

Syllabus: Italian 101  
Autunno 2012

Professore: Meredith Hall D'Arienzo  
Email: meredith.hall@emory.edu  
Ufficio: Humanities Hall 205  
Orario di ricevimento: Wednesday, 9:30 – 10:30 am and by appointment

Lezioni: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday; 10:45 – 11:35 am  
Humanities Hall Conference Room

Libri: Italiamania di Katerin Katerinov e Maria Clotilde Boriosi Katerinov  
Italian-English/ English-Italian dictionary (e.g. Larousse)

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### Obiettivi

The overall goal of Level 1 (Italian 101 and 102) is to help students develop cultural and linguistic knowledge that allows them to comfortably listen, read, write, and speak in Italian. By the end of the year, students will be able to use Italian creatively and independently in order to:

- provide basic information about themselves; their families, interests, likes, dislikes, and daily activities;
- refer to activities and events in the past, present, and future;
- discuss school life, occupations, pastimes, and the world that surrounds them;
- provide cultural, historical, and geographic information on various regions in Italy;
- understand and participate in a simple conversation on everyday topics (e.g. weather, meeting people, school, shopping, etc.);
- read edited texts on familiar topics, understand the main ideas, and pick out important information from authentic texts (e.g. menus, signs, train schedules, and short cultural reading passages);
- fill in forms requesting information; write letters, notes, post cards, and messages providing simple information;
- speak Italian with adequate pronunciation and enough grammatical accuracy and fluency to be comprehensible to an Italian speaker accustomed to speaking with non-natives.

### Approccio

In the course, we will focus on both the culture of the Italian-speaking world and on the Italian language itself. We will work to develop listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. The course is driven by a communicative approach, which requires that students take an active role in class. The classroom should be a collaborative and supportive environment. I hope to employ a variety of activities that will engage students' different learning styles. You are encouraged to find and use the study methods that best suit you. You may find it helpful to find a partner or a small group of fellow learners and engage with them in outside study; however, your homework should always be a reflection of your own work.

### Presenza e partecipazione

Your attendance and active participation in class are imperative. Students are allowed three unexcused absences. Each further unexcused absence will count as one point, which will be subtracted from your final grade.

A student who is not present for a test, quiz, or presentation, and who has not informed the instructor of his or her absence in writing AT LEAST one day in advance, will receive a zero for that grade. In case of an emergency, the student will provide the instructor with valid documented information.

### Cellulari e portatili

The use of cell phones during class time is absolutely forbidden; please turn your phones OFF (not to vibrate) before class begins. You will not need a laptop computer during class, with the exception of the two 'Giornate di ricerca' in which you may bring your laptops or other devices to aid in research and planning your projects.

### Honor Code

Students are bound by the Oxford College Honor Code at all times, both inside and outside of the classroom. The use of online translators, in addition to being counter-productive to second language learning, is considered plagiarism if the material is not documented fully. Any presumable violation of the honor code must and will be reported to the Honor Council. Please refer to the Honor Code to ensure you are abiding by it at all times.

### Dizionari

Using a monolingual dictionary (Italian only) is fundamental for vocabulary-building and reading comprehension. You must become accustomed to using a monolingual dictionary, as translating will hinder your learning and performance. There are excellent online dictionaries which you can use: *Garzanti* (<http://garzantilinguistica.sapere.it/>) and *Zanichelli* (<http://dizionari.zanichelli.it/dizionari-online/>). Please bookmark one or both of these and make it/them your first resource in dealing with new vocabulary.

Your second resource when faced with a new word should be an English-Italian/Italian-English dictionary. You must purchase one and bring it with you to class each day. There are Larousse dictionaries available in the bookstore, but you are not limited to this publisher only; there are a number of inexpensive alternatives readily available online.

Again, DO NOT make use of any online translators. It will be very evident to the instructor, and any suspicion will be brought to the Honor Council as a violation of the Honor Code, as mentioned above.

### Assessment

Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.

### Giornate di cultura italiana

During the fall semester, we will have two culture days in order to take a closer look at Italian celebrations and customs.

### Come contattarmi

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or if you would like to meet one-on-one to talk about your progress in the course, your interest in Italian, or anything else. If you feel you need to reach me urgently, please call Melissa Shrader, the Administrative Assistant for the Humanities Division, at 770-784-8466, and she will get a message to me. However, please do not use this as a normal means to contact me. Email is by far the best way to contact me; I will answer all messages promptly. I look forward to helping make the learning of Italian a successful and enjoyable experience for you.

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### Calcolo del voto final

Final grades will be reported with a letter grade and plus/minus, following the scale:

93-100=A	90-92=A-	87-89=B+	83-86=B	80-82=B-
77-79=C+	73-76=C	70-72=C-	67-69=D+	60-66=D
below 60=F				

Final grades are composed of the following elements:

#### **--PARTECIPAZIONE (10%)**

Active participation in class is essential to language learning. Class participation builds confidence; it helps to improve the accuracy, fluency, complexity, comprehensibility, and appropriateness of a message. Through participation, students obtain valuable feedback from peers and from the instructor, especially concerning areas of language use that need further attention. In order to get a good participation grade, you should: come to class prepared, ask questions, answer questions, volunteer to go to the board, etc.

