



## ITAL 211S: Intensive Italian through Culture: Intermediate

Summer Semester 2025  
Course Syllabus

**Credits:** 8

**Contact Hours:** 100

**Co-curricular cultural activities:** 40+

**Prerequisites:** Two semesters of college level Italian or permission of the Instructor

**Instructor(s):** Luca Gatti, PhD

**Course Type:** Course taught entirely in Italian

### Course Description

*Intensive Italian through Culture* combines intensive language instruction with a rich immersion in Italian culture, past as well as present. The program has two components: Italian language classes and speaking opportunities; and cultural events conducted in Italian.

This is specifically tailored for students who have completed two semesters of Italian and wish to enrich their knowledge and understanding of the Italian language. Some heritage speakers may also qualify for this level. The primary objective is to equip students with the ability to speak the language confidently, introduce them to more complex grammatical structures, and expand their vocabulary through exposure to authentic texts. This is achieved through a comprehensive approach: students work with various types of Italian texts and audio-visual materials (e.g., narrative and literary excerpts, Italian songs, dialogues, and videos); engage in guided in-class group activities; and produce brief stories and compositions. Additionally, students participate in out-of-classroom activities that necessitate the application of their in-class learning. Throughout the course, students delve into various cultural aspects such as regionalism, festivals and traditions, social customs, literature, cinema, style and fashion, music, and other defining features of Italian culture. This exploration aims to deepen students' understanding and practice of the language. By the end of the session, students will have developed the capacity for more complex written and oral expression, learned to navigate different social contexts, and built a vocabulary and socio-linguistic competence appropriate to each situation.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

After completing this level, students will be able to communicate at a simple operational level in everyday situations. They will be able to: describe themselves and their surroundings, hold informal conversations about the weather, shopping, the cinema, holidays and talk about routines and processes. The communicative purpose at this stage is to extend vocabulary and expressions, construct simple sentences and begin to elaborate with more details, giving simple reasons and opinions. During the course, students will notice that they understand short explanations, announcements and items of news relating to everyday life and basic professional communications in the target language with more ease and they will become more confident writing short texts providing concrete information or making simple requests verbally and in writing.

### Course Materials

#### Textbook

*L'Italiano in Testa*, Corso di Lingua Italiana per Stranieri Vol. A2, Le Monnier (ISBN 9788800808385)

## Assessment

Attendance in class and co-curricular activities	10%
Attendance at Tandem	15%
Participating in class with completed homework	10%
Weekly quizzes	15%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

## Grading

Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to note the dates of exams and other assignments. No alternative exam dates will be offered and professors are not required to give partial credit for any late work (they do so at their discretion: the Institute's default policy is no extensions and a zero for any work turned in late). Students who book travel when they have an exam or other assessment will have to change their plans or accept a zero. Letter grades for student work are based on the following percentage scale:

Letter Range	Grade	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A		93% - 100%	Exceptional
A-		90% - 92%	Excellent
B+		87% - 89%	Superior
B		83% - 86%	
B-		80% - 82%	
C+		77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C		73% - 76%	
C-		70% - 72%	
D+		67% - 69%	Low Pass
D		63% - 66%	
D-		60% - 62%	
F		59% or less	Fail (no credit)

***Please note:*** Decimal and centesimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

## Course Requirements

Grades are based on the following criteria:

### *Attendance in class and co-curricular activities (10%)*

Attendance is an important part of this course. You have two "sick days," per Institute policy. As long as you are at all the other meetings, you will receive the full 10% for this part of your grade. There are no make-ups offered for attendance.

### *Attendance at Tandem (15%)*

Tandem offers you the opportunity to practice and enhance your oral skills by engaging in relaxed, semi-structured conversations with students from Italian universities in Perugia. Attendance at six Tandem meetings contributes to 15% of your grade (i.e. 2.5% each).

### *Participating in class with completed homework (10%)*

Another important part of learning Italian is doing exercises after class to practice what you've learned. The next day that practice will be part of class. All the written exercises in the book are essentially pass/fail: if you did them, full credit!

