

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of World Studies
Italian@VCU

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

Syllabus Italian 101

Instructor: Barbara Borgatta Wallace

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Office hours: Tuesday 6 to 7pm, and after class (other times by appointment only)

Class meeting: Hibbs 327

Instructional Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of Italian spelling and pronunciation (assessment: Homework; oral participation in class; oral comprehension quizzes and tests; dictations).
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of part of the Italian grammar and syntax (assessment: Homework--workbook; computer assignments; essay; quizzes and tests).
3. Participate in simple conversations on topics on everyday situations such as work, education, food, time, weather... (reinforced through in-class group activities).
4. Demonstrate basic reading comprehension skills (in-class or homework reading assignments--from textbook or internet sites; quizzes and tests).
5. Demonstrate some knowledge of Italian geography, history, culture and daily life.

Textbook:

Lazzarino, Dini and Peccianti. *Prego!* 7th edition, McGraw Hill with accompanying workbook and laboratory manual. You should also bring an English/Italian dictionary to class.

About the course: Italian 101 is a course for beginners. After successful completion of this course, students may take ITAL 102, 201 and 202 (or 205) to complete the foreign language requirement, and may continue with upper-level courses here or in Italy (Perugia) to complete the requirement for the Italian Minor.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

Class participation/attendance/homework @ 5% = 15%

Compositions (3): 15%

Chapter quizzes (5): 35%

Oral presentation: 10%

Final exam: 25%

Participation, attendance and homework: Five points of the final grade are based on participation, 5 points for attendance and 5 points for completion of homework.

Participation: To get a “5” in class participation you must do more than simply show up and raise your hand every now and then. You must be an active learner: ask questions, offer answers, be a leader in group and partner work, and whenever possible SPEAK ITALIAN, not English!

Classroom participation guidelines: These guidelines outline expectations of student performance in the classroom. What do you need to do to earn a grade of 5 for participation?

5 points: Exceptional contribution is characterized by being an outstanding participant. The student is **ALWAYS** engaged, attentive and focused.

4 points: Substantial contribution. FREQUENTLY makes comments, asks questions and contributes to the class.

3 points: Expected contribution. SOMETIMES makes comments, asks questions and contributes to the class.

2 points: Marginal contribution. RARELY makes comments, asks questions or contributes to the class.

1 point: Minimal contribution. ALMOST NEVER makes comments, asks questions or contributes.

0 points: Little to no contribution. NEVER makes comments, asks questions or contributes unless called on by name.

Absences: Avoid them! (Remember that this course meets only 28 times, so one absence is equivalent to missing 2 ½ classes of a normal 5-day-a-week semester.) **The School of World Studies attendance policy allows 3 absences for courses that meet twice a week. Exceeding this limit may result in a grade of F for the course.** Absences and tardies are discourteous to both the teacher and the other students, as they tend to slow the class down when explanations or activities must be repeated or postponed.

Homework: Grammar & vocabulary should be reviewed and workbook exercises done **BEFORE** class meetings. You should do ALL of the workbook exercises for each chapter, whether or not they were specifically assigned in class. On the day of the chapter exams, I will collect workbooks and check them for completion. There may also be pop quizzes, which will be counted as part of the homework grade.

Composition: There will be 3 one-page (typed, double-spaced, ranging from 150 to 250 words) compositions. Papers that are not typed or double-spaced will not be accepted. They will be graded on both content and correctness: what you say and how you say it. Compositions **MUST** be turned in on time. There will be a **5 point penalty for papers turned in late, with one additional point for each day overdue.** If you know you will be absent on the day a composition is due, or if you forget to bring your paper to class on the due date, you may e-mail it to me as a **separate Word attachment (not as the body of your e-mail!)** but I must receive it by the date it is due. Please **do not** e-mail your paper to me for other reasons (ran out of ink, didn't have paper, etc.)

