

**Course Description**

This course will provide a reinforcement and expansion of previously learned structures of the Italian language. Through a communicative approach, students will learn to read, write, listen, and speak intermediate Italian. Additionally, students will gain familiarity with Italian culture through exposure to various media and creative projects. Students will master fundamental vocabulary pertaining to newspapers, TV programs, travel, leisure time, professions, job interviews, and more. The course is designed to facilitate practical communication skills and encourage students’ efforts towards linguistic independence and integrating themselves in Italy.

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- distinguish the main points of standard texts on familiar matters regularly encountered in school, during leisure time, at work, etc.;
- produce simple connected texts on topics that are familiar or of personal interest;
- discuss experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly explain opinions and plans;
- manage most situations likely to arise while travelling in Italy;
- examine Italian culture and compare it with their own.

**Course Prerequisites**

Italian Language – Beginning II

**Methods of Instruction**

This course will combine class debates, field trips and on-site classes, walking tours and creative activities. The approach will be communicative and integrated: the focus is on language use in realistic settings, and the various aspects that are involved in the language learning experience are treated as complementary to one another. Therefore, through one single activity, students may learn specific linguistic elements, practice certain grammatical structures, while learning communicative strategies and cultural aspects.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Weekly Written Assignment 10%
2. Quizzes 10%
3. Speaking in Class 15%
4. Oral Presentation 20%
5. Final Exam 25%
6. Class Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

**Course Requirements**

Weekly Written Assignment
Students will be asked to complete written assignments on a regular basis to check their progress. The topics will be related to the texts and issues discussed in class.

Quizzes

Students will take 4 quizzes, one for each week from 2 to 5 of the course. The quizzes are based on the topics discussed in class.

Speaking in Class

The ability to communicate in Italian (engage in oral interaction using the content learned in class) will be evaluated by the Professor throughout the course.

Oral Presentation

Students will describe an event of their life that was particularly happy / sad / funny / interesting. At the end of the presentation, classmates will ask questions.

Final Exam

Students will take a final exam at the end of the course. The exam will cover all topics analyzed in class and consist of these sections: listening (20%), reading comprehension (20%), vocabulary and grammar (40%), short essay (20%).

Class Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Introduction and initial revision

During week one, students will introduce themselves and consolidate previously learned language structures. They will also discuss famous Italians in the world.

Introduction to the course: syllabus will be presented and reviewed, with emphasis on assessment methods and course requirements.

Class: 1.2 Introduction and initial revision

Grammar: present and past tense (passato prossimo and imperfetto); linkers and prepositions; reflexive, direct and indirect pronouns; agreement among article, noun and adjective.

Functions: talking about oneself and one’s Italian studies; talking about Italians abroad

Readings: Contatto B1, Unit 1

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Che cosa è successo?

During week two, students will learn how to understand and narrate crime news and facts about the personal past, describe people, express feelings. They will also learn about Italian suspense movies and books.

Grammar: passato prossimo and imperfetto with modal verbs; trapassato prossimo

Functions: describing facts from the news, telling an event from the past

Class: 2.2 Che cosa è successo?

Grammar: pronoun CI; passive form (recognizing)

Functions: describing an image

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
Che cosa è successo?

**Grammar:** stare + gerundio vs. stare per; linkers

**Functions:** describing characters and their feelings

**Quiz 1**

Class: 2.4 Che cosa è successo?

**On-site class:** TBD

**Readings:** Contatto B1, Unit 2

**Due date:** submission of Weekly Written Assignment I

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**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 Io vorrei andare in Sardegna, ma...

During week three, students will learn how to speak about vacations, describe a place, make assumptions, give advice, express opinions. They will also talk about Italy as a holiday destination.

**Grammar:** present conditional: form and functions

**Functions:** planning a trip

Class: 3.2 Io vorrei andare in Sardegna, ma...

**Grammar:** imperative (formal and informal)

**Functions:** giving advice about a trip

Class: 3.3 Io vorrei andare in Sardegna, ma...

**Grammar:** future vs. conditional; pronoun NE; CI vs NE

**Functions:** talking about traditional food and regional diets

**Quiz 2**

Class: 3.4 Io vorrei andare in Sardegna, ma...

**On-site class:** TBD

**Readings:** Contatto B1, Unit 3

**Due date:** submission of Weekly Written Assignment II

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**Week 4**

Class: 4.1 Ma dai, usciamo!

During week four, students will speak about what young people do in their free time; hobbies, interests; and they will learn to express agreement and disagreement.

**Grammar:** irregular comparative adjectives; comparatives with di/she; superlative adjectives

**Functions:** expressing agreement and disagreement

Class: 4.2 Ma dai, usciamo!

**Grammar:** combined pronouns (1 & 2 person); agreement between past participle and pronouns
**Functions:** talking about sports and sport supporting

**Class:** 4.3  
*Ma dai, usciamo!*

**Grammar:** relative pronouns: che, chi; prepositions; linkers  
**Functions:** talking about young people and free time  
**Quiz 3**

**Class:** 4.4  
*Ma dai, usciamo!*

**On-site class:** TBD  
**Readings:** Contatto B1, Unit 4  
**Due date:** submission of Weekly Written Assignment III

**Week 5**

**Class:** 5.1  
*Come hai saputo di questo lavoro?*

During week five, students will learn how to speak about jobs, do a job interview, write a personal statement, express opinion, give suggestions. They will also discuss changes in Italian family structures in the 21st century.

**Grammar:** relative pronouns: che, cui, chi; combined pronouns (3 person); La vs. Le  
**Functions:** talking about professions and work projects

**Class:** 5.2  
*Come hai saputo di questo lavoro?*

**Grammar:** imperative with pronouns; prepositions; indefinite adjectives and pronouns  
**Functions:** writing a cover letter; giving advice to manage a job interview

**Class:** 5.3  
*Come hai saputo di questo lavoro?*

**Grammar:** present subjunctive; di + infinitive vs. che + subjunctive; linkers  
**Functions:** expressing one’s opinion about one’s job  
**Quiz 4**

**Class:** 5.4  
*Come hai saputo di questo lavoro?*

**On-site class:** TBD  
**Readings:** Contatto B1, Unit 5 and 6  
**Due date:** submission of Weekly Written Assignment IV

**Week 6**

**Class:** 6.1  
Closing Week  
Review for Final Exam

**Class:** 6.2  
Closing Week  
Review for Final Exam

**Class:** 6.3  
Closing Week
Oral Presentations

Class: 6.4 Closing Week

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings