

ITAL 0087
Food for Thought: Italian Food Culture

Fall 2025
TuTh 1:00-2:15PM
226 Cathedral of Learning

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Office hours by appointment (in person/on Zoom): See Canvas for details



***Benvenuti!* Welcome to our class!**

This course is an introduction to Italian history and culture in which we will explore the importance of Italian cuisine through the analysis of literature, historical texts, visual arts, and film. We will examine the history of food culture from antiquity to contemporary Italy. We will also explore the sociocultural and socioeconomic impacts of food and cuisine in contemporary Italy.

Course objectives

- Have an increased knowledge of Italian history, literature, art, culture, and identity through the study of food and cuisine.
- Have an increased knowledge of Italian foodways, food production, and the history of Italian culinary trends. This includes increased knowledge of Italian vocabulary related to food.
- Analyze historical and literary texts related to food production, consumption, importation/exportation, and legislation to better understand Italian history and culture.
- Describe and analyze representations of Italian cuisine, food customs and traditions, and by extension, various groups' roles in Italian society (including those of immigrant communities, women, etc.) and confront stereotypes and generalizations within these representations.
- Understand the food industry's impact on the economy and society in contemporary Italy.
- Improve and apply critical thinking and verbal writing skills by discussing and writing about topics presented in class.

Other course information

General Education Requirements: DSAS Geographic Region General Ed. Requirement, DSAS Historical Analysis General Ed. Requirement, SCI Polymathic Contexts: Global&Cross Cul GE. Req., SCI Polymathic Contexts: Soc/Behav. GE. Req.

This course fulfills two possible **General Education Requirements (GER)** in the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences: “**Historical Analysis**” and “**Geographic Region**”. This course deals with historical and societal changes in food production, importation/exportation, consumption, legislation, and representation from antiquity to modern times. It will also explore changes in literature and the arts by examining historical, literary, and visual texts. Students are to develop critical and analytical skills in order to comprehend, analyze, and situate the texts in a historical context. Students will also gain extensive knowledge and contextual understanding on a specific topic in Italian culture.

Prerequisites: There are **no prerequisites** for this class, but students who have taken **Italian** before or have some knowledge of Italian are encouraged to read the texts in their original language. Whenever possible readings will be provided in both English and Italian to help facilitate your language learning.

Required Texts: There is no required textbook for you to buy for this class. All reading assignments will be made available on **Canvas** in the form of PDF documents or web links to Pitt's library system.

Pots and pans in Bartolomeo Scappi's *Opera dell'arte del cuoco* (1643 ed.)

Course Structure: This course is divided roughly into five modules covered over the semester:

- I: The Origins of the Mediterranean Diet
- II: Spectacle and Commensality
- III: The Politics of Food and Cuisine
- IV: Authenticity and Food Fraud
- V: Food, Cuisine and Marginalized Communities in Contemporary Italy

We follow a weekly schedule that details all readings and assignments. The entire course schedule, including all readings and assignments, can be found on **Canvas**.



Bialetti x Dolce & Gabbana moka espresso maker

Course schedule

Course dates, readings, and assignments may change at the discretion of your professor. All changes will be noted on Canvas; **please check Canvas for any and all updates**. Please note that participation assignments are not noted on this calendar but instead will be completed in class.

	Topics	Assignments
Week 1	An Introduction to Our Course & the Mediterranean Diet	<p>For Tuesday: Read carefully the syllabus and email djt59@pitt.edu with any questions.</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the introduction "Identity as Exchange" in <i>Italian Cuisine: A Cultural History</i> (Capatti & Montanari, 2003)</p> <p>For Monday: Participation Post 1 and Weekly Comprehension Check 1 on Canvas</p>
Week 2 [Sept. 1 Labor Day]	Prehistoric Italy: the Mediterranean Diet; the Etruscans, Phoenicians, and Greeks	<p>For Tuesday: Read pp. 28-44 of Chapter 1 of <i>Al Dente: A History of Food in Italy</i> (Parasecoli, 2014)</p> <p>For Monday: Reading Reaction 1 and Weekly Comprehension Check 2</p>

Week 3	Food, cuisine, and society in Ancient Rome	<p>For Tuesday: Read the section on Ancient Rome (starts on p. 46) in Chapter 1 of <i>Al Dente: A History of Food in Italy</i> and the introduction to <i>Around the Roman Table: Food and Feasting in Ancient Rome</i></p> <p>For Thursday: Watch the videos posted to Canvas, and skim the excerpts of Apicius and his recipes on Canvas</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 3</p>
Week 4	Food, cuisine, and the creation of Italian social identity in the Middle Ages	<p>For Tuesday: Read Chapter 2 of <i>Al Dente</i></p> <p>For Thursday: Read the following from Boccaccio's Decameron: Preface and Introduction and three short stories on Canvas; Reading Reaction 2 to be completed in class</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 4</p>
Week 5	Food, art, and spectacle in the Italian Renaissance	<p>For Tuesday: Read Chapter 3 of <i>Al Dente</i></p> <p>For Thursday: Read Chapter 5 of <i>Da Vinci's Kitchen: A Secret History of Italian Cuisine</i> (Dewitt, 2006)</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 5</p>

Week 6	The <i>Risorgimento</i> , Italian Unification, and the creation of modern Italy	<p>For Tuesday: Read the section "The Process of Unification and its Consequences" in Chapter 4 of <i>Al Dente</i> and skim the excerpts of Pellegrino Artusi's <i>Science in the Kitchen and the Art of Eating Well</i> (1911) on Canvas</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the posted articles and excerpts from <i>Pinocchio</i>; Reading Reaction 3 will be completed in class</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 6</p>
Week 7 [Oct. 10 Fall Break]	Pre-war Italy; the Italian Futurists; WWII in Italy and its impacts on Italians	<p>For Tuesday: Read the article "Fascist Foodways: Ricettari as Propaganda for Grain Production and Sexual Reproduction" (Garvin, 2021) and the "Futurist Manifesto" (F. T. Marinetti, 1909)</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the "Manifesto of Futurist Cooking" (Marinetti & Filia, 1930) and skim the excerpt of Futurist Cuisine (Marinetti & Filia, 1932); Reading Reaction 4 will be completed in class</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 7</p>

Week 8	Post-war Italy and Reconstruction; the Economic Miracle of the late 1950s and early 1960s	<p>For Tuesday: Read the sections "Mayhem and Reconstruction" and "La Dolce Vita" in Chapter 5 of <i>Al Dente</i> and the article "Everything I, an Italian, Thought I Knew About Italian Food Was Wrong"</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the short stories in <i>Marcovaldo: Or Seasons in the City</i> (Calvino, 1963)</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 8</p>
Week 9	Italian cuisine after the Economic Miracle; the Slow Food movement	<p>Tuesday: Midterm Exam in class</p> <p>For Thursday: Read "The Official Slow Food Manifesto" and Chapter 1 "Appetite and Thought" in <i>Slow Food: The Case for Taste</i> (Petrini, 2001) and check out the Slow Food International website to become more familiar with their mission and initiatives.</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 9</p>
Week 10	Food fraud and adulteration and its effects on the Italian food industry	<p>For Tuesday: Read all of the brief news articles posted on Canvas</p> <p>For Thursday: Choose one article on Google Scholar using the search "food adulteration Italy" and bring a summary of the article to class</p> <p>For Monday: Reading Reaction 5 and Weekly Comprehension Check 10</p>

Week 11	Organized crime in the Italian food industries	<p>For Tuesday: Read the two news articles posted on Canvas</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the chapter "The Land of Fires" in <i>Gomorra</i> (Saviano, 2007)</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 11</p>
Week 12	Women, gender, and food in modern Italy	<p>For Tuesday: Read "Why Are There No Great Women Chefs?" by Charlotte Druckman in <i>Gastronomica</i> (2010), "The nonna and the international marketing of Italian food" by Fabio Parasecoli in <i>Gambero rosso</i> (2021), and "Women Take on Sexist Image in Italian Media" in <i>The New York Times</i> (Pooled, 2009)</p> <p>For Thursday: Read the posted article and TedTalk video posted on Canvas on the Italian chef Cristina Bowerman</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 12</p>
Week 13	The Italian diaspora and immigration to Italy today	<p>For Tuesday: Read the article "How 'Italian Food' Became a Global Sensation" (NPR)</p> <p>For Thursday: TBA</p> <p>For Monday: Weekly Comprehension Check 13</p>
November 24-28 Thanksgiving Break		
Week 14	Immigration, "gastronativism" and "gastronationalism" in Italy today	<p>For Tuesday: TBA; review for the final exam</p> <p>Thursday: Final Exam in class</p>

