

**I. COURSE INFORMATION**

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Instructor: Laura Orsi, M.A, Ph.D. (The Warburg Institute, University of London)

Instructor's Email: lorsi@fus.edu

Office Hours: Mon. & Thur. 4-5pm and by appointment

Class location: **MV 3**

Class meeting times: **Mon. & Thur. 13:00-14:15pm**

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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This course is designed for Students who have completed two semesters of Italian language study. The course provides Students an opportunity to expand their familiarity with, and appreciation of Italian grammar, vocabulary and culture. The acquisition of aural/oral and written communication skills will be emphasized through audio-visual materials and literary texts. Technically speaking, by the end of the course Students will have achieved proficiency at the B1/B1+ level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. During the course, Students will become increasingly proficient in the written and spoken usage of intermediate linguistic structures. Specifically, they will be able to deal with most situations likely to arise in the areas where the language is spoken. They will be able to: a) produce complex texts on topics which are of personal and shared interest; b) describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and wishes; and c) give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Assignments will include reflecting on films, documentaries, short stories and newspaper articles, as well as interviewing members of the local Italian speaking community. A creative approach will be encouraged throughout the course, to kindle heart-felt communication and encourage efforts towards a successful integration in the local Italian-speaking community and Italy itself. Special projects will give Students an opportunity to use grammar in a spontaneous, joyful way.

**III. RATIONALE**

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One of the distinctive features of the Franklin core curriculum includes the 5-semester Modern Language requirement. Franklin expects all students to be strong, independent users of a language other than English, equivalent to **B1/B1+ or higher** on the European Common Framework scale. All students must complete at least through the 201-level in Italian.

**IV. COURSE GOALS**

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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/B1+ in the European Common Framework.

Completing B1/B1+ Level		
Comprehension	Listening	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.
	Reading	I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.
Speaking	Spoken Interaction	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).
	Spoken Production	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 201 level, Franklin language students will achieve proficiency at the B1/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

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• Aski, J. M., Musumeci, D. (2012). *Arrivederci!., vol. 2*. Roma: Edilingua.

- Suggested additional text: Mina Ricci. *Via della Grammatica for English speakers*. Roma: Edilingua, 2011.
- Natalia Ginzburg. *Le piccole virtù*. Torino: Einaudi, 2015.

N.B. Please note the following:

Photocopied materials may be distributed in class or uploaded on Moodle during the semester.

Students absent from class for whatever reason are **responsible** for all information and assignments associated with these handouts.

**Please note that you can find all your assignments uploaded in Moodle at the beginning of the semester.** Any changes that may be necessary will be notified **via email** ahead of time.

In our Moodle page you will find a detailed list of your assignments for each class as well as reminders of quiz and exam dates.

## VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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The Student's grade will be determined according to:

• Active In-Class Participation	15%
• Class Preparation ( <u>including vocabulary notebook, homework assignments, self-checked students' activities, manual exercises</u> ):	15%
• 2 Compositions	10%
• 3 Quizzes:	15%
• Midterm Exam (listening, oral and written test):	15%
<u>Listening will count 5%, Speaking 5%, Written Test 5%</u>	
• Final Project: <i>Il mio mestiere</i> (see Moodle for details, Week 15).	10%
• Final Exam (listening, speaking and written test):	20%
<u>Listening will count 5%; Speaking 5%; Written Exam 10%</u>	

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## VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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- Compositions and homework must be TYPED, dated, labeled, and stapled (if necessary). You should use a dictionary (e.g. [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com)) and refer to the textbook as a grammar reference when writing your compositions. **Effort will be rewarded, with extra credit points, up to 5 (e. Academic Travel Journal or additional compositions).**
- 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

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### Assessment

Every assessment will be evaluated as follows:

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

### Attendance Policy

Attendance is considered crucial to student success. Therefore, **one student absence will be tolerated during the course of the term. In the event of a second absence, the student's final grade will drop by 5 points. An additional 5 points will be deducted following a third absence. After four 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)**

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### **Importance of Homework**

Students of ITA 201 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**

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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 Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):

[https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS\\_ACADEMIC\\_CATALOG\\_2018\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2018_2020_web.pdf)

## XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

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**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](mailto:wlcenter@fus.edu).

### FUS libraries

Italian DVDs, books, and newspaper are available. Stop by or contact Clelie Riat: [criat@fus.edu](mailto: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](mailto:cmoro@fus.edu)).

## XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

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### WEEK 1: Review (vol. 2 of *Arrivederci!*).

### WEEK 2: Unit 1: *I cinque sensi*.

Topics: The 5 senses.

Communicative functions:

Grammar: verbs *sapere* and *conoscere* (present perfect & imperfect); verbs *fare* and *lasciare* + infinitive.

### WEEK 3: Unit 2: *Un cuore per gli altri*.

Topics: Solidarity / Charity / Volunteering Work / Helping the Elderly.

