

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of World Studies
Elementary Italian 13541 –Ital 101-003
<http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academics/minors/italian/italian.htm>

Language Course Director : Dr. Bernardo Picichè, PhD
Lafayette Hall, 312 N. Shafer Street, Rm 311
e-mail address: bpiciche@vcu.edu
Office telephone number: (804)827-3421

Instructor: Paola Tessarolo
E-mail address: tessarolop@vcu.edu
Office hours: M-F : 1:00 – 1:45 (by appointment)
Class meeting: MTWRF From 9:00 to 9:50 on Hibbs Room 0326

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

Homework, attendance and participation	20%
Quizzes	25%
3 Compositions	10%
Lab activity - Oral presentation	20%
Final Exam	25%

Participation, attendance and homework: 20 points of this grade are based on 10 points participation, 5 points for attendance and 5 points for completion of homework.

Participation: To earn a “10” 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/partner work, and whenever possible SPEAK ITALIAN, not English! Don’t forget useful questions: “Come si dice...” and “Cosa vuol dire...”.

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?

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

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

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

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

2 points: 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! The School of World Studies attendance policy allows 5 absences for courses that meet 5 times 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 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. (Supplementary laboratory exercises for each chapter are recommended but not required; you will find them in the back of the workbook. Lab exercises may be done in the lab, or they will record the lessons for you to complete at home.) **On the day of the chapter quiz, I will collect workbooks and check them for completion. However homework will be checked at every class.**

Composition: There will be 3 one-page (typed, double-spaced, ranging from 60 to 120 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.) – I will not even download it. You may (and should) use a dictionary and your textbook when writing your composition; **you may NOT get help**

from a tutor or another student and you may NOT use an on-line translator – this is an honor violation and will be dealt with as **the** such.

Chapter quizzes: We will be covering Chapters 1 through 9, spending two to three weeks on each. There will be a weekly quiz. **THERE ARE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES FOR ANY REASON – PLEASE DO NOT ASK!!** If you miss a quiz, that grade that will be dropped; if you miss 2 quizzes, you will receive a grade of “0” for the 2nd missed quiz. If you get through the semester without missing a quiz, your lowest quiz 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 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 (Hibbs Bldg., Media Center, Room 424-426), probably every other week. I will advise of the scheduling when the lab gives us a time slot. The attached class schedule will probably be revised somewhat after we know our lab times.

Final exam's date: December 10th from 8:00 to 9:50