### *Weekly quizzes (15%)*

There are weekly online quizzes on Moodle, which you may retake as often as you wish/need in order to reinforce vocabulary and key grammatical concepts.

You may repeat these exercises as often as you want: your average score is what will count.

### *Midterm Exam (25%)*

The midterm exam will assess student mastery of course content during the first half of the semester. There will be a full prompt on Moodle with the topics covered on the exam. In addition to a written component, the midterm will include an oral component that will assess students' language competency.

### *Final Exams (25%)*

The final exam will assess student mastery of course content during the first half of the semester and the final exam will be cumulative of the entire semester. In addition to a written component, each exam will include an oral component that will assess students' language competency.

### **Extension & Submitting Late Work**

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero.

As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected and mandatory for all classroom sessions and co-curricular activities. Each academic day consists of two separate class sessions—one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Therefore, missing an entire day of classes will count as two absences, while missing only the morning or the afternoon session will count as one absence.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from classmates and/or for meeting with the professor during office hours. Any work missed due to an excused absence may be made up within one week of the student's return to class. Quizzes or other assessments missed during an excused absence must be made up outside of class time.

The first two absences per course due to illness will be considered "sick days" and do not require medical documentation. To receive additional excused absences due to illness, students must either consult a local physician or provide a letter from an Institute-approved doctor confirming the need to be excused from class.

Please note: For the purpose of this policy, 'absence' refers to the non-attendance of a specific class meeting or activity, rather than the absence of an entire day of classes.

Unexcused absences will adversely affect a student's academic performance and will result in a reduction of the student's final course grade by 1% per absence up to a maximum of 10%. Excessive unexcused absences (5 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness includes: death in immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute's Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

### **Tardiness Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually. Any student arriving up to 15 minutes late or leaving up to 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled class end time will be marked as tardy. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 0.5% off the final grade. However, should a student arrive more than 15 minutes late or depart more than 15 minutes before the conclusion of the class, it will be

recorded as an absence.

Students are also expected to remain in class during the time of instruction except for a reasonable amount of time to use the restroom. Students who leave class and do not return during the class session will receive an unexcused absence or late penalty.

### **Academic Integrity**

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Utilizing ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the generation of content submitted by a student as their own as part of any assignment for academic credit at the Institute constitutes a form of plagiarism. Should the Institute become aware of a student's use of such platforms and services, the student will be subject to the same consequences and judicial proceedings as are in place for plagiarism (defined above).

### **Classroom Policy**

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones or laptops while in class or during co-curricular events and activities, unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus or expressly permitted by the instructor for special learning. This policy also applies to earbuds, smart watches, and headsets. Students who do not respect these rules will be subject to disciplinary warnings and probation, be given an unexcused absence from class, and other disciplinary action including dismissal from the course.

### **Moodle**

Please note that Moodle, not this syllabus, is the ultimate reference for due dates, assignment prompts, and course announcements. It is *the student's responsibility* to check the site regularly to be aware of announcements as well as to see and record all due dates for assignments.

### **Weekly course structure**

Language Classes:	15 hours
Practice with Italian students (Tandem):	2 hours
Co-Curricular Activities (Outside of Classroom)	5+ hours (varies by week)

#### *Language classes*

Our language classes are structured with two daily lessons, each focusing on distinct aspects of language acquisition

Focus on linguistic structures: One aspect of our classes is dedicated to exploring the essential elements of Italian grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. Through interactive lessons and engaging activities, students develop a strong foundation in language fundamentals.

Development of practical skills: The other component emphasizes the application of language skills in real-life contexts. Students engage in activities aimed at enhancing oral communication, listening comprehension, and overall proficiency. This hands-on approach fosters practical language use and fluency development.