Other Important Dates

- September 5 – Add/drop deadline
- September 12 – Extended drop deadline
- October 24 – Monitored Withdrawal deadline
- November 4 – Election Day (all classes and office hours are remote)

Expectations and responsibilities

Your role in this class: Much of the responsibility for learning falls on you, the student. A part of your final grade is based on **homework and participation**. Engagement and participation can take many forms: speaking up in class, working in small groups, participating in polls via apps in class, posting on the discussion board as needed. Engagement in this class is dynamic and flexible, and if one kind of participation is not working for you, please come talk to me. **You are expected to attend class and attendance will be taken regularly. Students are expected to complete required reading assignments before class, in preparation for in-class activities and discussions.** Reading assignments are to help students be able to participate during class discussions and debates; slides and other audio-visual materials will be used to complement readings and class discussion. Since there is **no required textbook**, the lectures are based on a variety of sources (print and web-based) and therefore active participation and completion of reading assignments are necessary to successfully complete this course.

NB: Course Engagement, Participation, and Professionalism

What is engagement? Engagement is another way to think of participation in this class. Please come to class prepared to actively engage and participate. Engagement and participation does not mean that you have to speak up the most in class. It can also mean working well with your peers, being a good listener, and asking questions about course topics.

Although I do not ban technology in the classroom, please use devices only for reasons that pertain directly to our lesson (consulting reading assignment, contributing to a Google Doc in a participation activity, etc.) Messaging, shopping, perusing social media sites, etc. while your peers and I are speaking are unprofessional behaviors that disrupt the flow of the classroom. Please refrain from these behaviors in class. Failure to do so will result in a lower participation grade.

My role in this class: As the instructor, I will do my best to **foster lively and engaging discussions** and debate. I aim to create an **active and student-centered learning environment**, and to this end, I encourage students to participate and speak up in class. Please **do not hesitate to ask any questions** or contribute to the class: you are not expected to be familiar with Italian culture, history, or language (at least at the beginning of the course) and so no question is too basic or banal. I strive to create a **comfortable learning environment** for all students. If you feel like you are impeded from

participating in any way, please do not hesitate to come speak with me. Homework and assignments will be graded in a timely manner (within one week from the due date). I will do my best to ensure that all directions and deadlines are clear, but **please contact me at djt59@pitt.edu if you have any questions regarding assignments.**

Grading and Assessments

This course uses **specs grading system**, where students are graded according to the bundle of assignments that they choose to complete.

Grade Bundles and Assignments: The most significant difference with specs (or bundled) grading is that your grade is determined by the number of assignments that you complete at the "satisfactory" level. If you choose to not complete all the assignments in the "A" bundle, for example, your grade will then be determined by the number of assignments that you did complete. For example, if you have completed at "satisfactory" all the items in the "A" bundle except for one reaction/response post, your grade will result in a "B". Qualifiers such as "plus" or "minus" (i.e., B- or C+) are given at my discretion. You should decide how much time, effort, and energy that you want to put into this class and then choose a bundle that represents your goals. Below are the bundles for the Fall 2025 semester:

	"A" Grade Bundle	"B" Grade Bundle	"C" Grade Bundle	"D" Grade Bundle
Attendance	~95% attendance rate (2 <u>unexcused</u> absences allowed)	~85% attendance rate (6 <u>unexcused</u> absences allowed)	~75% attendance rate (10 <u>unexcused</u> absences allowed)	~65% attendance rate (14 <u>unexcused</u> absences allowed)
Participation	90% or above satisfactory completion rate of in-class and online participation opportunities	80%- 89% satisfactory completion rate of in-class and online participation opportunities	70%-79% satisfactory completion rate of in-class and online participation opportunities	60%-69% satisfactory completion rate of in-class and online participation opportunities
Weekly Comprehension Checks	Satisfactory completion of 12-13 weekly comprehension checks on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of 10-11 weekly comprehension checks on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of at least 9 weekly comprehension checks on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of at least 8 weekly comprehension checks on Canvas
Reactions & Responses	Satisfactory completion of all 6 responses on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of 5 responses on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of 4 responses on Canvas	Satisfactory completion of 3 responses on Canvas
Midterm Exam	Score of 90% of higher	Score of 80-89%	Score of 70-79%	Score of 60% or less

