
ITALY CENTER

 SPRING HILL COLLEGE

COURSE: Intermediate and Advanced Italian (201/381)

CREDITS: 3 credits

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Office hours: By appointment

Background:

All students who arrive at the Italy Center having already completed Italian 101, 102 and 201 at their home universities can complete an advanced level Italian course while attending the Italy Center.

Course Description:

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the complexity of the Italian language. Aspects of teaching will entail: reading, analysis and class discussion of texts (articles, songs, short stories), oral presentations, based on research on the newspapers, writing homework assignments (compositions, essays, journal). This course is entirely conducted in Italian. Emphasis will be placed on developing speaking, listening - comprehension, reading and writing expressions and grammar sufficient to support these. 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.

Course Objectives:

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

Upon completion of Italian 201/381, students should be able to:

- use complex structures of Italian grammar in speaking and writing
- express and defend personal opinions in a variety of situations
- be informed on Italian history, culture, geography
- read and comprehend long and complex written texts
- comprehend and participate in Italian native speakers' conversations
- write long e-mails, letters and compositions

Course Requirements:

There exists no "pass or fail" option in this course. Course requirements include five tests: two "quizzes", one mid-term test (written) and two final exams (oral and written). Classes will last two hours.

Please note: Evaluation criteria for written and oral production will be different for 201 and 381 students: grammatical mistakes and fluency will have a different weight depending on the level-related expectations. Nevertheless, the evaluation for the new topics will be evaluated in the same way.

Classes will merge together the Italian 201 and 381 courses.

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).

Reader/Course Workbook:

Each student 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 with exercises and reader) composed of materials from a broad range of resources. Costs are included in the tuition fees.
2. Dictionary: Students are advised to purchase one of the following Italian-English dictionaries.
Suggested editions are:
Oxford Essential Italian Dictionary € 10.00 or *Garzanti "I dizionari Piccoli Garzanti" € 12.50* or *Lagenscheidt "Dizionario Plus Inglese" € 13.50*
3. Verb Book: Students are also advised to buy an Italian Verbs book (pocket/travel dictionaries are unsuitable).
Suggested editions are:
A. Chiuchì, M. Fazi, M. Bagianti, *"I verbi italiani: regolari e irregolari" Nuova edizione* di Guerra Edizioni € 10.00

Spring Hill College Italy Center Attendance Policy:

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. 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.

In the event a student misses more than two classes, he/she will automatically be marked down one grade point. A student may be absent two times before being penalized. For example, if a student is expected to receive a "B" for a course, but has three unexcused absences on his/her report, the final grade for the course will be dropped to a "B-". **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.

Class Participation:

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; refrain yourself from taking bathroom breaks during short classes; be punctual. If you are reluctant to speak up, please talk to the instructor to 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 classes before the scheduled time.**

Cultural Fridays and trips

Students may attend Cultural Fridays classes. This is not mandatory, but will give extra credits (increasing the final grade up to 3%).

The trip to Monte Sole is mandatory and there are not special language requirements for it except the class devoted to its preparation.

Costs / Estimated Out of Pocket Expenses:

Friday cultural excursions will require that you pay for certain items (coffee, small purchase at the market, etc). You can expect to spend approximately 6 Euro (7 USD) for fees related to the cultural sessions. All students will be asked to pay 8 euros towards the costs of the mandatory Montesole day trip.

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.

- 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.

Grading System

% of final grade

Class Participation	25%
Tests/Quizzes (2)	15%
Mid- Term test (written)	10%
Assignments	25%
Final Exams	25%

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 exams (Mid-Term, quizzes and final exams) will receive a grade of 0 (zero) (except those students with a valid excuse; see absence policy), and the final grade will be calculated accordingly.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with documented disabilities who wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact both the instructor and Dr. Todd Waller the first week of class.

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 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE (the following schedule is subject to modification)

Please note: The grammatical topics are subject to modification depending on the class pace and the inputs coming from the newspapers' and reviews' articles.

	Means of assessment	Grammar notions
Session 1		Introduction to class. Talking about one's life and past experiences Grammar: General review, past tense review
Session 2 Session 3		Talking about health and the past Grammar: past tenses agreement; pronouns review and compound pronouns
Session 4 Session 5	Quiz 1	Discussing about shopping, consumerism and good practices Giving advices Grammar: connecting sentences (subordinazione), relative pronouns <i>che</i> and <i>cui</i> ; imperativo diretto
Session 6		Talking about bad and good practices (e.g. during mountain trips) Grammar: Impersonal form

Session 7 Session 8	Midterm test	Video and discussion Grammar and vocabulary: various topics
Session 9 Session 10		Great ideas for a better world Grammar: Impersonal form (II)
Session 11 Session 12	Quiz 2	Talking about one's education, plans and ambitions Grammar: future tense review
Session 13 Session 14		Talking about hypothesis and possibilities; living in a city/in the countryside Grammar: Conditional and <i>If sentences</i>
Session 15 Session 16	Final (written)	Ripasso ed esame scritto
Session 17 Session 18	Final (oral)	Esame orale e preparazione per la visita a Monte Sole