#### **--COMPITI (10%)**

A sustained and consistent level of study outside of class time is critical in order to improve both language comprehension and production. Homework will be assigned daily and will include both written and oral work; some homework may include exercises and activities to prepare for speaking activities during the next class. Homework assignments are posted daily on Blackboard. If you are absent, note that you are still responsible for the homework due that day and the homework assigned for the next day. Please email me your homework some time before the class meets.

In addition to homework assignments, you should regularly dedicate time to reviewing the vocabulary we have studied, memorizing/ practicing verb conjugations, and reviewing material covered in class. You will be surprised by how much even 10-15 minutes a day will do to improve your recall of words and grammatical structures.

--**QUIZZES** (20%: 1<sup>st</sup> quiz = 5%, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quizzes = 7.5% each) & **TESTS** (30%: 3 tests at 10% each)  
There will be three quizzes, falling after Benvenuti (Unit 0), Unit 2, and Unit 4. The quizzes will be based on the preceding unit. There will also be three tests, after Units 1, 3, and 5. The tests will focus largely on the preceding unit but will also include previous topics of importance or topics that may not have been thoroughly mastered by students.

Both quizzes and tests will assess a variety of skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking, as well as grammar and vocabulary knowledge. The instructor may choose to assess an in-class speaking activity prior to the quiz or test to include in the score; if this is the case, students will be told which activity will be assessed.

Quizzes and tests CANNOT BE MADE UP\*; please make careful note of the dates included in this syllabus. \*Any student who has a documented emergency and misses a quiz or test will be able to make up the grade through a cumulative test towards the end of the semester.

--**PROJECT/ PRESENTAZIONE NO. 1: L'INTERVISTA** (10%)

The first project of the semester will be done in pairs and will take the form of an interview with a famous person. You and your partner will select a person and, together, you will prepare a written version of the interview and prepare a spoken presentation/re-enactment. A draft of the written interview is due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The degree to which you incorporate feedback and suggestions will be reflected in the final grade. Your grade will be an average of the written and oral presentations. You and your partner will receive the same credit for the written portion, but your final grades may vary based on your participation/ fluency/ pronunciation, etc. in the oral presentation.

--**PROJECT/ PRESENTAZIONE NO. 2** (15%)

The second project will be done in a small group. This project carries greater weight as it comes at the end of the semester and should represent the range and complexity of language that you will have acquired. In the group project, each student will work on a different aspect of the chosen topic. You will work with your group to share resources, do research, and plan your oral presentation; however, your written presentations will be done individually. You are required to submit a draft of your written presentation by November 30<sup>th</sup>. As with the first project, the degree to which you incorporate feedback and suggestions will be reflected in the final grade. Again, your grade will be an average of the two presentations.

We will have one 'work day' in class prior to both presentations. On these days you are encouraged to bring your laptops/ electronic devices to aid in research.

## --QUADERNO (5%)

You are required to compile a notebook during the semester. It is up to you how you organize the content. Creativity is encouraged. The notebook should contain the following materials:

- All quizzes and tests, along with critical self-evaluation of your performance, errors, and possible reasons for those errors. This evaluation might be in the form of summaries highlighting your strengths and recurring difficulties; it could be achieved with Post-it notes on each quiz/test highlighting errors and things you did well; it is up to you to choose a format that works for you.
- Copies of your written presentations (and draft copies), as well as visual aids (photos, screen shots of power point presentations, etc.) or other materials you may have used in your two projects/ presentations and some of the resources you used in your research.
- A personalized vocabulary section for each unit. It would be wise to compile these as you go along, adding difficult words, new words that you enjoyed learning, etc. from each unit. These could be in lists; they might be mind maps; they can be in alphabetical order (especially if done on the computer), or they might be grouped by lexical topic (family, jobs, etc.) or grammatical function (nouns together, verbs together, etc.).
- A comprehensive self-evaluation of your experience in the course, progress, strengths & weaknesses, plans for future use/study of Italian, etc.

Other materials, such as class notes, homework assignments, etc. may be included in the notebook but will not be assessed.

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## Date Importanti

I will do my best to ensure that the course follows the outlined dates below. Any changes due to unforeseen problems will be communicated to you with as much advance warning as possible.

29 agosto – 5 settembre	Benvenuti (Unità' 0)	[3 settembre = Labor Day, no class]
7 settembre	Quiz no. 1	
10 – 21 settembre	Unità' 1	
24 settembre	<b>Test no. 1</b>	
25 settembre	Work Day	
26 settembre – 8 ottobre	Unità' 2	[1 ottobre: Drafts due for Project 1]
9 ottobre	Quiz no. 2	
10 & 12 ottobre	<u>Project/ Presentation no. 1</u>	
15 & 16 ottobre	Fall Break, no class	
17 – 29 ottobre	Unità' 3	
30 ottobre	<b>Test no. 2</b>	
31 ottobre	Giornata della cultura italiana	
2 – 13 novembre	Unità' 4	
14 novembre	Quiz no. 3	
16 novembre	Work Day	
19 novembre – 4 dicembre	Unità' 5	[22&23 nov = Thanksgiving break] [30 novembre: Drafts due for Project 2]
5 dicembre	<b>Test no. 3</b>	
7 dicembre	Giornata della cultura italiana	
10 & 11 dicembre	<u>Project/ Presentation no. 2</u>	