Final Exam	Score of 90% of higher	Score of 80-89%	Score of 70-79%	Score of 60% or less
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Please note:

- To pass this course with a “C” (e.g., you are taking this course pass/fail), you must complete **all** items in the corresponding “C” bundle above. Failure to do so will result in a D or F in the course. For example, if you complete all weekly comprehension checks, reading reactions, the scholarly article essay, and the collaborative project *but* you have less than a 70% participation grade, your final grade will automatically fall into the “D” category. Failure to meet all of the requirements in the “D” category will result in an “F” for the final grade.
- Anyone with more than **14 *unexcused* absences will automatically fail the course.**
- ***Excused* absences will not be counted against students.** A documented excused absence may happen for a variety of reasons: illness, family emergency, unexpected issues at work/home, etc. Please simply email me the day of the missed class to let me know that you will not be in class. Even if you are absent, you are still responsible for turning in any in-class activities for that day. If for any reason you will be absent for an extended period of time, please let me know as soon as possible.
- **Most assignments in this class are graded on a “satisfactory/retake” model.** In the Grades area of Canvas, this will appear as a green checkmark for “satisfactory” and a black “X” for “retake”. **The criteria for satisfactory completion are provided for each assignment on Canvas in the item description.** Students who receive a grade of “retake” have **one week to resubmit** the assignment and will receive feedback on how to satisfactorily complete the assignment. Unless there are extenuating circumstances that comprise an excused absence, all assignments must be completed on time before class. **Unexcused late work will not be accepted.**
- **Records for all items will be updated regularly on Canvas.** Please click on the Grades link to see your progress.
- **A complete list of assignment types:**
 - **Attendance** will be taken regularly.
 - **Participation in this class takes many forms:** traditional discussions, opinion polls sent via smartphones, small group in-class activities, games, Canvas posts, etc. **Students who miss class for any reason should arrange to complete the participation assignment as soon as possible.** Contact me if you cannot find this information posted on Canvas. Online (Canvas) participation exercises should be completed as soon as possible once the student returns to class.

- **Weekly comprehension checks** are multiple-choice questions on the week's course material. These are graded automatically and students can retake them for a higher score. These are designed to help you focus on the key terms, issues, and themes and to better learn and review the material.
 - **Reactions/responses** are short (paragraph-length) texts that you will submit via Canvas. They are designed to engage critical thinking about topics, readings, and other media consulted in class. These may be due as homework assignments or completed in class.
 - The **midterm and final exams** are written exams in which students will demonstrate knowledge of key topics, figures, events, and issues in a series of short (paragraph-length) responses. A study guide will be provided to students roughly 10-14 days before the exam.
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Additional Departmental/University Policies and Resources

How to declare a minor or major in Italian

Students should declare their minor in Italian as early as possible to ensure optimal curricular planning and to best facilitate Italian Program communications and notifications. To declare an Italian minor, please click here: [Dietrich School Major, Minor, and Certificate Declaration](#).

If you are interested in an Italian minor or major or would like more information about these options, please email our Undergraduate Advisor Prof. Chiara Montera at chiara.montera@pitt.edu.

Find information on studying abroad in Italy

The university has a number of study abroad programs in Italy, with semester-long programs in Florence and summer programs in Rome and Florence. [Find more information on study abroad here](#).

Prof. Lorraine Denman is the Study Abroad Advisor for the Italian Program. If you have questions regarding academics or courses abroad, please contact her at denman@pitt.edu.

Your well-being matters

College/Graduate school can be an exciting and challenging time for students. Taking time to care for yourself and seeking appropriate support can help you achieve your academic and professional goals. You are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep, and taking time to relax.

It can be helpful to remember that we all benefit from assistance and guidance at times, and there are many resources available to support your well-being while you are at Pitt. If you or anyone

you know experiences overwhelming academic stress, persistent difficult feelings and/or challenging life events, you are strongly encouraged to seek support. In addition to reaching out to friends and loved ones, consider connecting with a faculty member you trust for assistance connecting to helpful resources. The University Counseling Center is also here for you. You can call 412-648-7930 at any time to connect with a clinician. You can also [visit the Counseling Center website](#).

