

**AUF***The American
University of Florence***SYLLABUS**Rev. 8
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Syllabus revised 2025

Florence University of the Arts (FUA) is an academic institution for study abroad in Florence, Italy. FUA collaborates with The American University of Florence (AUF), an international university offering US-style undergraduate and graduate degrees, in a cooperation to offer study abroad programs with a diverse breadth and depth of academic curriculum.

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SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE
COURSE TITLE: ITALIAN LANGUAGE INTERMEDIATE I
COURSE CODE: ISITHI201
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course builds on and extends fundamental skills developed in the beginner course. Emphasis is placed on developing fluency skills and integration of language and culture through more extensive reading and writing. After taking this course, students will be able to express polite requests using the Present Conditional, making future plans using the Future Tense and develop their language ability by using Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns. This course is aimed at students who already have a basic vocabulary of Italian and some knowledge of elementary language structures.

2. OBJECTIVES

During the course emphasis will be given to all four different abilities to be developed while learning a language: Listening – Speaking, Reading – Writing. Students will be encouraged to try to speak both in and outside class, to have them become more familiar with the Italian language and culture environment in which they are immersed. During this course, students will learn to recount past events, make future plans and ask polite requests.

Grammar

Studying and extending basic knowledge of the grammatical structures needed for correct expression, in statements referring to present, past (passato prossimo /imperfetto) situations.

Vocabulary

Understand the meaning of simple words from the context in which they are used. Expand vocabulary in order to participate in everyday simple and concrete communicative situations.

Listening

Understand the general meaning and the most important information in conversations.

Speaking

Ability to take part in everyday simple and concrete communicative situations.
explaining familiar facts or events.

Reading

Understand simple and short private correspondence (letters/postcards) and simple texts
picking up familiar names, words and basic phrases.

Writing

Produce simple texts of a practical nature. Write simple descriptive passages.

3. REQUIREMENTS

This level is for students who already had one semester of Italian language or equivalent.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects, and interaction with the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, integrate relevant academic sources, may include multimedia

references, propose creative problem-solving, and other appropriate forms of delivery as deemed appropriate to the course's purpose.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

Matteo La Grassa – L'italiano all'università 1, Corso di lingua per studenti stranieri A1-A2, Edizioni Edilingua

Webster or Oxford Italian – English Dictionary

The textbook is mandatory for course participation and completion. Where applicable additional materials may be provided by the instructor.

LIBRARY

Course participants may access the campus library. Please consult the library site for resources such as collections, borrowing, scanning and wifi connection, and research:

<https://www.auf-florence.org/Library/the-library/>

6. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

7. COURSE FEES

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. If this course requires a fee, the exact amount is communicated prior to enrollment.

8. GRADING AND EVALUATION & ATTENDANCE

20% Attendance and Participation

20% Quiz 1

20% Quiz 2

20% Final Exam

20% Oral Presentation

The above grade breakdown percentages reflect the grading scale standards in the “Grading and Evaluation System” section of the catalog.

Attendance

Class participation is mandatory. Based on the hours defined in the Academic Catalog's attendance policy, students may miss up to 2 class encounters delivered as lecture hours. A third absence constitutes a course failure.

Please note that absence hours may vary according to the learning methodology, as per the academic catalog policy on credit hours:

https://catalog.auf-florence.org/standard_regulation

9. EXAMS / PROJECTS / ASSIGNMENTS

Two **quizzes** will account for a total of 40% of the final course grade. For time and date consult the course website. **The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason.** Format:

- Quizzes are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session.
- The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
- Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

The **Final** exam accounts for 20% of the final course grade. For exam time and date consult the course website.

The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason. Format:

- Exams are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session and will test all four abilities (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking).
- Exams may include multiple choice questions, fill-in the blanks, vocabulary exercises, reading with true/false replies, a listening comprehension, and an essential writing exercise.
- The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself

The **Oral Presentation** accounts for 20% of the course grade. Topic, length, guidelines, and due date will be provided on the course website.

