

Italian 1101 - Elementary Italian I – Course description

Required text

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Course goals

In this course students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Italian and an understanding of Italian culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- provide basic information in Italian about themselves, their families, interests, likes and dislikes, and daily activities;
- participate in a simple conversation on everyday topics (e.g. weather, meeting new people, school, shopping, etc.);
- read edited texts on familiar topics;
- understand the main ideas, and pick out important information from authentic texts (e.g. menus, signs, train schedules, etc.);
- fill in forms requesting general information, write letters and postcards providing simple information;
- provide general information about Italy (e.g. geography, weather, food, etc.);
- use and understand essential vocabulary related to everyday life (e.g. days of the week, colors, numbers, months, seasons, telling time, stores, family members, modes of transportation, etc.)
- produce Italian with enough grammatical accuracy and accurate pronunciation to be comprehensible to a native speaker of Italian.

Course requirements

Homework assignments include **written as well as oral** assignments.

Homework must be **legible and tidy**. You must show improvement by not repeating the same mistakes over and over. Homework is graded and counts towards your grade (see grading policy.)

All written homework and lab work is due on the day assigned and will not be accepted late **unless there are exceptional circumstances**.

All compositions must be submitted on the due date. **No late work will be accepted**.

Improvement is a very important part of the course and you are required to actively work on it. After your homework has been given back to you by your instructor, you must spend time **looking at your instructor's indications and comments, and make the requested corrections**.

An **absence** is not considered an excuse for not doing your assignment. Get the contact information of at least two classmates during the first week of class. If you are absent, contact them for any missed assignments. If necessary, contact your instructor.

There are announced **Quizzes**. They emphasize the vocabulary and grammatical structures contained in each chapter, and include listening comprehension, reading comprehension, dictation and writing. The lowest grade on a quiz is dropped. **There are no make-up quizzes**. If you miss a quiz, it will be counted as a 0 and dropped.

Exams include a Midterm and a Final Exam. Each exam has a **written** and an **oral** part to test your overall communicative abilities. During the semester you will have speaking assignments to build your speaking abilities.

Compositions. Students are expected to write 150-200 words on an assigned topic, using vocabulary and structures they have learned and practiced in class. Essays will be graded on comprehensibility, content/information, use of familiar vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy. Each essay will be written twice. After the first writing, students will receive comments about content and grammatical errors. In their second writing, students will incorporate the instructor's **suggestions** and make **corrections**. The final grade will be an average of both grades.

Class participation involves listening to your instructor and to your classmates every time they speak; **speaking only Italian** in class (gesturing is OK too!); taking notes from the board, and showing your progress in the homework by not repeating the same mistakes. Be prepared to work in groups or in pairs and contribute to the accomplishment of the task of your group, pair or entire class.

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**: language acquisition is a skill which needs regular practice. The instructor will take attendance each day. You are allowed **four absences** during the semester for classes which meet four times a week, and **three absences** for classes which meet three times a week. After the fourth (or the third) absence, your attendance and participation percentage of the grade will be lowered as follows:

0-4 (0-2 if class is twice a week):	A
5-6 (3)	B
7-8 (4)	C
9-10 (5)	D
11 or more (6 or more)	must drop the course or F

If class meets three times a week:

0-3	A
4-5	B
6-7	C
8-9	D
10 or more	must drop the course or F

We make exceptions for religious holidays.

A **doctor's note** does not represent an excuse for an absence, unless you are ill for a prolonged period of time with a severe illness that prevents you from going to class. In this case, your **Dean** must notify your instructor and you are expected to make up the work. Doctor appointments, job interview and such are absolutely not accepted as excuses. You are responsible for studying on your own any missed material.

If you arrive late to class consistently you might be asked to leave the class. Late arrivals disrupt the class. Also, you are expected to stay till the end of every class. Early departures are not permitted unless you have a very special reason and you inform your instructor at the beginning of class. **Unjustified late arrivals** or **early departures** count as absences. A **delay of more than 5 minutes** for three times counts as absence.

Your final grade is based on:

Attendance and participation/oral activities/ sketches	20%
Homework (written, oral, lab)	10%
Quizzes	20%
Compositions	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam (written)	15%
Final exam (oral)	10%

Your final letter grade will be calculated as follows:

A+	= 100 plus
A	= 94-100
A-	= 90-93
B+	= 87-89
B	= 83-86
B-	= 80-82
C+	= 77-79
C	= 73-76
C-	= 70-72
D	= 65-69
F	= 0-64

Undergraduate students CANNOT take this course for Pass/Fail.

TUTORING SERVICES

Some students will find that they benefit from the aid of a tutor. The Department of Italian posts a list of graduate students who make themselves available for paid individual tutoring.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Caffè e conversazione is an informal group that meets once a week in Hamilton. The group, open to all levels including beginners, provides an informal setting to practice Italian and to meet other

students, as well as some native speakers of Italian. All studying Italian and all Italian speaking students on campus are invited. Ask your instructor for weekly hours.

SERATA AL CINEMA

The department sponsors an Italian film series during the semester. **Attendance is warmly suggested.** Attendance can count as **extra-credit**. Ask your instructor for further information, date, place and time.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who have completed three semesters or more of college Italian are eligible for studying in Italy. Students can spend one semester or one year studying in Bologna, Florence, Padua, Rome, or another Italian city. Students can also spend a summer studying in Italy with one of several programs. For the Columbia Study Abroad program in Venice, please contact Prof. Elizabeth Leake (e12598@columbia.edu). For information on study abroad in other cities, students will find relevant brochures in the Italian Department.