



SQUOLA – CENTER FOR CULTURAL AND ITALIAN STUDIES
SAS – SCHOOL OF ART AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES / ITALIAN LANGUAGE /
GENERAL HORTICULTURE / ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES / SOCIOLOGY
COURSE TITLE: GROW GREEN AND LEARN ITALIAN WALKS
COURSE CODE: ISISGF201, ISITGF201, HCGHGF201, LSESGF201, LSSOGF201
3 Semester Credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course offers an innovative way to learn the Italian language and develop environmental consciousness while exploring Florence and its green urban areas. Through the study of the relationship between humans and nature, the human role in ecology, and the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, students will learn basic Italian vocabulary and usage in the form of experiential learning. The course aims to develop four basic Italian language skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking), while providing experiences and on-site lessons aimed at expanding the connection between individuals and the natural world and developing sustainable lifestyles. Each topic, excursion, and experience will be supported by a structured class of Italian language, providing a great opportunity to explore Florence, its parks, its people, and its traditions from a new perspective while learning and practicing the Italian language. This course includes an Italian language component for beginning-level students.

SLC (Studies with a Language Component) represents an engaging approach to learning that embraces a multi-disciplinary application of cultural education methods. This stimulating approach broadens students' understanding of their studies and creates a link between their academic careers and the local cultural environment which surrounds them. Through SLC courses, students learn notions of Italian language and terminology as a bridge to better understand and appreciate Italy's modern, multifaceted society. By being exposed to the Italian language, Students discover different elements of Italian communication and culture and learn the linguistic fundamentals that enable them to engage in simple, everyday conversation. While doing so, they examine the sociological and pedagogical aspects of Italy such as society, politics, education, family, geography, and the environment. SLC is a learning methodology that integrates theory with practice: students learn the culture and language of Italy in class, then experience what they have learned through interaction with the local communities within the city of Florence and its neighborhoods. Diverse student populations benefit from this educational approach.

The approach of this course is based on experiencing the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Classes are not held in a traditional, frontal-style setting; each lesson is carefully mapped for curricular content and featured locations: lectures, observations, exercises, analysis, and reflections on presented topics are held in relevant sites that are accounted for in the academic planning, syllabus, and related course material. Coursework and submissions will be regularly assessed on the course site platform through daily assignments in addition to exams, papers, and projects. Learning through the on-site classroom approach fosters a deeper understanding of the cultural environment of Florence and how it is related to the subject of study represented by the course, and allows the overall experience to contribute to the students' academic and personal enrichment.

2. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Display awareness of Italian culture and society
- Identify the main “green” Florentine areas and the role they play in the urban fabric
- Understand the Italian “green” habits and attitude
- Gain knowledge of the environmental issues concerning the city of Florence
- Interact with the local community
- Identify the characteristics and variables of Italian culture as a framework for environmental consciousness and communication
- Improve their skills in Italian language and engage simple conversations with Italian people
- Read and write short and basic texts in Italian language

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, discussions, and site visits within the local community. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable. As described in point 1, lessons are not held in traditional classroom settings but are based on the city of Florence as the academic space for learning and engagement. Please review the course description for the structural approach and method of coursework.

5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

Textbook and Structure Insights (as a book published by the school) will be available during the first week.

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

FURTHER READINGS

Bagnoli, Franco et al. “Urban Gardening in Florence and Prato: How a Science Shop Project Proposed by Citizens Has Grown into a Multi-Disciplinary Research Subject,” in *Journal of Sustainable Development*; Vol. 11, No. 6; 2018. Available [here](#).

Beltrame, Lorenzo et al. *Climate Change Communication in Italy*, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science, 2017. Available [here](#).

Campbell, Katie. *Paradise of Exiles: the Anglo-Florentine Garden*, University of Bristol, 2017. Available [here](#).

Caneva, Caterina. *The Boboli Gardens*, Beccocchi Editore, 1982.

Impelluso, Lucia & Sartarell, Stephen. *Nature and Its Symbols (A Guide to Imagery Series)*, Getty Trust Publications, 2004.

