
ITALY CENTER

 SPRING HILL COLLEGE

ELEMENTARY ITALIAN (101)

CREDITS: 3 credits

Instructors: Lorenza Fabretti,
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Maddalena Papini

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Office hours: by appointment

Course Description: Our teaching method of Italian as a foreign language for adult university students who are beginner learners is essentially communicative and shares the following global goals, directed to each and every student:

- Develop awareness and capability to gradually and immediately access the language and its socio-cultural reality through documents derived from Italian life and through the practice of learning by interacting with the surrounding world;
- Promote the process of active acquisition in which lexicon and grammar feed each other reciprocally through a constant practice of the lexical and grammatical structures learned. The borders between grammatical and lexical spheres fade away and the priorities are defined by the actual communicative situation. The grammatical explanations are never proposed as “abstract rules” but they are activated as “essential aspects” of language life.

Bearing this in mind, it is recommended to use authentic documents (newspaper articles, audio and visual recordings, film tracks) in order to favor a direct communication between students, focused on language and cultural variety and aimed at progressively developing learners’ autonomy starting from basic contents.

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the Italian language. This is an intensive course that combines a normal semester’s worth of material into a six week session. Emphasis will be placed on developing speaking, listening - comprehension, reading and writing expressions and grammar sufficient to support these. Through in-class activities and homework assignments, students can expect to learn about modern Italy, including geography, culture, history, and society. The fact that Spring Hill students reside in the *Collegio Alma Mater* Residence Hall offers a rich language immersion opportunity to practice daily class lessons in one’s life in the residence hall. The majority of Friday’s will include a cultural trip, allowing one to practice his/her language skills in the city while offering exposure to some of the hidden treasures, markets and galleries of Bologna.

Our teaching method deems extremely important:

- Concentration on a progressive acquisition of abilities balanced between active and passive competences;
- Assurance of the highest consideration and involvement of the learners in the listening phase, reading, grammatical analysis, and in linguistic restitution;
- Maintaining the permanent relationship between oral understanding and oral expression, written comprehension and written expression.

Course Objectives: These are the basic themes considered:

Identity: introduce yourself, your family, talking about your profession, your study;

Time: the hours, daily activities, comparison between the city and the suburbs, etc.;

Shopping: buying in markets and stores, etc.;

Your new city and your city back home: moving around town and communication with its inhabitants;

Study: schools and universities;

Food: gastronomy and food culture;

Weather;

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Jobs and professions;
Health.

This theme progression is generally the basis for developing the presentation and analysis of grammatical and lexical material of all language levels, including low intermediate, intermediate, high-intermediate, advanced.

The use of translation is not foreseen, if not in exceptional cases and only in the face of specific problems (better if translated explanations take place during office hours or at the end of the lesson).

The proposed contents are identified considering not only the traditional sequence of the learner's sphere of interest but also his or her needs to gradually pin down basic structures in communication.

Class meetings will focus on developing communicative ability necessary to use the language in the situations above mentioned. Classes will strive to stimulate curiosity towards the Italian culture through out-of-classroom activities.

Learning Outcomes. Upon completion of Italian 101, students should be able to:

- use basic structures of Italian grammar in speaking and writing
- express personal needs, likes and dislikes in a variety of situations (greetings, introductions, obtaining and discussing food and lodging, carrying out simple transactions, transportation)
- describe themselves and their family, travels and routine, food and eating habits
- be informed on Italian history, culture, geography as structured in the course
- read and comprehend basic written texts
- comprehend basic conversational Italian
- write e-mails and short compositions

Course Requirements: There exists no "pass or fail" option in this course. Course requirements include two tests and a two final exam (oral and written). Tests will be at the end of each chapter and will be cumulative from each chapter.

*Please note Friday cultural excursions will require that you pay for certain items (coffee, small purchase at the market, etc). **You can expect to spend approximately 5 Euro (6 USD) for fees related to the cultural sessions.** In addition **all students will be asked to pay 8 euros towards the costs of the mandatory Montesole day trip.**

Regular attendance, completion of all homework assignments on their due date and active participation are essential (see the section on Class Participation below). Make-up tests and exams will be provided only in accordance with Spring Hill College Italy Center policy regarding excused absences (see attendance policy).

Required Italian 101&102 Reader/Course Workbook: Each students is required to purchase the following materials (approximate costs):

1. Course Reader: A course packet will be provided by the professors on the first day of class. The packet will include two volumes (grammar and reader) composed of materials from a broad range of resources. Costs

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are included in the tuition fees.

2. Dictionary: Students are advised to purchase one of the following Italian-English dictionaries and are encouraged to buy a dictionary on Italian Verbs (pocket/travel dictionaries are unsuitable).

