**Course Description**

This course will provide an introduction to all of the basic elements of the Italian language. Through a communicative approach, students will learn to read, write, listen, and speak basic Italian. Additionally, students will gain familiarity with Italian culture through exposure to various media and creative projects. Students will master fundamental vocabulary pertaining to school, daily activities, telling time, travel, restaurants, city, and more. They will be able to communicate and exchange information in a simple way in the present tense.

**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- read and understand very simple written texts;
- write short simple texts about themselves and very familiar topics;
- express basic information through oral conversations;
- communicate and interact in a simple way, provided the other person is prepared to help;
- compare some aspects of the Italian culture with their own;
- develop intercultural sensitivity.

**Course Prerequisites**

None.

**Methods of Instruction**

This course will combine class debates, fieldtrips 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 Assignments 10%
2. Quiz 10%
3. Oral Performance 35%
4. Final Exam 25%
6. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

**Course Requirements**

**Weekly Assignments**

Students will be asked to complete assignments on a regular basis to check their progress. The topics will be connected to those analyzed in class.

**Quiz**
Students will take 5 quizzes of 15 minutes each week of the course. The quizzes are based on the topics discussed in class.

**Oral Performance**

(Speaking in class 15% and final presentation 20%)

The oral grade will consist of everyday oral production during classes and of the final oral presentation. Students will use simple sentences to present themselves and describe their daily activities in Rome. They will compare their typical day in Italy to that in U.S. They can use PowerPoint, videos, recordings, etc., to make their description more vivid and clear. At the end of the presentation, all classmates can ask questions.

**Final Exam**

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

**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:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Class: 1.1** Primi Contatti

Students will learn how to introduce themselves, communicate in class, greet people, ask about pronunciation and spelling.

Readings from New Italian Espresso, Unit 1

Introduction to the course: Italian Language Survival class.

Syllabus will be presented and reviewed, with emphasis on assessment methods and course requirements.

**Grammar:** alphabet, phonetics, subject pronouns, present tense of essere and chiamarsi, prepositions di and in related to city and country names, adjectives of nationality.

**Functions:** greeting people, introducing yourself, asking questions.

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**Week 2**

**Class: 2.1** Buno Appetito! / lo e gli altri

Students will learn how to order in a cafè and in a restaurant, ask for things in a polite way, ask for price, thank someone. They will also learn how to introduce someone, describe people’s activities on a specific day of the week, ask for someone’s age.

Readings from New Italian Espresso, Unit 2 and 3

**Grammar:** negation non, numbers from 0 to 20, some question words (come, dove, quanti, quale); present tense of avere.

**Functions:** interacting in class, interacting with new people with basic questions and statements

**Class: 2.2**

**Grammar:** gender and numbers of nouns, questo and quello.

**Functions:** getting someone’s attention, making polite requests, inquiring about near and distant objects
Class: 2.3

**Grammar:** definite articles, indefinite articles; numbers up to 100

**Functions:** asking for prices and the bill, ordering food and beverages, writing a short shopping list, asking and understanding prices

Class: 2.4

**Grammar:** present tense of regular and irregular verbs (avere, essere, fare, andare, stare), simple prepositions, phonetics

**Functions:** introducing someone, asking and giving personal information.

**Assignment Due:** Assignment I

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1  
**Tempo Libero**

Students will learn to greet people politely, to talk about professions and to tell dates. They will learn to talk about free time and leisure activities, tell how often they do something, describe their interests and occupations, feelings and emotions.

Reading from New Italian Espresso, Unit 3 e 4

**Grammar:** expressions with essere e avere, professions, present tense of stare, numbers from 100 onwards

**Functions:** telling the date, expressing feelings and emotions, inquiring about one’s health

Class: 3.2

**Grammar:** days of the week, adverbs of frequency, “non + mai”

**Functions:** telling how often you do something, talking about free time activities

Class: 3.3

**Grammar:** some question words, present tense of some irregular verbs (andare, bere, sapere)

**Functions:** asking questions, describing one’s life

Class: 3.4

**Walking Tour:** TBA

**Assignment Due:** Assignment II

**Week 4**

Class: 4.1  
**Vita Quotidiana in Italia**

Students will learn how to describe one’s daily routine and habits, to talk about their interests and preferences. They will also learn how to describe a city or a neighborhood, and to follow and give street directions.
Readings from New Italian Espresso, Unit 4 and 5

**Grammar:** present tense of piacere, expressions with the verb fare

**Functions:** expressing likes and dislikes, interacting in everyday situations

Class: 4.2

**Grammar:** present tense of reflexive verbs, time expressions ("a che ora...?")

**Functions:** describing daily routine, telling at what time events are

Class: 4.3

**Grammar:** c'è/ci sono, some adjectives

**Functions:** describing a city, a neighborhood, a street

Class: 4.4

**Grammar:** scusa vs scusi, prepositions of place

**Functions:** asking for and giving directions, asking for and telling the time.

**Assignment Due:** Assignment III

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 **Volere è potere!**

Students will learn to talk about their activities and to describe a person or an object. They will also learn how to express a possibility, a need or a wish and to describe one's holiday writing a short postcard.

Readings from New Italian Espresso, Unit 5 and 6

**Grammar:** agreement between noun and adjective

**Functions:** describing a place, an object, a person

Class: 5.2

**Grammar:** present tense of irregular verbs (dare, dire, uscire, venire e rimanere),

**Functions:** describing a place, city, monument ecc.

Class: 5.3

**Walking Tour:** TBA

Class: 5.4

**Grammar:** prepositions with means of means of transportation, months and seasons, compound prepositions

**Functions:** describing one’s life around the city, talking about travelling
**Week 6**

**Class: 6.1** Wrap-Up and Conclusions

**Class: 6.2** Grammar Review

**Class: 6.3** Oral Presentations and Debate

**Class: 6.4** Final Exam

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


Further reading materials will be assigned on a week-by-week basis.

Professor will provide a complete list of complementary readings, media sources and articles published in national and international media in order to stimulate class debates and activities.