synchronous which means that your physical or virtual presence is expected unless health concerns prohibit your participation.  Hybrid teaching can be a maximum of 50% Zoom, but not more.  With the exception of language assessments, which are conducted in the classroom, your individual instructor will speak to your section of Italian about the implementation of this requirement. Additionally, students are expected to comply with all aspects of USC’s COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from class and referral to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. Your instructor may ask to see evidence of your compliance with Trojan Check prior to allowing you into the classroom.  As this course is being taught in-person the attendance expectation is that the student be in-person unless students have OSAS accommodations.  Students who test positive for COVID, or are required to self-isolate due to high-risk exposure, will be supported and accommodated.**

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; 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. 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 almost 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 learn 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 communicative strategies modeled in class 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. It is much more useful to use photos, drawings and other visuals rather than English translations to learn individual words and expressions. 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 which is how your textbook presents the vocabulary to you. 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**

**IMPORTANT: The course's Blackboard site needs to be checked daily**, as it will be the main source of information regarding all the homework, essays, exam descriptions, exam reviews, deadlines, and instructor's communications and study suggestions. The BlinkLearning site is used to access the ebook version of your *New Italian Espresso* textbook and your online workbook to complete the online activities your teacher will assign but it will not include all other essential information about the course available on Blackboard.

**Late homework is not accepted.** If you are absent from a lesson on the day when a homework or writing assignment is due, follow your instructor's preference (communicated in class and also posted on Blackboard, during the first week of class) on submitting your work so that it is not late. Homework assignments are intended to reinforce the grammar and vocabulary and to help you practice your listening and writing skills. Since most of the lesson 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. 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.

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). **Each writing assignment consists of two drafts and you must turn in both to earn a grade**. For your first draft you will receive corrections and feedback indicating how well you complete the task, the richness of your vocabulary, comprehensibility, language control, mechanics and intercultural awareness. Incorporate your instructor's feedback and submit both the first and second draft to earn a grade for the assignment. **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 assignments for partial or no credit.**

10. Exams

The written exams consist of compositions, interpretative listening and reading exercises and vocabulary and grammar exercises. The oral exams are conversations in Italian between you and your instructor. The exams concentrate on the materials covered since the previous exam but expect you to utilize everything you have learned up to that point. Please note that the final written exam is scheduled at the same time for all the students enrolled in ITAL 120, 150, 175, and 220. 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. **TalkAbroad Conversations**

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, you 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 three fifteen-minute conversations with native speakers using the online service TalkAbroad. Please see handouts for details on these assignments.

12. 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.

**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. 10: Last day to add
* Sept. 10: Last day to drop without a mark of “W” and receive a refund
* Oct. 8: Last day to withdraw without a "W"
* Oct. 8: Last day to change Pass/No Pass to Letter Grade option
* Nov. 12: Last day to drop 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 Wednesday, Sept. 1  5%
* Exam 2 Wednesday, Sept. 22 5%
* Midterm Written Exam Monday, Oct. 18 10%
* Midterm Oral Exam Wednesday, Oct. 20 7%
* Exam 3 Wednesday, Nov. 10 5%
* Final Oral Exam Wednesday, Dec. 1 15%
* Final Written Exam Saturday, Dec. 11 20%
* *Scrittura* (Writing Assignments) Due Dates TBA 5%
* Class Participation Assessed on a Daily/Weekly Basis 15%
* Online Workbook Exercises Due Dates TBA 10%
* TalkAbroad Conversations Due by Fri. Oct. 8, Oct. 29, Nov. 19 3%

**STATEMENT 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” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](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, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

**Support Systems:**

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call*

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call*

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298*

[equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu/), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776*

[osas.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu/)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Campus Support & Intervention - (213) 821-4710*

[campussupport.usc.edu](https://campussupport.usc.edu/)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu/)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu/)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/) Non-emergency assistance or information.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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| **WEEKS/DAYS** | **CHAPTERS** | **COMMUNICATIVE GOALS** | **IMPORTANT DATES** |
| Weeks 1—2 **Aug. 23—Sept. 1** | Lezione 1:**Primi contatti** | -greeting people upon arriving and leaving-introducing oneself-asking about pronunciation and spelling, meaning, and how to say something in Italian-asking someone to repeat something-asking about someone's place of origin (and answering)-giving one's phone number | **Wednesday, Sept. 1: EXAM 1** |
| Weeks 3—5 **Sept. 8—Sept. 22** | Lezione 2: **Buon Appetito!** | -ordering in an Italian coffee shop and in a restaurant-asking for things in a polite way-pointing at close/far away objects-getting someone's attention-asking for the bill-thanking someone-asking for price | *Monday, Sept. 6: Labor Day***Wednesday, Sept. 22: EXAM 2** |
| Weeks 6—9 **Sept. 27—Oct. 20** | Lezione 3: **Io e gli altri** | -introducing someone-describing people's activities on a specific day of the week-asking for someone's age and giving one's age-asking for someone's profession and mentioning one's occupation-giving personal details on someone-telling dates-asking someone how he/she is and saying how one is doing | **Friday, Oct. 8 TalkAbroad Conversation 1 DUE****Monday, Oct. 18:** **MIDTERM WRITTEN EXAM****Wednesday, Oct. 20:** **MIDTERM ORAL EXAM**  |
| Weeks 10—12 **Oct. 25—Nov. 10** | Lezione 4: **Tempo libero** | -talking about free time and leisure activities-talking about how often one does something-taking about people's interests and occupations-expressing one's likes and dislikes | **Friday, Oct. 29 TalkAbroad Conversation 2 DUE****Wednesday, Nov. 10: EXAM 3** |
| Weeks 13—15 **Nov.15—Dec.1** | Lezione 5: **In giro per l'Italia** | -describing a city, a neighborhood, a street-submitting a questionnaire in order to make a survey-talking about the quality of life in a given city-following and giving street directions-asking and telling time | **Friday, Nov. 19 TalkAbroad Conversation 3 DUE***Wednesday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Holiday***Wednesday, Dec. 1:** **FINAL ORAL EXAM** |
| **Dec. 4—Dec. 7: Study Days** |
| **Saturday, Dec. 11, 8:00 a.m.--10:00 a.m.: FINAL WRITTEN EXAM** |