

Georgetown University -Villa Le Balze

Spring 2010

Intensive Basic Italian I (ITAL 011 -62) 6 credits

Prof. Imperatrice Di Passio

imperatricedipassio@virgilio.it; id38@georgetown.edu

Class Meetings in the class room

Monday and Wednesday	9.00-10.00
<u>Wednesday 17 March</u>	14.30-15.30
Tuesday and Thursday	9.00 - 10.30

(Meeting times may change according to necessity)

Office hour: before class, or by appointment

Course Description:

This is an intensive course, meeting for five full hours a week distributed over four days. Attention is devoted to the four skills of speaking, understanding, reading, and writing with progression from greater emphasis on listening and speaking to a balance of all skills as the semester progresses.

Aspects of Italian history, culture, and contemporary life are also introduced through readings, listening materials, videos and films.

General objectives are to provide students with basic tools for oral and written communication in Italian, but also to offer them the opportunity to learn about Italian culture and life and to reflect about intercultural differences and similarities

- Grammar is taught to facilitate the student's comprehension and production of real language.
- Grammar is put to some communicative use.
- The course focuses on communication skills: real "context" practice. Screenplays, pictures, movies and even the delights of Italian cooking on site will enhance the student's ability in Italian.
- The course gives immediate opportunities to use language because it consistent in touch with Italian reality

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are the following:

1. To develop the students' ability to communicate both orally in basic situations of everyday life such as informal encounters, transactions in shops or tourist facilities, and to write simple texts such as letters, messages and brief essays on cultural topics.

2. To develop the students' ability to use language both functionally (for example to introduce themselves, ask for information, order food at a restaurant) and expressively (for example to describe what kind of people they are, or their likes and dislikes)
3. To promote intercultural awareness and contact through discussions and reflection on Italian customs, traditions, and daily life.

Methodology

Since this is a communicatively oriented course, the language is taught through exposure to authentic situations and texts, which constitute the basis for formal and grammatical reflection. Thus, grammar is not taught independently of the texts presented in class and the focus is not on the formal aspects of the language, but on communication. Most of the materials and explanations are in Italian and classes are conducted almost exclusively in Italian. However, the textbook presents grammatical explanations in English.

Textbooks

- Branciforte, S. and Grassi, A. Parliamo italiano, Manual, Workbook, Houghton Mifflin, latest edition.
- Web address for Parliamo italiano :

<http://college.cengage.com/languages/italian/branciforte/parliamo/2e/students/ace>

- **Technology** Use of technology and Blackboard is strongly encouraged.

Video and Films

Every semester students watch and work on one film and different types of video materials.

Guidelines for Student Participation and Work

This is an intensive language class. Attendance, participation, oral presentation are very important. Participation is an essential foundation for learning a language. Since Basic Italian is an intensive course, attendance and daily preparation are essential. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to do homework daily and to hand it in on time, even if they have been absent from class. Homework may include assignments on the workbook, journal, projects, etc. Students will be assigned compositions in order to develop written ability. They are encouraged to participate actively not only in class but outside. Only a written medical (or otherwise official) excuse justifies an absence). Please, keep your teacher or the Director or the RC informed if you miss classes.

One (1) unexcused absence will be allowed. After that, for each unexcused absence, the teacher may deduct points from your final exam. (For example if your final grade is a B but you were absent twice, you will receive a B- for the course, if you will absent three times you will receive a C+ and so on.

No student may enter class later than 5 minutes from the start of class.

Punctuality and participation are factored into your course grades.

No make-up testes or exams are allowed unless exceptional circumstances (such as medical emergencies) occur. No make-up tests or exams are allowed unless exceptional circumstances (such as medical emergencies) occur.

Grades are assigned according to the following criteria:

2 Tests	20%
4 quizzes	20%
1 oral presentation and 1 performance in a play at the end of the semester	15%
Homework, attendance, oral participation in class, preparation	10%
Writing component assignments + writing up the play	15%
Final exam+ paper	20%

Folder: each student has a folder with all their papers and teacher's comments and when students turn in their papers they include the previous paper + every quiz and test.

Final play: at the end of semester the students will perform the play they wrote during the semester (TBA)

Grade scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	65-66
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	F	0-64

Some important dates

January

18 Monday class starts

26 Tuesday quiz 1 + regular lesson

February

9 Tuesday quiz 2 + regular lesson

24 Wednesday test 1

| Friday/Sunday | Feb/March | 26/07 | Spring Break

March

8 Monday Class resumes

11 Thursday quiz 3 + regular lesson

24 Wednesday test 2

April

| Friday/Monday | April | 02/05 | Easter Break

6 Tuesday Class resumes

8 Thursday quiz 4+ regular lesson

9 Friday Fieldtrip to Cortona with prof. Di Passio, Paolini (whole group, full day trip)

21 Wednesday review 9.00-10.30

22 Thursday final exam 9.00-11.00 (exam in class + paper due)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES ON THE SYLLABUS DO TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.