



SQUOLA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN STUDIES (IT)

SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE
COURSE TITLE: COMMUNICATING IN ITALIAN
COURSE CODE: ISITCI101
3 semester credits

1. DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the relationship between students and the city. Students will receive an overview of basic Italian language structures used to develop communication skills. Students will also develop a vocabulary that will enable them to engage in simple but useful everyday conversations, thus enhancing and supporting their Italian experience. Upon course conclusion, students will be able to express themselves in daily life contexts such as shopping for food, clothes, interacting with Italians, talking about yourself, habits, and hobbies. Emphasis will be given to oral expression of practical vocabulary. This level is for absolute beginner students who have never studied Italian before. The coursework will invite students to practice the acquired knowledge in a native environment.

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. Students will be required to complete written hand-in assignments to strengthen the structures/ vocabulary they acquired.

Grammar

- Acquiring the basic structures of the language.
- Simple structures and sentence patterns.

Vocabulary

- Understanding and using the basic vocabulary regarding main daily life situations.
- Mastering the basic vocabulary necessary for the most common and concrete communicative situations.

Listening

- Understanding the most commonly used expressions in daily verbal communication, such a simple information and very brief dialogues, instructions addressed carefully and slowly.

Speaking

- Using the most common colloquial expressions in daily social communication for self- identification, greetings, asking for and giving basic information.
- Using the language in order to identify and describe (in limited terms).

Reading

- Understanding simple texts for practical use.

3. REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

4. METHOD

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, and projects. Mediums for instruction used will

include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

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.

Oxford or Webster English-Italian dictionary.

The dictionary has been pre-ordered and should be purchased after the first class meeting at FELTRINELLI, Via de' Cerretani 40.

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

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

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

15% Participation (in class + in the field)

20% Hand-in Assignments

20% Midterm Exam
25% Final Exam
10% Final Oral Project work

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

Midterm Exam counts for 20% of the final course grade.

The Midterm Exam will be based on structures and topics presented in class from the beginning of the semester to date. The Midterm Exam consists of multiple choice questions as well as fill-in the blanks exercises, find the opposite term exercises, reading with true/false or multiple choice replies and a listening comprehension. The number of points and duration given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.

Final Oral Project Work counts for 10% of the final grade. Students will be assigned a topic related to the lessons.

Oral Skills Improvement counts for 5% of the final grade. Instructor will take into consideration any effort and any oral skill improvement students might have during the course.

Assignments count for 20% of the final course grade.

Student commitment in these activities is strongly recommended, since they constitute an essential part of the

course. Dates are specified on course website. There will be a total of 4 assignments. Topics will include what will be studied during the 3 lessons before the project is assigned

Final Exam counts for 20% the final course grade and is cumulative. The Final Exam consists of multiple choice questions as well as fill-in the blanks exercises, find the opposite term exercises, reading with true/false or multiple choice replies and a listening comprehension. The number of points and duration given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.

12. LESSONS

Please note: in cases of shortened class periods with more than 15 meetings, lectures are divided into portions A and B.

	LESSON 1
Lecture	A
	Introduction to the course and the syllabus. Orientation and cultural introduction to Florence.
	B
Visit	Historical and practical walking tours and visits during class meeting time.

	LESSON 2
Lecture	A
	Mi presento COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Introducing yourself, giving and asking your name and personal details (age, address, telephone number). Greeting people. Asking and saying nationality. Using formal and informal register. Agreeing and denying. STRUCTURES: Mi chiamo / ti chiami / si chiama. Come stai? Come si scrive? Ciao / Arrivederci. Numbers 0 to 10. Alphabet. VOCABULARY: The class: objects and actions.
	B
On site	Oblate library: short interviews with Italians.

