

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

**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  
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**Instructor:** Claudio Ragazzi  
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Office hours: To be schedule  
Class meeting: Days: T-R; Time 4:30 to 6:45 pm; Building WG Cafe ; Room # 701

**Instructional Objectives**

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

1. Demonstrate a basic oral comprehension.
2. Demonstrate a fair 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 fair reading comprehension skills (in-class or homework reading assignments--from textbook or internet sites; quizzes and tests).
5. Demonstrate more than a basic knowledge of Italian geography, history, culture and daily life.

**Textbook Information:**

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

**About the course:**

\*Ital 201 is a course of Intermediate Italian. After successful completion of this course, students may take ITAL 202, 205, 300, 320, 330, 39, here or in Italy (Perugia, Florence, Rome) to complete the requirement for Italian Minor. Intermediate 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.

**\*Participation.** 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 (160, 200, and 220 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 partecipazione	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 29 agosto** (August) [Note: In Italian the week starts from Monday]

Il concetto di “centro” cittadino in Italia  
Pronomi con infinito  
Superlativo assoluto  
Verbi servili  
Vocabolario

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

Il condizionale regolare e irregolare  
Vocabolario

**Settimana del 12 settembre**

Uso generale del riflessivo  
Forma passiva  
*Grande e santo*  
Il grandi festival italiani  
Vocabolario

**Settimana del 19 settembre**

Comparativo e superlativo irregolare  
Passato remoto regolare  
Vocabolario

**Settimana del 26 settembre**

Passato remoto di *essere* e *avere*.  
[Review all the verbal forms done thus far]  
Vocabolario

**Settimana del 3 ottobre**

Gerundio attivo e passivo  
Passato remoto verbi irregolari  
Il sistema legislativo italiano: perché due Camere?  
Vocabolario

**Settimana del 10 ottobre**

Il congiuntivo presente e passato  
Usi del congiuntivo  
Vocabolario

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

Presentazioni orali degli studenti

Ancora sul congiuntivo

Congiuntivo di *andare, fare, stare, e dire*. (La celebre battuta “vadi dotto” è un errore).

I suffissi

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 24 ottobre**

I grandi navigatori italiani e l’America

Il congiuntivo in preposizioni indipendenti

Il congiuntivo di *dare, dovere, potere, sapere, venire, e volere*.

Alcuni plurali irregolari (*braccio, osso* ecc)

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 31 ottobre**

Imperfetto del congiuntivo

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 7 novembre**

Trapassato congiuntivo

Usi dei tempi del congiuntivo

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 14 novembre**

Ripasso di tutti i tempi verbali

Vocabolario

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

La preposizione *da*.

Usi di *a* e *di*.

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 28 novembre**

Infinito come sostantivo.

[The instructor will emphasize the difference among *infinito, gerundio* e *participio*]

Vocabolario

**Settimana del 5 dicembre**

Italia-USA: storia di una tradizione.

*Slow Food?*

Vocabolario

Ripasso generale

In bocca al lupo!