

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**School of World Studies**  
**Italian 201-001**

<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academics/minors/italian/italian.htm>

**Language Course Director:** Dr. Bernardo Picichè, PhD  
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**Instructor:** Vera Di Trocchio-Abbate  
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Office hours: TR 10:00-10:45 (by appointment)  
Class meeting: Business Building 2110 – MWF – 12:00-12:50

**Instructional Objectives**

The main goal of this class is to help you acquiring the ability to communicate in Italian through frequent in class conversation. At the end of this course you are expected to achieve these following skills:

- express yourself orally using an accurate vocabulary and grammar;
- to enhance your writing skills choosing different topics weekly;
- to understand Italian-speaking people through many listening exercises;
- to know more about Italian culture;

A large portion of the time in class will be spent in conversation, your participation will be essential. This course will include the use of Blackboard, Italian web sites, and the CD-rom.

**Textbook:**

Moneti – Lazzarino. **Da capo** (6th edition). Thomson Heinle.

**About the course:** Italian 201 is a course for beginners of the Italian language. After successful completion of this course, students may take ITAL 202, 205, 300, 320, 330, and 391 here or in Perugia (Italy) to complete the requirement for Italian Minor.

**Class attendance** is mandatory and will be marked every day. Regular attendance and participation in class activities are essential for learning a foreign language. In order to make progress in understanding and speaking Italian, students must hear and speak it on a daily basis. Therefore, prepare carefully for class by completing all assignments in advance, and be ready to participate in class. If you have to be absent or are ill, contact a classmate to find out the assignments that you missed. **The number of absences**, either excused or unexcused, must not exceed: **3 absences for classes meeting 3 times per**

**week.** Instructors ARE NOT REQUIRED to give reminders of attendance status to each student.

**Homework.** Students are expected to spend at least three (3) hours (per credit) doing homework. Homework will be regularly assigned and corrected in class. Late assignments will not receive a grade. Students should find out about assigned homework given in a day that they have been absent.

**Partecipation.** Students receive a grade for participation based on their in-class interaction with other class members and with the instructor, and their willingness to speak Italian as much as possible.

**Quizzes.** The quizzes will cover these following sections: vocabulary, grammar, spelling, compositions and writing. There will be a quiz every week (on blackboard or in class), and the final test at the end of the semester. **Make-up quizzes and tests are not allowed.**

**Compositions.** Several compositions will be assigned during the semester. The instructor will mark the mistakes in the rough compositions (“a”), but he/she will not provide the exact correction: students must identify the error. The rewritten composition (“b”) will be graded, and the mistakes will be explained.

**Oral presentation.** Students will work in group of three to four to perform an oral presentation for their classmates at the end of the semester. The date of the performance will be given to you during the month of October. First, each group will select and discuss the topic with the instructor. Then students can work on the chosen subject and make an oral presentation (not a reading presentation). Each student will be graded based on the vocabulary and pronunciation used during the performance. Again, no reading from a script, please.

**Final exam:** It will cover all the grammar, vocabulary and culture topics that have been taught in class during the semester. The date is Wednesday, **December 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 3:50** in regular meeting rooms.

**Grading criteria:**

Homework, class attendance and partecipation	20%
Quizzes	25%
Composition	10%
Lab activity and oral presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%

## **Calendario di lavoro** [Note: In Italian titles do not capitalize all words]

### **Settimana (week) del 23 agosto**

V: Introduzione del corso

### **Settimana del 27 agosto**

L: Capitolo 1 – Indicativo presente/ Pronomi personali soggetto

M: Capitolo 1

V: Capitolo 1 - 31/8 Quiz 1

### **Settimana del 3 settembre** (the 3<sup>rd</sup> is holiday)

M: Capitolo 1 – Indicativo presente/ Nomi

V: Capitolo 1 - 7/9 Quiz 2

### **Settimana del 10 settembre**

L: Capitolo 2 – Imperfetto/aggettivi/Articolo indeterminativo

M: Capitolo 2

V: Capitolo 2 - 14/9 Quiz 3

### **Settimana del 17 settembre**

L: Capitolo 2 – Numeri cardinali/ Il tempo

M: Capitolo 2

V: Capitolo 2 - 21/9 Quiz 4

### **Settimana del 24 settembre**

L: Capitolo 3 – Passato prossimo/ Articolo determinativo/ bello e quello

M: Capitolo 3

V: Capitolo 3 - 28/9 Quiz 5

### **Settimana del 1 ottobre**

L: Capitolo 3 – Interrogativi/ L'ora/ Giorni, stagioni, mesi, anni

M: Capitolo 3

V: Capitolo 3 - 5/10 Quiz 6

### **Settimana del 8 ottobre**

L: Capitolo 4 – Passato prossimo e imperfetto/Pronomi personali (oggetto diretto)

L'accordo del participio passato

M: Capitolo 4

V: Capitolo 4 – 13/10 Quiz 7

### **Settimana del 15 ottobre** (18 and 19 no classes/ no quiz)

L: Capitolo 4 – Negativi/ Aggettivi e pronomi possessivi

M: Capitolo 4 – 17/10 Quiz 8

### **Settimana del 22 ottobre (assegno composizione 1st draft due date 29/10)**

L: Capitolo 5 – Pronomi personali (oggetto indiretto)/ Piacere/ Verbi riflessivi

M: Capitolo 5

V: Capitolo 5 – 27/10 Quiz 9

### **Settimana del 29 ottobre (consegna composizione - due date final draft 5/11)**

L: Capitolo 5 – Suffissi speciali/ Aggettivi e pronomi indefiniti/ Partitivo

M: Capitolo 5

V: Capitolo 5 - 2/11 Quiz 10

**Settimana del 5 novembre**

L: Capitolo 6 – Passato remoto/ Trapassato Prossimo e remoto

M: Capitolo 6

V: Capitolo 6 - 9/11 Quiz 11

**Settimana del 12 novembre (assegno composizione 3 – first draft due date 19/11)**

L: Capitolo 6 – Ci/Ne/Pronomi personali (forme combinate)

M: Capitolo 6

V: Capitolo 6

**Settimana del 19 novembre** (22-23 no classes – no quiz)

L:Capitolo 6 – 19/11 Quiz 12

M:Capitolo 7 – Introduzione Futuro

**Settimana del 26 novembre**

L:Capitolo 7 – Condizionale/ Dovere, Potere, Volere

M: Capitolo 7

V:Capitolo 7 – 30/11 Quiz 13

**Settimana del 3 dicembre**

Ripasso

**Test Finale: Wed, Dec 12 – 1:00-3:50pm – in regular meeting rooms**

In bocca al lupo!