

**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
**School of World Studies**  
**Italian@VCU**

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

**Syllabus Italian 102 – 001**

**Teacher:** Dr. Bernardo Picichè  
Lafayette Hall, 312 N. Shafer Street, Rm 311  
Office Hours: T-R 3:10-4pm or by appointment  
[bpiciche@vcu.edu](mailto:bpiciche@vcu.edu)  
(804)827-3421

Class meeting: MTWRF; 2:00-2:50; FSGYM 0B59

**Instructional Objectives**

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of Italian spelling and pronunciation (assessment: Homework; oral participation in class; oral comprehension quizzes and tests; dictations).
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of a good 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 more than 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 Information:**

*Basic Italian*; Speroni-Golino-Caiti; Thomson-Heinle.

**About the course:**

\*Italian 102 is a course for advanced-beginners. After successful completion of this course, students may take ITAL 102, 201, 202, 205, 300, 320, 330, 391 here or in Italy (Perugia, Florence, Rome) to complete the requirement for Italian Minor. Elementary Italian is conducted in Italian.

\***Class attendance** is mandatory and will be marked every day. Any absence from class may adversely affect the class participation/oral component used in determining final grades. Three tardies (more than 15 minutes) will count as one absence.

The number of absences must not exceed: 8 (classes meeting five times per week), 6 (classes meeting 4 times per week), 3 (classes meeting two times per week).

**\*Homework.** Students are expected to spend at least two (2) hours per week doing homework. Written exercises: late assignments will receive a lower grade.

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

"A" Pays close attention to grammar and vocabulary explanations, and asks questions for clarification; shows initiative by participating fully and actively at all times and in all class activities; often takes leadership role in small group activities in class; does all homework thoroughly; and is respectful of classmates and their responses.

"B" Pays close attention to class explanations and answers readily; tries to participate in all class activities; usually does homework thoroughly; participates in all group activities, though not necessarily as a leader; and is respectful of classmates and their responses.

"C" Is more passive than students described above; cooperates in group and other types of activities; does homework; and is respectful of classmates and their responses.

"D" Participates grudgingly and unenthusiastically; generally does not participate actively in group activities; often comes to class unprepared.

"F" Is usually unprepared and uninterested in class; is disruptive and/or prevents others from learning or participating by talking, laughing, passing notes, reading magazines, etc.; is disrespectful of students and instructor.

**\*Quizzes.** Vocabulary, grammar, dictations, translations, compositions and culture. After Labour Day There will be a quiz per week. No make up tests are allowed.

**\*Compositions.** Three compositions (120, 140, and 160 words) 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 find the error. The rewritten composition ("b") will be graded, and the mistakes will be explained.

**\*Oral presentations.** At the end of the semester each student will select and present a topic of his/her choice (five minutes). Students will have to write a brief outline and new vocabulary words on blackboard. No reading from a script, please.

**\*Video-events at the computer lab:**

Opera: Il barbiere di Siviglia by Gioacchino Rossini and Cesare Sterbini.

Film: Pani e tulipani by Silvio Soldini

**\*Final exam** (comprehensive). Oral Comprehension, Grammar, Culture. **To check your final exam date:** <http://www.pubinfo.vcu.edu/calendar/exams05.html>. Please no travel or wedding plans!

**\*Grading criteria:**

Class attendance and partecipation 20%

Quizzes 35%

Composition	15%
Oral presentation	5%
Final Exam	25%

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

This is what students must recall at the end of each week. This is not everything is done during the semester, as the instructor has free choice to include activities, readings and other material. Students must master the points indicated below.

**Settimana (week) del 22 agosto** (August) [Note: In Italian the week starts from Monday]

Espressioni negative

Verbi *dire e fare*

Espressioni di tempo

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 29 agosto**

Pronomi personali complemento di termine

Verbi *piacere e sapere*

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 5 settembre** (the 5th is holiday)

Preposizioni *a/per* ; *tra/fra*; uso temporale di *in*

Forme riflessive

Femminili speciale

Verbi *sedersi*

Verbi *dovere e potere*.

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 12 settembre**

Futuro (forme regolari e irregolari)

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 19 settembre**

Futuro anteriore

La data

Avverbio

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 26 settembre**

Imperfetto

[Review all the verbal forms done thus far]

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 3 ottobre**

Uso idiomatico articolo determinativo

Pronomi relativi

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 10 ottobre**

Preposizione *a* + infinito.

Plurali irregolari (*-co, -go*)

Concetto di *piazza* e *galleria*.

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 17 ottobre** (20 and 21 no classes)

Presentazioni orali

**Settimana del 24 ottobre**

Pronomi tonici

Ordinali

Plurali irregolari (*-cia*; *-gia*)

Gerundio

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 31 ottobre**

Revisione finale delle forme plurali

Pronome *ne*

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 7 novembre**

Verbi con il doppio oggetto

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 14 novembre**

Imperativo

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 21 novembre** (24-27 no classes)

Forme irregolari dell'imperativo.

Breve storia della lingua italiana [the instructor will provide some historical and social notions]

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 28 novembre**

Trapassato prossimo

Avverbio di luogo *ci*

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 5 dicembre**

Superlativo relativo

Vocabolario

Ripasso generale

In bocca al lupo!