

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
Italian Studies Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Introduction to Italian Language and Culture

Course Number: ITL 100

Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours

Pre/Co-Requisites: None

No placement examination. This course does not constitute a pre-requisites for ITL 102.

This course can not be taken simultaneously with, or after successful completion of ITL 101.

Required Textbook (*subject to change*)

- Matteo La Grassa. *L'italiano all'universita' 1 for English Speakers*. Rome: EdiLingua, 2012.

Entry Fees

Students must pay their own entrance fees when required.

Course description

Open to students with no previous training in Italian, the course introduces features of the Italian language needed for interaction in everyday practical situations, such as the caffè, restaurant, accommodation and in shops. The course satisfies a limited number of immediate needs necessary for survival in the target language culture. Cultural topics, such as Italian gestures, the Italian family, the working world, religion, and women in Italy, will also be studied in order to familiarize the student with certain aspects of contemporary Italian society and culture.

This course does not constitute a prerequisite for ITL 102. No placement examination.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Speaking skill: convey some spoken Italian through usage of familiar and memorized structures that require the interchange of simple and direct information and satisfy a very limited number of immediate needs
2. Listening skill: grasp the general meaning of oral statements and questions on familiar subjects conveyed through memorized structures with simple morphology and lexicon in order to be able to respond to these announcements and questions and engage in a brief dialogue
3. Reading skill: read and grasp the general meaning of sentences and very brief simple texts by recognizing memorized structures and vocabulary.
4. Writing skill: produce two sentence-length texts with limited formulaic information by using elementary functions
5. Cultural skill: identify basic cultural rituals and practices in contemporary Italy

Course Learning Activities

- Listening skill - In-class listening activities: Students will listen to the instructor and to recorded texts the duration of which will be up to 100 words. Listening exercises include multiple choice or true/false type of questions formatted to assess their comprehension of the text
- Speaking skill - In-class oral activities: Students will practice oral proficiency singularly and in pairs. The type of practice exercises include: conversation between two students, monologues, role playing. Conversations, monologues and role-playing will be elicited by visual stimuli, texts, or questions from the instructor.
- Reading skill - In-class activities: Students will read sentences and simple texts from the textbook and hand-out materials. They will recognize memorized structures and vocabulary. Reading exercises include multiple choice or true/false type of questions formatted to assess their comprehension of the text.
- Writing skill - Homework assignments and in-class activities: Students will be asked to do grammar and vocabulary exercises by answering written questions.
- Cultural skill - Homework and in-class activities: Students will read descriptive and interpretative texts on Italian cultural rituals and practices. They will discuss these issues in class with the teacher. They will then be asked to identify and recognize outside of the classroom some of the rituals and practices they studied. They will share their observations with the rest of the class. Students will work in groups to present research in English on cultural topics of their choice.

Assessment tools

Written quizzes (2)	20%
Oral quizzes (2)	30%
Cultural Presentation	10%
Final exam	25%
Class Participation	10%
Homework	5%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Unit	Communicative function/ Topic	Grammar and Vocabulary
	PART I	TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF	
	Unità 1 – Ciao, io sono Anna. E tu? (pages 11-20)	Course introduction. Introducing yourself (name, surname, nationality, age). Greeting people. Asking for and giving addresses and telephone numbers. Asking questions, formally and informally. Asking how a word is pronounced and spelt.	Personal pronouns. The verbs <u>essere</u> and <u>avere</u> . The verb <u>chiamarsi</u> in the first, second and third persons singular. Negative sentences. Vocabulary: classroom objects, adjectives of nationality. Numbers from zero to 100. Alphabet.
Week 2	Unità 1 contin. – Ciao, io sono Anna. E tu?	Asking and talking about things in the singular and plural. Talking more about yourself: expressing feelings of hungry, thirsty etc.	Number and gender agreement of nouns and adjectives. (page 16 exerc.24; page 28 exerc. 15,16) Some idiomatic expressions with the verb <u>avere</u> .
	PART II	ORDERING & BUYING FOOD	
Week 3	Unità 3-Una bottiglia d'acqua, per favore. (pages 35-38) Unità 3- cont.	Ordering food and drink. Asking for and saying the price. Expressing likes and dislikes Asking permission to do things Grocery shopping	Mi piace/ Non mi piace Mi piacciono/ Non mi piacciono Indefinite articles Bar vocabulary & expressions Names of stores, grocery items Weights and measurements <i>Posso ...?</i>
Week 4	EXCURSION 1: Let's use and see what we have learned in class – visit outdoor market and stores in the area Written quiz 1		
Week 5	PART 3 – GETTING AROUND TOWN Unità 4- Vado a piedi o prendo l'autobus? (pages 47-51)	Ordering at the restaurant	Definite articles. (pages 29, 32) Vocabulary on Italian menù Review indefinite articles, <u>prendere</u> , <u>andare</u> verbs, expressions for giving directions

		Asking for and giving directions.	Vocabulary about the city; expressions of place; directions; buildings.
Week 6	Unità 4- Vado a piedi o prendo l'autobus? (pages 51-55) Review	Asking for and telling the time. Finding out the opening hours of offices and shops.	Telling the time and days of the week. <u>Aprire and chiudere</u> verbs
Week 7	Written quiz 2 Oral quiz 1		
Week 8	Cultural class 1 Cultural presentations and discussion Unità 5 – Dove abiti? Pp 60-62	Italian gestures Describing your house	Vocabulary for rooms of the house, furniture C'e'/ Ci sono
Week 9	Cultural class 2 Cultural presentations and discussion On-site class to Gianicolo area and its role in the Italian unification	"Italians: Who are they?" by Mario Mignone	
Week 10	Unità 5 – Dove abiti? Pp65-67 Cultural class 3 Cultural presentations and discussion	At the hotel "Food in Italy Today" by Carol Helstosky & "Tell me what you eat and I'll tell you who you are" by Massimo Montanari	Vocabulary and expressions for the hotel,
Week 11	On-site class (Cooking class, Eataly, etc) Unità 12 – Ti vesti alla moda?	Clothes shopping	Vocabulary and expressions for describing and buying clothes Colors
Week 12	Cultural class 4 Cultural presentations and discussion Oral quiz 2	Italian families	
Week 13	Cultural presentations and discussion/Film viewing Review& Course conclusion		
Week 14	Final exam		

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		