Suggested editions are:

Oxford "Essential Italian Dictionary" € 12.00

or

Garzanti "I dizionari Piccoli Garzanti" € 14.50

or

Lagonscheidt "Dizionario Plus Inglese" € 15.50

3. Verb Book: Students are also advised to buy an Italian Verbs book (pocket/travel dictionaries are unsuitable).

Suggested editions are:

Guerra Edizioni "I verbi italiani: regolari e irregolari" "Nuova edizione di Angelo Chiuchù - Maria Cristina Fazi - Maria Rosaria Bagianti € 12.00

Spring Hill College Italy Center Attendance Policy : In the event a student misses more than one class he/she will automatically be marked down one grade point. A student may be absent one time before being penalized. For example, if a student is expected to receive a "B" for a course, but has one unexcused absence on his/her report, the final grade for the course will be dropped to a "B-". If a student has two unexcused absences the final grade will be dropped two grade points. Excused absences require a note from the Spring Hill medical Doctor (Stephen Williams, M.D.) or from Dr. Todd Waller. Any change in status which will result in absence, the student must contact their professor immediately. If a student is 15 minutes late or more for class he/she will be considered absent. It is a student's responsibility to keep him/herself informed of pending strikes, changes in air travel and any other potential

obstacles that may prohibit one from being at class on time. Excuses related to travel delays will not be accepted. Examinations missed by medical reason of absence must be made up at the convenience of the instructor. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the course schedule and should not attempt to make travel plans that may conflict with course meetings, on site visits, and exams.

Students are expected to attend classes on Fridays. In the unlikely event a student is absent and misses the Cultural Friday activities (NB: more than one absence your grade will drop), he or she is required to complete the missed assignment by the following Thursday.

Accommodation Policy: In order to be eligible for accommodations (i.e. extended time on exams and tests) you are required to present an official letter from your home institution indicating that you may receive support. The letter which normally comes from one's home campus Center for Academic Support must be presented to me and also to Dr. Waller prior to the Italy Center drop / add deadline (see Italy Center Webpage for calendar deadlines / <http://kudzu.shc.edu/italycenter/>). A note provided by a home physician or counselor will not suffice. Any information provided will be treated as private and confidential.

Class Participation:

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A-range: Student is clearly curious and has thought about the articles and exercises assigned and has contributed in nearly every discussion with thoughtful questions and comments that demonstrate an engagement with the target culture, the presentations, and her classmates.

B-range: Student is clearly curious and has thought about the articles and exercises under discussion and has contributed regularly in discussion with thoughtful questions and comments that demonstrate an engagement with the target language, the presentations, and her classmates.

C-range: Student has practiced but has not demonstrated thoughtfulness towards the exercises and articles under discussion, or student has not clearly thoughtfully practiced on a regular basis OR student has thoughtfully practiced on a regular basis but has not contributed in discussion regularly with thoughtful questions and comments that demonstrate an engagement with the target culture, the readings, the presentations, and her classmates.

D-range: Student has not regularly read the articles under discussion or completed the exercises OR student has not contributed in class interactions on an intermittent basis.

F-range: Student has not regularly read the articles or completed exercises AND student has not contributed in class interaction on an intermittent basis.

This course is based on a participatory method. As such, being prepared to participate in discussions is a course requirement. This entails having **read, annotated, and thought** about the complete assignment carefully before class starts. More broadly speaking: Ask and answer questions in Italian when possible. Be curious. Listen actively to your fellow students' work.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism and academic dishonesty/impropriety on examinations, papers and any other assignments will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Please read the appropriate pages in the Student Handbook (to be found in Dr. Waller's office).

Italy Center academic expectations: Attendance at all classes is required of all students. Students are expected to arrive at class on time, having completed the week's course readings and assignments, with a pen, paper and books in-hand. If a student is 15 minutes late or more for class he/she will be considered absent. Students are expected to read their email daily to keep abreast of important academic and safety related issues. It is the student's responsibility to notify his/her teachers of an anticipated absence, make arrangements to complete the work, and then complete the work as agreed. Students are not allowed to use electronic devices in the class, such as iPads, Notebooks and cellular phones, unless specified by the instructor.

Please refrain yourself from taking bathroom breaks during short classes. If you are reluctant to speak up, please talk to me and we'll figure out a way for you to participate. **Your active participation will be consequently factored into your final grade for the course.** Here are some examples on how students have been marked down in the past: **Texting in the classroom; leaving the classroom to use the restroom for extensive period of time (during exam days there are no bathroom breaks), leaving Cultural Friday classes before the scheduled time.**

Course additional expectations

Writing: Guidelines for writing your compositions (homework and tests).

Throughout the course of the semester you will be assigned to write brief compositions. Please follow the instructions below when writing in Italian.

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Type and print or write clearly (in a readable handwriting), on a detachable piece of paper, double spacing to help corrections;

- Gradually increase your vocabulary and the length of your composition;
- Use all the grammatical structures you have studied, from the simplest to the more complex;
- Use the dictionary and translate what you are writing (Firenze NOT Florence; Italia NOT Italy...)

Speaking: Guidelines for speaking at the oral exam and for class presentations.

Prepare your presentation individually (unless a group presentation is explicitly demanded);

Prepare it with large advance, avoiding improvisations and last minute performances;

when presenting, you are allowed to use a power point, flash cards or your notes. You must not read but memorize your presentation and speak for 5 minutes. The criteria below will be considered to determine your grade:

-length: the presentation will last 5 minutes otherwise you will be penalized;

-exactness: the presentation will have to be grammatically correct;

-fluency: the pronunciation will have to be clear and accurate;

-comprehension: you will be asked to answer one or two questions related to your presentation.

