



## Italian Language I

ITA 101-102

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### Course Description

The objective of the first level course is to introduce the student to the Italian language, covering the basic communicative tools that are useful for everyday interaction in Italy. The course utilizes an integrated communication method that puts the student at the center of the learning process in a cooperative relationship with the teacher. This perspective is based on a principle of negotiation of the course content and the teaching strategies between the teacher and the student.

Grammatical theory will be always connected with the practical use of the language. The students will not only be taught the linguistic system, but will also be given strategies and techniques that facilitate the learning process. All of the didactic materials used throughout the course, such as textbooks and multimedia devices, are in Italian. The three week intensive class is taught by a single teacher. During the semester, however, students will have the possibility to experience a joint and multilevel teaching approach: while one instructor will continue with the overall global learning process of the course, there will also be another class taught by a different teacher, focusing on conversation skills and projects (including interviews, and presentations that are all in Italian and based on interaction with native speakers). Throughout the semester students will have the opportunity to experience each of these classes, giving them a comprehensive and in-depth study of Italian language.



## **Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## **Course Hours**

Intensive course meets 13 times for a total of 45 hours. Semester course meets 4 times a week for a total of 4 hrs/week, 48 hrs total. Suggested credits: 6

## **Student Learning Expectations**

At the end of the course, the student is expected to have a basic knowledge of Italian, being capable of using current and up-to-date language. Thus, the student will be an active "social actor," able to achieve the communicative goals of studying abroad (including socialization, understanding of the culture) and be confident with the use of the Italian language in the foreign environment in order to fulfill his or her personal and educational objectives.

## **Course Outline**

### ***Week by Week Description***

#### ***Intensive Italian Course:***

*Week 1* Communicative functions: greeting people, introducing yourself, asking pronunciation and spelling of a word, asking nationality, asking the meaning and translation of a word, asking for telephone numbers, what time...?.

Grammar: first and second person singular of "essere" and "chiamarsi," the alphabet, adjectives of nationality, regular verbs, numbers from 0 to 20, nouns of the first group (ending in "o" or in "a"), nouns of the second group (ending in "e"), definite articles, indefinite articles, numbers from 20 to 100.

*Week II* Communicative functions: introducing someone, asking and giving personal details, talking about your work, speaking formally, talking about leisure time, talking about how often you do something, expressing likes and preferences.

Grammar: verbs ending in –ARE + “essere,” nouns which do not change, presente indicativo: verbs “fare,” “essere,” and “avere,” names of occupations which do not have a feminine form, peculiarities of nouns, simple prepositions, numbers from 100 onwards, formal and informal communication, Presente indicativo: verbs “andare” and “stare”; verbs “sapere” and “conoscere”.

*Week III* Communicative functions: describing a place, asking and giving directions, asking and telling time, booking a hotel room, complaining, offering a solution, describing a house, asking and giving information about a house, asking and giving timetable information.

Grammar: adverbs of frequency, the verb “piacere,” adjectives of the first group, simple prepositions, irregular verbs: presente indicativo, “c’è”/“ci sono,” adjectives of the second group, modal verbs, the months, ordinal numbers, compound prepositions

**Intensive written and oral test.**

## **Semester**

### *Week I*

Communicative functions: talking about working hours, describing a typical day, describing your daily routine, best wishes and congratulations, describing holidays and traditions.

Grammar: presente indicativo of reflexive verbs, position of the reflexive pronoun, possessive adjectives.

*Week II* Communicative functions: planning a trip, talking about a trip, , asking information in a travel agency.

Grammar: passato prossimo, irregular past participles, past time expressions, adverbs of time (“già,” “appena,” “non ancora”).

*Week III* Communicative functions: identifying family relationships, describing your family, describing food and eating habits, grocery shopping.

Grammar: possessive adjectives, possessive adjectives with words denoting family relationships, passato prossimo of reflexive verbs, direct object pronouns.

**Quiz #1.**

*Week IV* Communicative functions: shopping for clothes, making polite requests, expressing tastes and preferences.

Grammar: indirect object pronouns, use of indirect pronouns contrasted with direct pronouns, condizionale presente for making polite requests, “più,” “meno,” “troppo,” the adjective “quello”.

*Week V* Communicative functions: describing animals, talking about your childhood, describing past situations, talking about habitual activities in the past, talking about the weather.