	LESSON 3
Lecture	A
	Al bar COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Ordering at the café or at a tabacchi. Offering something at the café. Asking for information on food and drinks. Asking to pay. Asking questions. STRUCTURES: Vorrei ... Che cosa prendi? Quant'è? Quanto costa? Quale? VOCABULARY: At the bar, at a tabacchi, money and prices.
	B
On Site	Visit of historical coffee shops in Florence.
	ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 1

	LESSON 4
Lecture	A
	Al ristorante COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Ordering at a restaurant. Reading and asking about the menu. Asking for the bill. Reserving a table. Ordering food to be home delivered. Asking for and telling the time. STRUCTURES: Che cosa prendi come primo, secondo ecc.? Che cosa prendi da bere? Vorrei prenotare un tavolo per... Vorrei ordinare una pizza a domicilio. VOCABULARY: The restaurant, meals and food / beverages, Florentine typical food, days of the week, hours of the

	day.
	B
On site	Let's discover some interesting restaurants!

	LESSON 5
Lecture	A
	Io e gli altri COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Identifying and introducing people. Talking about you, what you do and when. Describing your family STRUCTURES: Chi è? Che cosa fa? Che cosa fai: studi o lavori? Che lavoro fai? A che ora? Che cosa fanno nel loro lavoro? Possessive adjectives. VOCABULARY: Jobs. Family members.
	B
In class	Take photos of your family and describe them.

	LESSON 6
Lecture	A
	Facciamo la spesa COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Shopping in a market, supermarket and in a shop. STRUCTURES: Vorrei un chilo/etto di... Quanto? VOCABULARY: Florentine markets, shops and stores. Food (reprise) and containers.
	B
On site	Visiting markets, supermarkets or typical food shops.
	ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 2

	LESSON 7
Lecture	A
	COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + STRUCTURES: General review
	B
In class	MIDTERM EXAM

	LESSON 8 A + B
	No class – Midterm Break

	LESSON 9
Lecture	A
	Per favore dov'è la stazione? COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Asking and giving road instructions. Buying a train ticket at the station or online. Reading a train schedule. Geographical overview of Italy. STRUCTURES: Scusi, sa dov'è..., Devo arrivare a..., A che ora parte...? Posso prenotare un biglietto per...? VOCABULARY: The station, in the street.
	B
On site	To the station.
	ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 3

	LESSON 10
Lecture	A
	La cucina italiana COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Reading and writing a recipe. Talking about preferences, dislikes and allergies in food. Make invitations for meals in restaurants. Regional dishes STRUCTURES: Mi piace/ ti piace/ le/gli piace...., So cucinare, Che ne dici di...? VOCABULARY: Actions in the kitchen. Weights and measures.

	B
On site	Food tasting / Preparing an Italian dish.

	LESSON 11
Lecture	A
	Facciamo spese COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Expressing your preferences and interacting in a clothes and shoe shop. STRUCTURES: Come mi sta? Di che colore è? Quale colore preferisci? VOCABULARY: Clothes, colours and sizes.
	B
On site	Visiting shops and department stores.

	LESSON 12
Lecture	A
	In farmacia COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Explaining symptoms of common diseases. STRUCTURES: Avrei bisogno di..., Ho mal di..., VOCABULARY: In a pharmacy, diseases and treatments. E' alto, bello e ha gli occhi azzurri.... COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Physical description. VOCABULARY: Body and adjectives for physical description.
	B
On site	Practical activity in the city
Assignment	ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 4

	LESSON 13
Lecture	A
	Il tempo libero COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Talking about free time, talking about movies and music. Make an invitation to go out with a friend. STRUCTURES: Che cosa fai nel tempo libero? Fai sport? Conosci il cinema e la musica italiana? Mi piace/ non mi piace + verbo, Preferisco.... Ti va di andare...? VOCABULARY: Movie and music genres, hobbies and sports.
	B
In class	Selection of videos of Italian films and music.

	LESSON 14
Lecture	A + B
	FINAL ORAL PROJECT

	LESSON 15
Lecture	A
	COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + STRUCTURES General review
In class	B
	FINAL EXAM