#### *Practice with Italian students (Tandem)*

Tandem sessions are weekly meetings where students interact with native Italian speakers, who are students from Italian universities in Perugia. These sessions are mandatory components of the course curriculum, providing essential exposure to language and culture. Tandem meetings are facilitated by instructors to ensure productive and enriching exchanges between students and their Italian counterparts.

#### *Co-curricular activities*

Students enrolled in the Summer Intensive Italian Language & Culture Program take part to a vast series of co-curricular activities designed to improve their language speaking skills in a natural environment while introducing them to practices of daily life and the cultural offerings of Central Italy. These activities include

the following:

- Day-Trip to Tuscany
- “L’italiano in Cucina”- language & cooking classes with faculty members or local experts;
- Trips to local festivals (e.g, typical Central Italian “sagre”);
- Guided tour of Teatro Morlacchi conducted by real actors
- Guided tour of prominent museums in Perugia
- Guided tours of Perugia and other Umbrian towns;
- Visit to local winery with tastings;
- Cinema nights

In addition to these co-curricular activities, students are invited to a traditional dinner where they will be introduced to the Italian faculty.

*N.B.: A final co-curricular activities series schedule will be provided during orientation.*

## WEEK 1

*Textbook: handouts*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, June 3rd*

*Activity #2: Visit to Giuditta Brozzetti Atelier on Wednesday, June 4th*

*Quiz on Moodle*

### Competencies

- Presentarsi
- Parlare di sé e delle proprie abitudini
- Raccontare al passato

### Grammar

- Ripresa del presente regolare e irregolare
- Ripresa dei verbi riflessivi
- Ripresa del passato prossimo dei verbi regolari e irregolari e dei verbi riflessivi

## WEEK 2

*Textbook: L'Italiano in Testa Vol. A2, Unit 3*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, June 10th*

*Activity #2: Italian wine culture and tasting in the Umbra kitchen on Wednesday, June 9th*

*Activity #3: Visit to Teatro Morlacchi on Wednesday, June 11th*

*Activity #4: Day-trip to Tuscany on Friday, June 13th*

*Quiz on Moodle*

### Competencies

- Descrivere situazioni al passato
- Scrivere un racconto

### Grammar

- Imperfetto
- Usi dell'imperfetto e passato prossimo
- Trapassato prossimo
- Ripresa dei pronomi

## WEEK 3

*Textbook: Handouts*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, June 17th*

*Activity #2: L'Italiano in Cucina workshop on Monday, June 16th in the Umbra kitchen*

### Competencies

- Dare ordini, istruzioni, indicazioni

### Grammar

- Pronomi doppi
- Particelle ci e ne
- Imperativo diretto e indiretto

**Midterm exam on Thursday, June 19**

#### WEEK 4

*Textbook: L'Italiano in Testa Vol. A2, Unit 4*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, June 24th*

*Activity #3: Trip to Winery on Monday, June 23th*

*Activity #4: Visit to local sagra on Wednesday, June 25th*

*Quiz on Moodle*

##### Competencies

- Esprimere le proprie preferenze
- Fare paragoni
- Parlare di progetti futuri
- Fare previsioni

##### Grammar

- Comparativi e superlativi
- Futuro semplice e composto

#### WEEK 5

*Textbook: L'Italiano in Testa Vol. A2, Unit 6-7*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, July 1st*

*Activity #2: Afternoon trip to Spello on Wednesday, July 2nd*

*Activity #3: Cinema night (tbc)*

*Quiz on Moodle*

##### Competencies

- Dare consigli
- Formulare richieste gentili
- Parlare dei propri desideri

##### Grammar

- forma impersonale
- condizionale presente e passato
- concordanze dei modi e dei tempi

#### WEEK 6

*Textbook: L'Italiano in Testa Vol. A2, Unit 11*

*Activity #1: Tandem language exchange with Italian students on Tuesday, July 8th*

*Activity #2: Visit to Museo del Vetro on Wednesday, July 9th*

##### Competencies

- Esprimere opinioni su fatti presenti e passati

##### Grammar

- Congiuntivo presente e passato

**Final Exam: July 10**