La Grassa, Matteo. *L’Italiano all’Università*, EDILINGUA, 2013.

Lazzaro, Claudia. *The Italian Renaissance Garden: from the Conventions of Planting, Design, and Ornament to the Grand Gardens of Sixteenth-Century Central Italy*, Yale University Press, 1990.

Pozzana, M. Chiara. *Gardens of Florence and Tuscany. A complete guide*, Giunti edizioni, 2011.

Singh R., "Medicinal plants: a review," in *Journal of Plant Sciences*, 1, 2015. Available [here](#).

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES:

British Pathé, *Florence Floods Aftermath (1966)*, 2014. Available [here](#).

Florence TV, *Tradizioni Firenze: la Rificolona*, 2018. Available [here](#).

LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTE GUELFA

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/

BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

www.bibliotecadelleoblate.it

THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: www.britishinstitute.it/en

6. FIELD LEARNING

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

7. COURSE MATERIALS

No additional course materials are necessary.

8. 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. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

10% Attendance

10% Participation

15% Assignments

20% Reflection Journal

20% Midterm Exam or Special/Research Project

25% Final Exam

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

Absences are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category. Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.

It is the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

Participation: Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

The **Midterm Exam** accounts for 20% of the final course grade. It consists of a multiple-choice questionnaire (50 questions) which will test the students on green knowledge as well as the Italian language component covered in class. **The date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason.**

The **Final Exam** accounts for 25% of the final course grade. It consists of a multiple-choice questionnaire (50 questions) which will test the students on green knowledge as well as the Italian language component covered in class. **The date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason.**

The **Assignments** account for a total of 15% of the final grade. These are exploratory assignments related to the course content. Students are assessed by their accuracy, punctuality and competence.

The **Reflection Journal** accounts for the 20% of the Final Course Grade. Students will engage in a daily writing exercise, discussing topics covered in class and observations about the city of Florence developed during their stay.

12. LESSONS

Lesson 1	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Introduction to Florence: History and Green spaces of the city.

	<p>Roman Florence: The Roman aqueduct. Old Rivers and Green Areas of Florence.</p> <p>Language component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicative function: introduce yourself with verbs <i>essere</i>, <i>avere</i> and <i>stare</i>. • Vocabulary: greetings, numbers and personal information.
Objectives	<p>Gain an understanding of the Italian culture and its multicultural nature. Gain an awareness of the environmental issues. Identify Roman remains in contemporary Florence. Gain knowledge of ancient geography features of Florence and be able to identify old rivers and green areas. Recognize the global goals to be achieved for sustainable development.</p>
Visit	Via del Campidoglio; Via del Proconsolo; Via di Capaccio; Via della Ninna; Cafaggio, Via degli Alfani.
Readings/Assignments	Read: AAVV, <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 3-14.

Lesson 2	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	<p>The Arno River: Benefits and Intercultural Communication. The Florentine Flood and the American “Angels of Mud” Experience.</p> <p>Language component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: negative form, formal use of <i>Lei</i>. • Vocabulary: animals and plants of the river. • Communicative function: ask to repeat, to spell.
Objectives	<p>Identify how the Arno River benefits the city of Florence. Gain an understanding of how a river fosters a sense of community. Gain knowledge of the 1966 Florentine Flood and the “Angels of Mud”. Gain knowledge of the Renaioli and the role they play in the Florentine community.</p>
Visit	Piazza dei Cavalleggeri, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze; Lungarno Diaz, I Renaioli; Lungarno Anna Maria Luisa de’ Medici, Società Canottieri Firenze; Ponte Santa Trinita; Lungarno Soderini, Pescaia di Santa Rosa.
Readings/Assignments	<p>Watch: British Pathé, <i>Florence Floods Aftermath (1966)</i>.</p> <p>Assignment: Visit the Arno River and take pictures of at least 5 different animals and plants. Look up the Italian equivalent in the dictionary.</p>