Communicative functions:

Grammar: *meglio* / *migliore*; the plus perfect; the verb *farcela*; *visto che* and *dato che*.

### WEEK 4: Unit 3: *Nonni, figli, nipoti*.

Topics: Family / Generations / Italy after the 1950s.

Communicative functions: Describing a Movie / Comparing Generations / Speaking about Family Ties / Telling a fact / Speaking about Changes.

Grammar: combined pronouns (also with *ne*); the verb *andarsene*.

### WEEK 5: Unit 4: *Cos'è la felicità?*

Topics: Happiness and Pleasure / Success / Cult of Popularity / Inventions.

Communicative functions: Speaking about Happiness and Life Quality / Expressing One's Opinion, Feelings, etc. / Expressing Hope and Wishes.

Grammar: the Subjunctive, present and perfect.

**WEEK 6: Unit 5: L'Italia ieri e oggi.**

Topics: Italy's Major Historical, Political and Social Events / Feminism in Italy.

Communicative functions: Speaking about Historical Events, Politics / Expressing Agreement and Disagreement / Connecting Facts or Topics.

Grammar: the passive form with *venire* and *essere* / *perché, poiché, siccome* / *dopo* + past infinitive.

**WEEK 7: Unit 6: Bellezza all'italiana.**

Topics: Beauty / Ideals of Beauty / Wellbeing / Rome as a Movie Set / Nature and Landscapes.

Communicative functions: Speaking about Beauty, Art, etc. / Describing Landscapes.

Grammar: Review of Present Conditional / *se* and *quando* / the Past Conditional.

**WEEKS 8 & 9: ACADEMIC TRAVEL. Possibility of 5% extra credit for Academic Travel Journal (2 pages, A4, 1.5 space).**

**WEEK 10: Review & Presentations (Academic Travel) + Unità 7**

Unit 7: *Che italiano parliamo?*

Topics: The Italian Language / Dialects / Linguistic Registers / A Short History of the Italian Language / Anglicisms / Illiteracy.

Communicative functions: Speaking about Regional Characteristics / Speaking about the Evolution of the Italian language, etc.

Grammar: The Past Simple / Changing Nouns' Endings.

**WEEK 11: Unit 8: Come comunichiamo oggi?**

Topics: Media / Communication Styles / Social Network / Entertainment / Television / Jokes.

Communicative functions: Speaking about the Media and Textual Genres / Reporting Opinions and Events / Expressing Criticism / Telling a Joke.

Grammar: Indirect Discourse / *quello/ ciò + che, di cui*, etc.

**WEEK 12: Unit 9: Paese che vai, usanze che trovi!**

Topics: Interculturalism / Cliches / Misunderstandings.

Communicative functions: Speaking about all of the above!

Grammar: The Subjunctive in the Imperfect Tense / Additional Expressions with the Subjunctive / Hypotheses of Possibility.

**WEEK 13: Unit 10: Siamo tutti europei.**

Topics: Europe 7 European Institutions / Advantages and Disadvantages of Being Europeans.

Communicative functions: Speaking about Europe, etc. / Expressing Possibilities, Hopes,

Disappointment in a Hypothetical Mode.

Grammar: Review of Subjunctive and Conditional / Non-Reality in Hypothetical Clauses / the Fourth (and Last!) Type of Subjunctive: the Plus Perfect.

**WEEK 14: Easter Monday: no classes today. This week: Final reading + Final Project.**

**WEEK 15: Final Project and Final Review.**

**WEEK 16: FINALS**

### **COURSE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**Course schedule at a glance (save the dates!)**

- Weeks 1-3: General Review (vol. 2 of *Arrivederci!*)
- **Week 3:** \***Thur., 8 Feb.: Quiz 1\*** (Review + Units 1-2 of *Arrivederci!*, vol. 3)
- Weeks 4-5: Completion of Unit 14
- Week 5:** \***Thur., 21 Feb.: Quiz 2\*** (Focus on Units 3-4 of *Arrivederci!*, vol. 3))
- Weeks 4-6: Film *Io sono Ingrid* (starring Ingrid Bergman).
- Week 7: **Midterm**  
  
Focus of Midterm Exam: General Review + Units 1-6 + all related activities
- **Weeks 8-9: Academic Travel**
- Weeks 10-11: Presentations
- Week 12: \***Thur., 11 April: Quiz 3\*** (Focus on Units 7-8)
- Weeks 12-13: **Film Project (interviews): \*Italy Outside Italy\***
- Weeks 14-15: **Final Project: *Il mio mestiere*.**
- Mon. 2 May General Review, with exam simulations

- Week 16: **Final Exam (Part 1): Listening+Speaking: MV 3, Mon. 2 May, class time !**

**Final Exam (Part 2): Final Written Exam MV3, Thur. 9 May, 11:00am-1pm.**

**Please note:** Finals will be based on a general review of Italian grammar, with special focus on Units 1-10 of *Arrivederci!*, vol. 3.

Laura Orsi, Jan. 2019