If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please call the University Counseling Center at any time at 412-648-7930.

You can also contact Resolve Crisis Network at 888-796-8226. If the situation is life threatening, call Pitt Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911.

If the situation is life threatening, call the Police:

On-campus: Pitt Police: 412-268-2121

Off-campus: 911

In case of university closures, lockdown, or other cancellations

Pitt faculty have been asked to indicate alternative procedures in case the university or part of the university is closed due to building malfunctions, inclement weather, or emergency lockdowns. If any of these situations should occur, our class will meet on Zoom at the link provided on our Canvas main page. Please make sure you check your Pitt email daily for notifications about our class.

Our classroom and department climate regarding diversity, inclusion, and accessibility

University of Pittsburgh's "Civil Rights and Title IX" Policy (for continuing students: www.diversity.pitt.edu has been changed to www.wellbeing.pitt.edu):

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, visit the [Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance web page](#).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be [filed online](#). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University's Office of Institutional Engagement and Wellbeing. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

The Department of French and Italian's Statement on Diversity:

Inspired by the University's nondiscrimination policy, we, the members of the Department of French and Italian, embrace a notion of intellectual community enriched and enhanced by diversity in all forms. We appreciate that identities are complex, intersectional, and dynamic, in the classroom, in course materials, and in French- and Italian-speaking communities beyond campus. Diversity provides the benefit of allowing multiple perspectives inside and outside of the classroom. We expect that all members of our learning community commit to 1) creating an intellectual space where students are free to express their opinions in ways that are respectful of others and their perspectives, 2) engaging in the process of questioning and revising their own identities and perspectives, and 3) understanding the ways in which our identities position us within the classroom.

University of Pittsburgh's Students with Disabilities Statement:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources Services (DRS; www.drs.pitt.edu), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as soon as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

The Department of French and Italian's Statement on Accessibility:

The Department of French and Italian aims to foster an environment that supports, facilitates, and encourages the learning process. Students at Pitt can access formal, university-level assistance and request accommodations with DRS. Alongside the DRS office, the Department of French and Italian strives to make all components of our courses accessible to all students. Please do not hesitate to contact your instructor to discuss your learning needs. We will make every possible effort to accommodate students in a timely and confidential manner. In addition to ongoing needs, we recognize that life circumstances (personal, health, family, financial or other concerns) may interfere with your studies. In this case, please contact your instructor to discuss possible adjustments or alternative arrangements regarding coursework.

Gender-inclusive language guidelines

Aspiring to create a learning environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, the University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program provides guidelines and resources regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language at <https://www.gsws.pitt.edu/resources/faculty-resources/gender-inclusive-non-sexist-language-guidelines-and-resources>. Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, strengthens academic writing, enriches discussion, and reflects best professional practices.

Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language

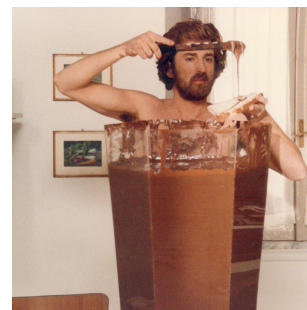
acknowledges people of any gender (e.g., first-year versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

Cell phones/laptops

Cell phones should be switched off at the beginning of class unless your instructor asks you to use them. Please do not make or take calls, text, or otherwise use your phone during class time. Your participation grade may be negatively affected should you choose to do so. Laptops may be used to take notes, at the discretion of your instructor.

Easter egg

I am putting a little Easter egg fun fact in this part of the syllabus to make sure you are actually reading these policies. On the first comprehension quiz, I will ask you which famous Italian I have met in person. The answer is Nanni Moretti, the Italian filmmaker best known for *Caro diario* (1993). Check it out! Here's Moretti in a vat of Nutella in his film *Bianca* (1984).



Participation

Since participation is a large component of your final grade in this course, your daily efforts to arrive punctually, come to class prepared, and participate in all class activities are essential. The criteria for satisfactory participation are habitually arriving for class on time, always listening attentively when others speak, asking pertinent questions, volunteering in all activities, participating in all activities with enthusiasm, and responding to questions from others. Your instructor will keep track of your participation and will keep you informed of your progress in this area. The grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

Assignments and “quizzes”

All homework must be handed in on time. In addition to assignments posted to Canvas, you may be given other written assignments as well as web-based activities that are to be turned in to your instructor or posted to Canvas for grading. Quizzes will be given in class or on Canvas on a regular basis to check your progress. All assignments and quizzes must be completed on time—your instructor will not accept late work unless there are extenuating, documented circumstances. Always communicate such circumstances as soon as possible to your instructor.

