

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

**Intensive Italian Intermediate (ITAL - 032 – 62) 6 credits**  
**Spring Semester 2010**

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**Class Meetings**

**(= in main classroom):**

Monday: 10.15 – 11.15

Tuesday : 10.45 – 12.15

Wednesday: 10.15 – 11.15 **(Pay attention: at 10.00: Jan. 27  
- Feb.17 - April 7; March 17 lesson will be in the  
afternoon at 15.45 – 16-45)**

Thursday: 10.45 – 12.15

**Office hours:** On Tuesday, after lunch

**I. Course Description**

This intensive course meets for (five hours) four days a week and it is designed to further develop language ability and knowledge of the Italian culture for students who have completed Basic Intensive Italian or have already had some exposure to the language. As in the case of Intensive Basic Italian, the four skills of speaking, understanding, reading and writing are developed in a balanced way. Aspects of Italian history, culture, and contemporary life are also introduced through readings, listening materials, videos and films). The general objective is to provide students with basic tools for oral and written communication in Italian and to offer them the opportunity to learn about Italian culture and life, but also to reflect ab intercultural differences and similarities.

In addition to the usual homework, short papers (300 words) will be done

about main subjects.

The vocabulary and the grammar issues will be practised "on site": the student 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 way of life and culture.

Learning to speak Italian is like opening a window to new culture and ways of looking at everything that you experience.

## **II. 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 public offices, and in writing through the production of short essays and letters.
- 2.** To develop the students' ability to use language both functionally (for example to describe people and places, to make requests, to give advice) and expressively (for example to express feelings and states of mind).
- 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. 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 exclusively in Italian. However, the textbook presents grammatical explanations in English.

## **IV. Resources**

Textbook

Branciforte, S. and Grassi, A. *Parliamo italiano*, Manual, Workbook Houghton Mifflin, last edition

**Web address for Parliamo italiano :**

*<http://college.hmco.com/languages/italian/branciforte/parliamo/2e/students/index.html>*

## V. Guidelines for Student Participation and Work

Since Intermediate Italian is an intensive course, attendance and daily preparation are essential.

Students are expected 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, compositions, projects.

Students are also encouraged to participate actively in class work.

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

## VI. Evaluation

Students in this class are regularly evaluated, both through quizzes and tests and final exam and longer composition but the final grade is assigned taking into account oral performance and oral presentations (two or three), attendance, homework and, very important, class participation.

Grades will be assigned according to the following criteria:

### Grading system

2 tests	20%
4 quizzes	20%
Oral performance and presentations	15%
Homework, attendance, participation, preparation	10%
Writing component assignments	15%
Final exam+ paper	20%

### 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	

## Calendario ( Important dates)

18 gennaio lunedì

Primo giorno del corso di Italiano

26 gennaio martedì	quiz 1 (quiz + lezione)
9 febbraio martedì	quiz 2 (quiz + lezione)
24 febbraio mercoledì	test 1
26 febbraio/ 7 marzo	Vacanza di Primavera (Spring break)
8 marzo	Ritorno in classe dopo la vacanza di <u>Primavera</u>
11 marzo giovedì	quiz 3 (quiz + lezione)
24 marzo mercoledì	test 2
2-5 aprile	vacanze di Pasqua ( Easter break)
8 aprile giovedì	quiz 4
9 aprile venerdì	Gita a Cortona con le Professoresse di Italiano (Italian - full day trip)
15 aprile	Ultimo giorno del corso di Italiano
21 aprile mercoledì	ripasso (=review) 10.30-12.00
22 aprile giovedì	esame finale (= final exam) 11.00 -13.00
due)	composizione finale ore 13 (= final paper)

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