- Vocabulary knowledge and appropriate usage, comprehensibility, pronunciation, content (not reading from notes), ability to answer instructor/classmates and questions during class and completion of all tasks assigned will be assessed.

10. COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson 1	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searching out Italian cities on a map • Talking about weather conditions • Asking and saying how the weather is in a place <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct pronouns: forms and position • Use of direct pronouns with modal verbs + infinitive <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Italian geography: regions and most important cities • Months and seasons • Weather conditions
Objectives	<p>Be able to ask about and describe the weather in various Italian cities using relevant vocabulary and geographical terms.</p> <p>Be able to identify and correctly use Italian direct pronouns (forms and position) in simple sentences.</p> <p>Be able to apply direct pronouns in conjunction with modal verbs followed by an infinitive, improving conversational flow.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 2	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 7 – Che tempo fa?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking a partner what is someone doing • Describing actions which are going on right now

	<p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive form with <i>stare + gerundio</i> Present gerund forms of regular and irregular verbs <i>dire, fare, bere</i> Adverbs of quantity <i>molto, abbastanza, poco, per niente</i> <i>Molto</i> as an adjective and as an adverb <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate and temperature
Objectives	<p>Be able to describe actions happening at the moment by correctly forming and using the Italian progressive form (<i>stare + gerund</i>).</p> <p>Be able to form the present gerund for regular verbs and the irregular verbs <i>dire, fare, and bere</i>.</p> <p>Be able to use adverbs of quantity (<i>molto, abbastanza, poco, per niente</i>) and understand the dual function of <i>molto</i> as both an adjective and an adverb.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 3	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 8 – Che cosa hai fatto nel fine settimana?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about Saturday nights and week-end activities Inquiring about someone's past actions Describing one's daily routine in the past <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Di + definite articles</i> Past tense: review (verbs taking <i>essere</i> and agreement of the past participles) Past tense: <i>passato prossimo</i> form of reflexive verbs <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure activities
Objectives	<p>Be able to inquire about and describe past weekend activities and daily routines using the <i>passato prossimo</i>.</p> <p>Be able to correctly form the <i>passato prossimo</i> for reflexive verbs and ensure the past participle agrees when the auxiliary verb is <i>essere</i>.</p> <p>Be able to use the preposition <i>di</i> combined with definite articles (articulated prepositions) in conversation.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p>

	Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.
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Lesson 4	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 9 – La nuova famiglia italiana</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about one's family and family relationships Describing a family tree <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possessive adjectives (all forms) Possessive adjectives + nouns referring to family relationships Verbs related to love relationships <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Marital status
Objectives	<p>Be able to talk about their family and describe family relationships using specific vocabulary related to family members and marital status.</p> <p>Be able to correctly use all forms of Italian possessive adjectives when referring to people and objects.</p> <p>Be able to correctly omit the definite article when using possessive adjectives with singular nouns referring to family members, and correctly use relevant verbs related to love relationships.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 5	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>QUIZ 1</p> <p>Unit 9 – La nuova famiglia italiana</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about events that will occur in the future Making plans Writing a short story using future tense <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future tense: regular and irregular forms <i>Ma, o, perché</i> Time expressions: <i>all'inizio, alla fine, dopo, poi</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family

Objectives	<p>Be able to discuss future events and make plans by correctly conjugating and using both regular and irregular forms of the future tense.</p> <p>Be able to write a short narrative or story using the future tense, incorporating transitional time expressions like <i>all'inizio</i>, <i>alla fine</i>, <i>dopo</i>, and <i>poi</i>.</p> <p>Be able to connect clauses and express cause/effect in their future-tense sentences using the coordinating conjunctions.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 6	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 10 – Mi sembra...</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing someone's personality • Expressing agreement and disagreement • Submitting a questionnaire and presenting its results <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indirect pronouns • Direct pronouns vs indirect pronouns • <i>Anche / neanche</i> • <i>A me sì / A me no</i> • <i>Mi sembra / mi sembrano</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nouns and adjectives for physical description • Personality adjectives
Objectives	<p>Be able to describe someone's personality using a variety of personality adjectives and express agreement or disagreement.</p> <p>Be able to correctly identify and use both direct and indirect Italian pronouns, understanding the difference in function and placement between the two.</p> <p>Be able to formulate opinions and describe appearances using the expressions <i>mi sembra / mi sembrano</i> and apply nouns and adjectives for physical description.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 7	
Meet	In class
Lecture	Unit 11 – Prendiamo il treno?