Chapter quizzes: We will be covering Chapters 1 through 9 this semester. There will be an exam at the end of every other chapter. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS FOR ANY REASON – PLEASE DO NOT ASK!!** If you miss a quiz, that grade that will be dropped; if you miss 2 exams, you will receive a grade of “0” for the 2nd missed quiz. If you get through the semester without missing an exam, your lowest exam grade will be dropped.

Oral presentation: Each student will present a short (about 3-5 minute) presentation to the class (in Italian, of course!) on any topic of interest to him/her. You may work alone or with a partner (no more than 2 students in one group) to perform a short skit. You may write a brief outline and new vocabulary words on the blackboard, but you must not read your presentation (you cannot have any written notes!) Presentations will be graded on preparation and organization, pronunciation, grammar/vocabulary, delivery and overall effectiveness.

Language lab: We will be making regular visits to the Language Lab in the Media Center, Hibbs 424-426, probably every other week. I will advise you of scheduling when the lab assigns us a time slot. The attached class schedule will be revised somewhat after we know our lab times.

ITAL 101 CLASS SCHEDULE – FALL 2007

M 8/27 W 8/29	Introduction to the course, begin Capitolo Preliminare: saluti, espressioni importanti Alfabeto e suoni; numeri, calendario, parole. <i>Piccolo ripasso.</i>
M 9/3 W 9/5	LABOR DAY – no class <u>Begin Capitolo 1:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Nomi; articolo indeterminativo e <i>buono</i>
M 9/10 W 9/12	Il verbo <i>avere</i> ; pronomi soggetto, Espressioni idiomatiche con <i>avere</i> ; letture Review; Esame 1, Capitolo Preliminare & Capitolo 1
M 9/17 F 9/19	<u>Begin Capitolo 2:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Aggettivi; il verbo <i>essere</i> rticolo determinativo e <i>bello</i> ; <i>piccolo ripasso</i> ; letture
M 9/24 W 9/26	<u>Begin Capitolo 3:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: verbi in <i>-ar</i> ; <i>Dare, stare, andare, fare</i> Aggettivi possessivi (C & D); <i>Questo e quello</i> ; letture
M 10/1 W 10/3	Ripasso; Esame 2, Cap. 2 & 3 <u>Begin Capitolo 4:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: verbi in <i>-ere e -ire</i> ; <i>Dire, uscire, venire</i>
M 10/8 W 10/10	<i>Dovere, potere e volere</i> ; Pronomi di oggetto diretto – 1st componimento due (50 words) <u>Begin Capitolo 5:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: preposizioni articolate
M 10/15 W 10/17	Passato prossimo con <i>avere</i> ; Oral presentations begin Passato prossimo con <i>essere</i> ; <i>conoscere e sapere</i>
M 10/22 W 10/24	Ripasso; Esame 3, Cap. 4 & 5 <u>Begin Capitolo 6:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Pronomi di oggetto indiretto
M 10/29 W 10/31	Accordo del participio; <i>piacere</i> ; Interrogativi - 2nd Componimento due (100 words) <u>Begin Capitolo 7:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Verbi riflessivi/reciproci
M 11/5 W 11/7	<i>Da</i> + espressioni di tempo; avverbi ; Numeri superiori a 100; letture Ripasso; Esame 4, Capitolo 6 & 7
M 11/12 W 11/14	<u>Begin Capitolo 8:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Imperfetto Imperfetto e passato prossimo; Trapassato; suffissi; <i>piccolo ripasso</i>
M 11/19 W 11/21	<u>Begin Capitolo 9:</u> Vocabolario; Grammatica: Pronomi tonici Thanksgiving holiday – no class
M 11/26 W 11/28	Comparativi/superlativi relativi; Comparativi/superl. irregolari – 3rd Comp. due (150 wds) Esame 5, Capitolo 8 & 9
M 12/3 W 12/5	Review REVIEW E FESTA

ESAME FINALE: Monday December 10, 7 to 9:40 pm (in regular classroom)