Grades: The college describes grade designations in the Bulletin. Briefly, an A constitutes “excellent...truly outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative”; a B “Truly superior or well above average attainment”; a C “average or satisfactory work as is done by the majority of students”; and a D “deficient, but passed.”

Grading System

Class Participation

Tests (2)

Assignments

Cultural Friday activities/classes on site

Final Exams

% of final grade

20%

20%

15% (5 compositions at 20 points each+5 points for exercises)

15% (5 points each)

30% (written 15% oral 15%)

Grading Scale

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79 C = 74-76 C- = 70-73

D+ = 67-69 D = 60-66 F = > 60

Those students who cannot attend the final exam session will receive a grade of 0 (zero) on the final exam (except those students with a valid excuse; see absence policy), and the final grade will be calculated accordingly. As each test is worth 5% of the total grade, those students who cannot attend a test will receive a deduction of 5% for each test missed.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is expected in this class, as in all other classes, and the penalties for transgressing will be severe and may include failing the class and being reported to the Italy Center Director and the Spring Hill College Provost. This means that you must write your own papers, merely summarizing someone else's views in your papers is unacceptable. Your papers do not require outside research and most, if not all, of each paper

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should be your own ideas together with the ideas presented in lecture and in the class readings. All references in your papers to another person's views must be cited sufficiently. This means citation rather than being careless and ask me if you are in doubt whether something is permitted.

Other Policies: Late assignments will be considered under exceptional circumstances but may be marked down one third of a letter grade each day that they are late. Contact your professor as soon as possible (preferably at least 24 hours in advance of the due date) if you think you may need an extension with the request and reason for the request. Documentation and college approval may be necessary in certain cases. Completion of all major assignments (the three tests and the two exams) is required for passing the class.

Students with Disabilities: Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact Lorenza Fabretti the first week of class.

CLASS SCHEDULE (the following schedule is subject to modification)
GROUP A and B = FABRETTI GROUP C = ROMANO GROUP A+B+C= PAPINI

	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Linguistic Functions</u>	<u>Grammar notions</u>	<u>Means of assessment</u>
Session 1	Unit 1 Presentazioni	Introducing yourself	Introducing to course/ overview of sound system/basic communicative expressions/	
Session 2	1	Introductions	basic communicative expressions/numbers /sound-spelling	Assignment
Session 3	1	Grammar Session	Verb to be <i>essere</i> and regular verbs ending in -are	Assignment

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Session 4	1	Formal and informal introductions	Adjectives of nationality/ articles/ singular and plural of nouns	Assignment
Session 5	1	Presenting yourself	Uses of the verb <i>to be</i> ; adjectives <i>questo</i> and <i>quello</i>	Listening
Session 6	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL BAR	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL BAR	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL BAR	Oral and written feedback
Session 7	Unit 2 Che ore sono?	Telling the time/ Hours	Verb <i>to have- avere</i> Verbs ending in <i>-ere</i> and <i>-ire</i>	Assignment
Session 8	Unit 2 Che ore sono?	Telling the time/ Hours	Verb <i>to have- avere</i> Verbs ending in <i>-ere</i> and <i>-ire</i>	Assignment
Session 9	2	Colours	Verbi in <i>-care e -gare</i> C'è/Ci sono	
Session 10	TEST 1	TEST 1	TEST 1	TEST 1
Session 11	Unit 3 Abitare	Talking about the place you live	Verbi irregolari <i>venire e andare</i>	Assignment
Session 12	Unit 3 Abitare	Talking about the place you live	Verbi irregolari <i>venire e andare</i>	Assignment
Session 13	3	Fare spese e fare la spesa	Irregular verbs: <i>Dovere volere potere</i>	Assignment

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			Espressions with the verb to have - <i>avere</i> Irregular verb to do/to make - <i>fare</i>	
Session 14	TEST 2	TEST 2	TEST 2	TEST 2
Session 15	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL MERCATO	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL MERCATO	CULTURAL FRIDAY AL MERCATO	Oral and written feedback
Session 16	Unit 4 La famiglia	Talking about your family	Introduction to <i>Passato Prossimo</i> Possessive adjectives	Assignment
Session 17	Unit 4 La famiglia	Talking about your family	Introduction to <i>Passato Prossimo</i> Possessive adjectives	Assignment
Session 18	4	The Future Articulated prepositions The months of the year	Irregular verb <i>bere - to drink</i> Simple Prepositions Irregular verbs <i>dire/stare/rimanere/sapere/salire</i>	
Session 19	Review and evaluations	Review and evaluations	Review and evaluations	
Session 20	FINAL ORAL EXAM	FINAL ORAL EXAM	FINAL ORAL EXAM	FINAL ORAL EXAM

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Session 21	FINAL WRITTEN EXAM	FINAL WRITTEN EXAM	FINAL WRITTEN EXAM	FINAL WRITTEN EXAM
Session 22	CULTURAL FRIDAY	CULTURAL FRIDAY	INCONTRO CON MIGRANTI	Oral and written feedback