	<p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making, accepting and refusing an invitation • Reading timetables • Buying a ticket • Asking for and providing information on means of transport, prices and time • Expressing distances and durations <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of <i>nessuno, niente</i> • Past tense: <i>imperfetto indicativo</i> (forms and use) • <i>Imperfetto</i> forms of irregular verbs <i>essere, fare, bere, dire</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means of transport
Objectives	<p>Be able to make, accept, or politely refuse an invitation and ask for/provide information on means of transport, prices, time, distances, and durations.</p> <p>Be able to read and understand a timetable and use the vocabulary related to means of transport to successfully buy a ticket.</p> <p>Be able to form and correctly use the <i>imperfetto indicativo</i> (imperfect tense) for both regular and irregular verbs (<i>essere, fare, bere, dire</i>) and appropriately use negative words like <i>nessuno</i> and <i>niente</i>.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 8	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>QUIZ 2</p> <p>Unit 11 – Prendiamo il treno?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing past situations and actions that occurred repeatedly • Describing a place • Talking about one's childhood • Writing a short story about one's childhood <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Passato prossimo</i> vs <i>imperfetto</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Means of transport
Objectives	Be able to describe past situations and actions that occurred repeatedly (habits)

	<p>and describe a place by correctly using the imperfetto indicativo.</p> <p>Be able to differentiate between and correctly apply the passato prossimo and the imperfetto to discuss completed actions versus ongoing or habitual past actions, especially when talking about childhood.</p> <p>Be able to write a short story about their childhood using a combination of the passato prossimo and the imperfetto and incorporate vocabulary related to means of transport.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 9	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 12 – Ti vesti alla moda?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking for and saying one's size • Asking for discounts • Describing one's look • Expressing likes and dislikes <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns: <i>questo, quello</i> <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colours, fabrics and fabrics patterns • Clothing and shoe sizes
Objectives	<p>Be able to ask for and state their clothing or shoe size and ask for discounts while shopping.</p> <p>Be able to express likes and dislikes and describe their look using vocabulary for colours, fabrics, and fabric patterns.</p> <p>Be able to correctly use the Italian demonstrative adjectives and pronouns (questo and quello) to refer to specific items of clothing.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p>

Lesson 10	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p>Unit 12 – Ti vesti alla moda?</p> <p>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making polite requests • Expressing wishes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving advice <p>GRAMMAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Imperativo informale singolare</i> (affirmative and negative forms) Irregular forms of <i>imperativo</i>: <i>abbi, bevi</i> Position of direct and indirect pronouns with <i>imperative</i> <i>Present conditional</i> (regular and irregular forms) <p>VOCABULARY:</p> <p>Accessories and shops</p>
Objectives	<p>Be able to give advice and express wishes or polite requests by correctly using the Italian present conditional (regular and irregular forms).</p> <p>Be able to issue informal, singular commands (affirmative and negative <i>imperativo</i>) using both regular and irregular forms (<i>abbi, bevi</i>).</p> <p>Be able to describe and discuss accessories and shops using the relevant vocabulary, and correctly position direct and indirect pronouns with the imperative mood.</p>
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: relevant activities will be selected from Matteo La Grassa textbook.</p> <p>Assignment assigned, due by next class meet: The instructor will provide students with specific homework.</p> <p>ORAL PRESENTATION</p>

Lesson 11 Final Exam	
Meet	In class
Lecture	FINAL EXAM