Lesson 3	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	<p>Farmer’s Markets: Typical Products from the Florentine Area.</p> <p>Language component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: <i>vorrei</i> structure, regular verbs from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes, irregular verb <i>fare</i> and nouns. • Vocabulary: shops, measures, food and beverage, days of the week, months and seasons. • Communicative function: make a shopping list, grocery shopping, ask and tell prices.
Objectives	<p>Become familiar with concepts such as “slow food” and “<i>chilometro zero</i>”; understand how “Green” behavior fosters them. Get to know typical products from the Florentine area and their use in local</p>

	restaurants. Gain an understanding of the interaction between local industry and local market activity.
Visit	Mercato di Sant'Ambrogio, Piazza Ghiberti; Mercato di San Lorenzo, Piazza del Mercato Centrale; Ganzo, Via dei Macci.
Readings/Assignments	Read: AAVV., <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 54-55 and 57-65.

Lesson 4	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Community Gardens: Mission and Social Use of Green Urban Areas. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: irregular verb <i>fare</i>, <i>mi piace/mi piacciono</i> structure, modal verbs. • Vocabulary: expressions with verb <i>fare</i>, expressions related to the weather. • Communicative function: give and follow instructions, describe and give information about weather.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about community gardens in the urban landscape. Recognize the paramount role of green areas in an urban context and understand new policies to increase them. Become familiar with the agricultural world. Get to know the irrigation process, different types of pesticides and the concept of composting.
Visit	Giardino Caduti e Dispersi in Russia, Viale Giuseppe Mazzini; Giardino delle Vittime Civili di Guerra, Piazza Giorgio Vasari; Le cure dell'orto, Via Faentina.
Readings/Assignments	Read: AAVV. <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 51, pp. 74-76 and 89-90. Read: Bagnoli, Franco et al. <i>Urban Gardening in Florence and Prato: How a Science Shop Project Proposed by Citizens Has Grown into a Multi-Disciplinary Research Subject</i> .

Lesson 5	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Urban Villas: Private Spaces Available for the Local Community. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: common adjectives ending in -O/-A and -E. • Vocabulary: nationality adjectives, park vocabulary, art and architectural elements, colors. • Communicative function: introduce other people, describe artworks and natural elements.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of important foreign people that settled in Florence. Be able to identify the main characteristics featuring 19 th century gardens. Gain knowledge of Frederick Stibbert and its museum.
Visit	Cimitero degli Inglesi, Piazzale Donatello; Giardino del Museo Stibbert, Via Stibbert.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Pozzana, <i>Gardens of Florence and Tuscany</i> , pp. 98-99. Read: Campbell, Katie. <i>Paradise of Exiles: the Anglo-Florentine Garden</i> , pp. 147-149.

Lesson 6	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi

Lecture	Urban Involvement of Hills Surrounding Florence. Giardino del Bobolino. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: <i>c'è/ci sono</i> structure, definite and indefinite articles, simple prepositions, verbs <i>sapere</i> and <i>conoscere</i>. • Vocabulary: urban locations, means of transport. • Communicative function: give and ask for directions, describe a city.
Objectives	Learn about the Bobolino Garden and its unique location in the city of Florence. Gain knowledge of urban project called Viale dei Colli and the involvement in the urban fabric of the surrounding hill. Gain knowledge of Medicean and significant historical locations featuring the hill.
Visit	Costa di San Giorgio; Via di San Leonardo; Giardino del Bobolino, Viale Machiavelli.
Readings/Assignments	Read: AAVV, <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 56 and 77.

Lesson 7	
Meet	Course site
Lecture	MIDTERM EXAM

Lesson 8	
NA	ACADEMIC BREAK

Lesson 9	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Botanical Herbs and Gardens. Local habitats. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary: herbs and diseases. • Communicative function: express sickness.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about Florentine Flora and the Ecosystem. Understand different roles of plants and herbs in the history of Florence. Be able to identify properties and benefits deriving from plants.
Visit	Via degli Speciali; Via Pier Antonio Micheli; Giardino della Fortezza, Viale Filippo Strozzi. The visit will also include a local pharmacy.
Readings/Assignments	Read: Pozzana, <i>Gardens of Florence and Tuscany</i> , pp. 38-39. Read: Singh R., "Medicinal plants: a review," in <i>Journal of Plant Sciences</i> , 1, 2015, pp. 50-55. Assignment: Visit a botanical garden and describe its history and its mission.

