

ITA 200, Intermediate Italian Lecture 1, Department of Languages, Literature, and Cultures, Fall 2018

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Laura Orsi, M.A, Ph.D.
Instructor's Email: lorsi@fus.edu
Office Hours: Monday/Thursday 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and by appointment
Class location: Kaletsch Classroom 3
Class meeting times: Monday/Thursday 1 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students who have completed two semesters of Italian language study. The course provides a review and expansion of command of Italian grammar, vocabulary, and culture. The acquisition of aural/oral communication skills will be stressed and, as such, the predominant language of instruction will be Italian. By the end of the course students will achieve proficiency at the B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Students will be expected to be proficient in the written and spoken usage of intermediate linguistic structures. Students will be expected to deal with most situations likely to arise in the areas where the language is spoken. They will be able to: a) produce simple connected texts on topics, which are familiar or of personal interest; b) describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions; and c) briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Whenever possible, the written assignments will be designed to foster practical communication skills and encourage efforts towards increased student integration in the local Italian-speaking community.

III. RATIONALE

This is a core curriculum course that aims to increase the student's linguistic and cross-cultural competencies at the intermediate level of proficiency. Franklin encourages all students to be strong, independent users of a language other than English, equivalent to B2 or higher on the European Common Framework scale. At the 200 level, Franklin language students will achieve proficiency at the B1 level or higher of the ECF in Italian.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The main goal of this course is to enable students to take full advantage of Franklin University's unique context for Italian language learning. In class, students will develop the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills considered necessary for basic communication with the local Italian-speaking community, corresponding to B1 in the European Common Framework.

B1 Level		
Comprehension	<i>Listening</i>	I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.
	<i>Reading</i>	I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency every-day or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.
Speaking	<i>Spoken Interaction</i>	I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).
	<i>Spoken Production</i>	I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
Writing		I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the 200 level, Franklin language students will achieve proficiency at the B1 level or higher of

the European Common Framework, demonstrating their ability to:

- understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.;
- deal with most situations likely to arise in Lugano or whilst travelling in other areas where the language is spoken;
- produce simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest;
- describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

More specifically, students are expected to be able to:

- talk about music tastes, describe a plot
- describe in detail places
- talk about emotions and sensations
- protest and react, give suggestions
- express doubt, necessity, disagreement, incredulity, condition, certainty
- do and correct hypothesis

In addition to the linguistic capacities noted above, we expect our graduates to begin cultivating an appreciation of the literary and cultural traditions in the target language.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Aski, J. M., Musumeci, D. (2014), *Avanti! Beginning Italian, 3rd Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Textbook + Workbook/Laboratory Manual.
- Suggested optional text: Mina Ricci, *Via della Grammatica for English speakers*. Roma: Edilingua, 2011.

N.B. Please note that photocopied materials may be distributed in class or uploaded on Moodle. Students absent from class for whatever reason are responsible for all information and assignments associated with these handouts.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The student's grade will be determined according to:

- Active In-Class Participation: 15%
- Class Preparation (including vocabulary notebook, homework assignments, self-checked student's activities manual exercises): 15%
- 3 Compositions: 7.5%

- 3 Short Readings: 7.5%
- 4 quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exam (listening, oral and written): 15%
- Final Exams (listening, oral and written): 25%

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

- Compositions and homework must be TYPED, dated, labeled, and stapled (if necessary). You should use a dictionary (e.g. www.wordreference.com) and refer to the textbook as a grammar reference when writing your compositions. **Effort will be rewarded.**
- Since homework is part of your grade (see above), your professor may conduct occasional “Spotchecks” to identify possible problems.
- You are responsible for anything covered in class and should take detailed notes which may be collected for review by your professor. Keep an ongoing notebook of vocabulary words and new expressions you learn during the course of the semester (both in AND out of class). Be an attentive listener and come to class MOTIVATED and willing to actively practice with your spoken Italian.
- No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. A missed quiz will be counted as an ‘F’ (0%). At the discretion of the professor, your lowest quiz score may be dropped at the end of the semester. Pop quizzes may be given at any time.

N.B. Please note that make-up examinations will not be given for any reason.

IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Assessment

Every assessment will be evaluated as follows:

A : 94-100	A- : 90-93	
B+ : 88-89	B : 84-87	B- : 80-83
C+ : 78-79	C : 74-77	C- : 70-73
D+ : 68-69	D : 64-67	D- : 60-63
F: 0-59		

Attendance Policy

Attendance is considered crucial to student success. Therefore, three student absences will be tolerated during the course of the term. After four absences, the student’s grade will automatically drop by one letter. After five absences you will receive a failing grade for the course.

This number of total absences allowed includes absences due to illness. In exceptional cases, the professor reserves the right to excuse absences.

If you arrive 5 or more minutes late 3 times, this will count as an absence and accordingly influence the final grade.

Discipline

With regard to minimum standards of discipline in the classroom, rude behavior such as suspected internet surfing or suspected cell phone messaging will result in an automatic lowering of your grade. It is advisable for students to keep their cell phones off their desks in order to best engage in focused language learning. Respect for classmates and the importance of the learning process is held in extremely high regard in this course, as in all other Franklin University courses.

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Importance of Homework

Students of ITA 200 should be informed that language faculty will ask them to complete up to six additional hours of homework per week. This is true for all 3-credit classes. Homework (grammar review, exercises and readings, compositions, group projects, self-guided vocabulary acquisition) will permit students to accelerate their learning of the basic structures of Italian and should be taken seriously.

Definition of Participation

Student appears alert and attentive, responds promptly and enthusiastically to communicative prompts; collaborates actively and productively with others in group settings. Student diligently takes notes in class on vocabulary, grammar, cultural points; student gives evidence of diligently executing assignments compositions, reading comprehension exercises; student gives evidence of executing and self-checking chapter assignments in the New Italian Espresso Workbook.

Get Outside!

Your learning process will be facilitated and accelerated by using every possible occasion to integrate into the Italian-speaking community.

Come and see me!

If you need personal advice on how to do well in this course do not hesitate: Come and see me during my office hours or set up an appointment to see me at other times.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the **NEW** Academic Catalog for full statement (**page 199**):

<https://www.fus.edu/files/FUS-academic-catalog-2018-2020.pdf>

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Writing and Learning Center

Italian language tutoring is available at the WLC. Set up an appointment to see a tutor by writing an email to: wlcenter@fus.edu.

FUS libraries

Italian DVDs, books, and newspaper are available. Stop by or contact Clelie Riat: criat@fus.edu.

Learning Difference

If you have a documented learning difference and think you have the right to accommodations, please contact Corbin Moro (cmoro@fus.edu).

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE at a glance. (You will find all details in our **MOODLE page**).

- WEEKS 1-3: *Units 1-2.*

Thur. 30 Aug. **Draft** of Composition 1 due.

Thur. 6 Sept.: **Composizione 1 due** ("La mia estate"). Approx. 150 words.

Thur. Sept. 13th: Quiz 1

- WEEKS 4-5: *Units 3-4.*

Thur. 20 Sept.: **Draft** of Composition 2 due ("Un'ora di shopping").

Mon. 24 Sept.: **Composizione 2 due**. Approx. 200 words.

Thur. Sept. 27th: Quiz 2.

- WEEKS 6-7: *Units 5-6. + Review for Midterm Exam.*
- WEEK 8: **Midterm Exam:**

Mon. Oct. 15th: Listening + Speaking;

Thur. Oct. 18th: Written.

- WEEKS 9 & 10: ACADEMIC TRAVEL (possibility of for-extra-credit Travel Journal, approx.. 300 words)
- WEEKS 11-12: **Presentations** (Academic Travel) and *Units* 7-8. Thur. 15 Nov.: Quiz 3 (focus on Units 7 and 8).

Thur. 8 Nov.: **Draft** of Composition 3 due (“Una sera fuori con i miei amici”). Approx. 300 words.

- WEEKS 13-14: *Units* 9-10. Thur. 29 Nov.: Quiz 4 (focus on *Units* 9-10).

Mon. 12 Nov.: **Composition 3** due.

- WEEK 15: Final Review + **FINALS**: Part 1 (Listening + Speaking).
- WEEK 16: **FINALS**: Part 2 (Written Test).

Final Exam time for Lecture 1: 13 Dec., MV3, 11am-1pm.

L. Orsi, 25 August 2018