

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY**  
**Villa le Balze**

**Intensive Italian Advanced II (ITAL - 112 – 62) 5 credits**  
**Spring Semester 2010**

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Class Meetings: **Seminar room**

Monday: 9.00 – 10.00

Tuesday : 9.00 – 10.30

Wednesday: 9.00 – 10.00

Thursday: 9.00 – 10.30

Office hours: On Tuesday, after lunch

**I. Course description**

The course continues and builds on the work done in Basic, Intermediate and Advanced I, providing a review of Italian grammar learned in the previous years and opportunities to develop the four skills of speaking, understanding, reading, and writing at an advanced level. The course is centered on thematic units dealing with aspects of Italian history, culture, and contemporary life that are presented to students through readings, listening materials, videos and films. The general objective is to develop students' proficiency in oral and written Italian to provide them with the tools not only to communicate in formal and informal encounters and exchanges in the target country, but also to function in Italian within academic environments. Finally, intercultural reflection and exchange are given prominence in Advanced II as in the other courses that conform the Italian Language Curriculum.

Readings (newspaper articles and passages by famous Italian authors) will give students the opportunity to do presentations which will be followed by discussions on the subject. Active participation in the discussions is a very important part of this class and will absolutely determine well learning and a good grade.

Short papers (500 words) will be done on main treated subjects.

The Italian language will be also practised "on site": the students will be given the opportunity to go out face real situations and meet Italians out of Villa le Balze. This will enable to better understand Italian ways of life and culture.

Students are also encouraged to participate actively in class work and in class fieldtrips and special meetings.

A very important advice: please, speak Italian in any situation if it is possible, especially with your teacher and not only during the class.

Classes will be conducted in Italian only. During office hours questions may be asked in English.

There will be 4 hourly Tests, a Final Exam (Paper and Final test)

**II. Course Objectives**

The main objectives of this course are the following:

1. To strengthen the students' ability to communicate both orally and in written form in situations that characterize everyday life such as informal encounters or social transactions, and in formal environments such as academic exchanges and tasks.

2. To strengthen and develop the students' ability to use language functionally and expressively at a complex and abstract level (for example to develop and sustain arguments, to report on events, to critically evaluate texts, to express personal feelings with respect to social issues) and to carry out more complex academic tasks (such as producing argumentative essays).
3. To promote intercultural awareness and contact through discussions and reflections on Italian customs, traditions, and daily life.

### III. 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. Grammar and vocabulary are taught in the context of thematic units. Although the course is taught in Italian, grammar explanations in the textbook are in English. Grammar structure will be deduced directly from text and examples or exercises without formal explanation. The students who have the need ask the teacher during office hours.

### IV. Textbooks

- Italiano, Francesca, and Irene Marchegiani. *Crescendo!* (with Audio CD) 2nd Edition ISBN: 1413011357 Thomson
- Italiano, Francesca, and Irene Marchegiani. *Crescendo! Workbook/* ISBN 1-4130-4854-4 Thomson

#### Video and Films

Every semester students watch and work on at least one film related to one or more of the topics studied during the semester and different types of video materials.

#### Oral presentation:

Each student will give presentations during the semester.

### Evaluation

The final grade is assigned taking into account :

- oral performance during lessons, field trips, special meetings
- two oral presentations of specific topic
- attendance, homework, class participation
- Four tests
- a final exam + paper
- the compositions during the semester.

### V. Method of calculating final grade

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 4 test = 10% each                              | 40% |
| Grade average of writing component assignments | 15% |
| Oral presentation and oral performance         | 15% |
| Attendance, homework, participation            | 10% |
| Final exam + paper                             | 20% |

#### Grade scale:

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

Remember: this is an intensive language class: attendance is mandatory; participation and oral presentation are very important!

Only a written medical (or otherwise official) excuse justifies an absence.

Only **1** unexcused absence will be allowed. After that the professor may deduct ½ point from your final exam for each unexcused absence. (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.

The students who lived with Italian family must pay attention to the real Italian bus schedule and take the right bus to arrive in time for the class. No student may enter class later than 5 minutes from the start of the class

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

## **VI. Calendario**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 19 gennaio lunedì     | Primo giorno del corso di Italiano  |
| 3 febbraio mercoledì  | 1 test  |
| 24 febbraio mercoledì | 2 test  |
| 26 febbraio/ 7 marzo  | Vacanze di Primavera (Spring break)   |
| 8 marzo               | Ritorno in classe dopo la vacanza di Primavera  |
| 18 marzo giovedì      | 3 test (test + lezione)   |
| 2 -5 aprile           | Vacanze di Pasqua (Easter break)  |
| 9 aprile venerdì      | Gita a Cortona con le Professoressa di Italiano (Italian - full day trip)                 |
| 14 aprile mercoledì   | 4 test  |
| 15 aprile             | Ultimo giorno del corso Italiano  |
| 21 aprile mercoledì   | ripasso (=review) 9.00 – 10.30  |
| 22 aprile giovedì     | esame finale (= final exam) 9.00 – 11.00<br>composizione finale ore 11.00 (= final paper) |

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