Classroom recording policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private

use.

Email policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

I will do their best to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them (M-F).

Student evaluations of this course (OMET)

The Department of French and Italian greatly values student feedback. The OMET online evaluations are the primary tool we use to assess instructors and evaluate courses. These evaluations are used to develop and improve curricular design and instructional efficacy. In addition, OMETs are shared with upper-level administration when deciding on contract renewal, promotion, awards, tenure, etc. We thank you for taking the time to provide thoughtful and constructive feedback. Whether in the Language Media Center or in the regular classroom, OMETs will be conducted during class time towards the end of the semester; however, students may opt to complete the OMET online after the link becomes live on my.pitt.edu. There is no penalty for students who opt not to take the OMET.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the [Academic Integrity Guide](#) for an overview of the topic. For hands-on practice, complete the [Academic Integrity Modules](#).

In this course: Plagiarism is a serious ethical matter and an infraction of University Policy. Students should familiarize themselves with both the University Policy on Academic Integrity (available at <https://www.provost.pitt.edu/faculty/academic-integrity-freedom/academic->

[integrity-guidelines](#)) and the Dietrich School Academic Integrity Code (<https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code>). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of human or online translators or language generators (i.e. Google Translate, ChatGPT/AI)
2. Unauthorized editorial help (asking a friend in an upper-level course for help)
3. Unattributed use of an author's ideas (theft of intellectual property)
4. Unattributed use of an author's words (lack of proper citation)

Any student who plagiarizes will be immediately reported to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies charged with matters of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for first-time violations typically result in a '0' or an 'F' grade for the assignment. Second violations may result in a failing grade for the course and expulsion from the University.

Sexual misconduct, required reporting, and Title IX

If you are experiencing sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic violence, and stalking, please report it to me and I will connect you to University resources to support you.

University faculty and staff members are required to report all instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence to the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. When a report is made, individuals can expect to be contacted by the Title IX Office with information about support resources and options related to safety, accommodations, process, and policy. I encourage you to use the services and resources that may be most helpful to you.

As your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me. You can also report directly to Office of Civil Rights and Title IX: 412-648-7860 (M-F; 8:30am-5:00pm) or via the Pitt Concern Connection at: [Make A Report](#)

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as a relevant part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

If you wish to make a confidential report, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

- The University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F) and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)
- Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (community resource): 1-866-363-7273 (24/7)

If you have an immediate safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121

Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Pittsburgh.

For additional information, please visit the [full syllabus statement](#) on the Office of Institutional Engagement and Wellbeing webpage.

From the [Office of Institutional Engagement & Wellbeing](#).

If you are having trouble in class

If, for any reason, you are having trouble in this class, please **first talk to your me**. Remember that we are here to facilitate your learning, and that we want to help you succeed. Your instructor can talk to you during office hours and/or via email to give you tips on how to do better, how to study more effectively, and answer any questions that you may have about class.

If you are having difficulties in class for any other reason, there are many resources at Pitt. The [Study Lab](#), located in G-1 in the Gardener Steel Conference Center, has workshops and one-on-one sessions to help you develop better study skills, write and edit papers, and better manage your time.

If you are having problems with anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, or other mental wellness issues, you can visit or call the [University Counseling Center](#) for a free and confidential appointment. They also offer group therapy and support groups for students dealing with grief, social anxiety, trauma, and a variety of other issues. Call them at 412-648-7930 for an appointment or stop by their office in Nordenberg Hall. Other ways to deal with stress and anxiety on campus include the [Stress Free Zone](#), located on the 3rd floor of the William Pitt Union. They offer a variety of classes, one-on-one appointments, and space where you can meditate, practice yoga, etc. They, too, can provide you with strategies to better cope with the stresses of college life.

If you are suffering from financial distress or insecurity, our campus provides a number of resources to help. [Find them here](#).

Finally, check out the [Open Door Project](#) to find community conversations designed to improve awareness and develop communication skills.