Grammar: imperfetto.

*Week VI* Review. **Midterm written and oral test.**

*Week VII* Communicative functions: giving a physical description of

someone, giving a description of someone's personality.

Grammar: the use of imperfetto compared to the passato prossimo.

*Week VIII* Communicative functions: making comparisons.

Grammar: comparatives, superlatives, the use of imperfetto compared to the passato prossimo, direct pronoun.

*Week IX* Communicative functions: making comparisons.

Grammar: review of the use of imperfetto compared to the passato prossimo, review of the direct pronoun.

**Quiz #2.**

*Week X* Communicative functions: describing a house, expressing wishes, "ne" as a partitive expression, partitive use of "di" + article.

Grammar: condizionale presente, indirect pronouns contrasted with direct pronouns.

*Week XI* Communicative functions: organizing leisure activities, making invitations, accepting and refusing invitations, making social arrangements, expressing dislikes and annoyances, talking about an unpleasant experience.

Grammar: direct, indirect and reflexive pronouns with modal verbs," agreement of the past participle with the direct pronoun.

*Week XII* Review. **Final written and oral test.**



## Assignments

Daily homework will consist of readings, short written compositions, exercises from the text book. All of the above may be individual or group assignments.

## Textbook and required materials

Gruppo Italiaidea, *New Italian Espresso 1*, Firenze, Alma Edizioni, 2014.

## Recommended optional materials/references

Manella C., and Tanzini A., *L'italiano da soli*. Firenze: Progetto Lingua. 2009.

Toffolo L., Nuti N., and Merklingshaus R., *Allegro 1*. Roma: Edilingua. 2003.

Nocchi S., *Grammatica pratica della lingua italiana*. Firenze: Alma. 2002.

Bailini S., and Consonno S., *Ricette per parlare*. Firenze: Alma. 2003.

Bertoni S., and Nocchi S., *Le parole italiane*. Firenze: Alma. 2003.

Blok Boas A., Materassi E., and Vedder I., *Letture in corso 1*. Roma: Bonacci, 2003.

## Grading System

Participation	30%
Homework	10%
Intensive Course final test (written)	8 %
Intensive Course final test (oral)	7%
Quiz #1	5%
Quiz #2	5%
Midterm (written)	8%
Midterm (oral)	7%
Final (written)	10%



Final (oral)

10%

### **Exam description**

#### ***Midterm and Final tests***

Written tests will last one hour and half. They consist in multiple choice questions, short answers, short essays, reading and comprehension tests, listening tests and grammar exercises. The final test will cover the whole semester program, including what has already been covered in the mid term. The midterm & final oral test will be on a topic agreed upon by the student and teacher. It will consist of a 5 minute presentation and 5 minutes of Q/A.

#### ***Quizzes***

Quizzes will last thirty minutes. They consist in multiple choice questions, short answers, short essays and grammar exercises.

### **Course Policy**

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Effective learning, teaching and research all depend upon the ability of members of the academic community to trust one another and to trust the integrity of work that is submitted for academic credit or conducted in the wider arena of scholarly research. Such an atmosphere of mutual trust fosters the free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential.

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged, and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Faculty, students, and administrative staff all share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at the Siena Art Institute and Siena School for Liberal Arts.



**Students with documented disabilities:**

Any student who has a documented disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate the educational opportunity.

**Participation and Attendance:**

We consider attending class a crucial part of gaining the most from your study abroad experience. For this reason, we allow only one unexcused absence per course during the 15 weeks of the program. This means that you are only allowed to miss one lesson of each course for unexcused reasons. Reasons for an absence to be considered unexcused include absences related to personal travel (including delays, strikes, missed connections, etc.) or visits from family and friends.

In addition, being late to class on 4 occasions constitutes an unexcused absence. Please also consider that leaving before the end of the lesson or coming back late from a break is the equivalent of an unexcused absence.

Participation and attendance is worth 30% of the overall grade for every class.

Absences due to health-related issues are considered excused if the student informs the professor and office by email or phone before class begins.

No make-up exams or critiques will be considered unless warranted by extreme circumstances [for example, health, family tragedy] supported with proper documentation.

***Retests/makeup tests***

Students can do the exam on a different date only for justified reasons (health reasons, same date as another test etc.).

The course does not allow for any retests.