Lesson 10	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Farms: Typical Farming and Cultivations in the Florentine Countryside. The Cascine Park. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: possessive adjectives and pronouns. • Vocabulary: family ties, pets, physical adjectives. • Communicative function: talk about your family and describe people.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the Cascine Park and its history. Identify typical cultivations and products coming from the Florentine countryside.

	Gain an understanding of quality certifications applied to typical products. Gain knowledge of organic and biodynamic cultivation practices.
Visit	Parco delle Cascine, Piazzale delle Cascine.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: AAVV, <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , 41-48.

Lesson 11	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Churches and Peasant Activity: Harvest Holidays and Traditions Rificolona Feast. Impact of Climate Change on Local Cultivation. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary: furniture, objects of the table, weather. • Communicative function: talk about habits and traditions, talk about the weather.
Objectives	Gain knowledge about several peasant traditions and holidays in Florence and how they still today foster a sense of community. Gain knowledge about market life in ancient Florence. Gain an understanding of the climate change issue and its impact on local cultivation. Become familiar with the concepts of global warming and climate change.
Visit	Giardino di Borgo Allegri, Borgo Allegri; Giardino Antonino Caponnetto, Lungarno del Tempio; Parco dell'Albereta, Parco dell'Anconella, Via di Villamagna.
Readings/ Assignments	Watch: Florence TV, <i>Tradizioni Firenze: la Rificolona</i> . Read: AAVV, <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 27-31. Read: Beltrame, <i>Climate Change Communication in Italy</i> .

Lesson 12	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Urban Parks. Parco di Villa "Il Ventaglio": the Romantic Garden. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: reflexive verbs, frequency adverbs. • Vocabulary: gardening, hobbies and habits. • Communicative function: ask and tell time, talk about hobbies and free time.
Objectives	Gain knowledge of the Orticoltura Garden and its history. Become aware of activities taking place in the Orticoltura Garden. Be able to talk about free time and hobbies.
Visit	Piazza Fra' Girolamo Savonarola; Piazza delle Cure; Parco di Villa "Il Ventaglio", Via Giovanni Aldini.
Readings/ Assignments	Read: AAVV, <i>Communicating in Italian</i> , pp. 115-123.

Lesson 13	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	Green Urban Areas Fostering Physical Activity. Language component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: verbs <i>giocare</i> and <i>suonare</i>.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary: outdoor sports, parts of the body. • Communicative function: follow a training schedule.
Objectives	<p>Identify benefits deriving from outdoor physical activity.</p> <p>Identify green areas supporting and fostering physical activity.</p> <p>Gain knowledge of the initiatives promoted by the Municipality of Florence and the facilities made available to the community.</p>
Visit	Piazza Ferrucci; Villa di Rusciano, Via di Ripoli.
Readings/ Assignments	Assignment: create your training schedule for an outdoor activity using Italian words.

Lesson 14	
Meet	Piazza dei Ciompi
Lecture	<p>Flower Markets: Ornamental Plants and Flowers.</p> <p>Language component:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammar: temporal connectives. • Vocabulary: jobs and profession names, plants and flowers. • Communicative function: talk about jobs.
Objectives	<p>Gain knowledge of flower markets throughout the city of Florence.</p> <p>Understand the positive impacts of botany and horticulture on environmental practices.</p> <p>Identify the main naturalistic elements of Florentine history and environment.</p> <p>Identify the typical symbology of plants and its meaning in Florence.</p>
Visit	Piazza Nicola Demidoff; Porta San Niccolò, Lungarno Cellini; Giardino delle Rose, Viale Giuseppe Poggi. The visit will also include local flower shops.
Readings/ Assignments	<p>Read: Impelluso, <i>Nature and its Symbols</i>, pp. 43-49, 69-71 and 85-89.</p> <p>Submit Reflection Journal.</p>

Lesson 15	
Meet	Course site
Lecture	FINAL EXAM