



**ITAL 201: Experiencing Perugia:**  
**Intermediate Language, Culture, and Reflection I**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Spring Semester 2023**

**Instructor:** Elena Cavicchi, M.A.

**Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 60

**Class Hours:** 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 5:15 - 6:15 pm or by appointment, Italian Language Office, first floor Umbra Institute

**Course Type:** Standard course

**Pre-requisites:** Two semesters of college level Italian or permission of the Instructor

**Lab Fee:** \$ 95.00

**Course Description**

Experiencing Perugia is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on achieving and strengthening an Intermediate level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences (speaking, writing, reading and comprehension) regarding main points of clear standard input on familiar and more complex matters regularly encountered in work, school, and leisure and while traveling. At the same time, it asks students to reflect on various aspects of contemporary Perugian life and Italian culture, asking them to analyze their own experience of immersion in a different cultural environment. This course has three pillars: language, culture, and reflection. Advanced Intermediate Italian language instruction is at the core of the class. Students will consolidate fundamentals of the Italian language already learned and be exposed to new grammatical concepts in order to interact on a more sophisticated basis with Italians in various real-world settings. Second, they will use their language learning as a vehicle for delving into the richness and complexity of Italian culture. Third, students reflect on their experiences living in a new culture and understanding how this has impacted their perspective on the United States and their sense of their own identities. Through engaging in interactive assignments, maintaining a reflective course journal, and participating in group activities, students will learn to live in their new environment, build competence and confidence as global citizens, and understand how they can leverage their Perugia experience for their future personal and professional success.

**Course Purpose**

Students will strengthen and improve upon their skills in speaking, reading, and understanding Italian, study Italian culture and experience it first-hand, and reflect on what they have learned both about Italy, the United States, and themselves through their study abroad experience. At the end of the semester, students should

reach the level B1 of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing.

### Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational skills in speaking and understanding Italian, including:
  - a. *recognizing* and using words and expressions of daily and common use;
  - b. *participating in* conversations at a basic level in everyday situations (talking about oneself, asking information, giving and receiving instructions, shopping, reading notices, etc.);
  - c. *understanding* short texts (menus, signs, announcements, timetables, notices, recipes, short newspaper articles, etc.);
  - d. *composing* short passages about their daily lives and direct experiences.
2. Participate in discussions of contemporary Italian culture.
3. Engage in critical evaluation of their own culture, Italian culture, and other foreign cultures, including:
  - a. *articulating* U.S. cultural rules, norms and biases;
  - b. *understanding* how their own experiences have shaped their values and priorities;
  - c. *knowing* how to respond productively to cultural differences;
  - d. *valuing* what is important to members of another culture, including their history, politics, communication styles, economy, beliefs and social practices;
  - e. *interpreting* cross-cultural experiences from multiple worldviews and *respecting* the rights and feelings of other cultural groups;
  - f. *asking* complex questions about their own culture and other cultures, *seeking out* answers to those questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.
4. Understand and articulate the unique benefits of their study abroad experience and anticipate how to leverage those benefits for their future personal and professional success.

### Course Materials:

All students are required to purchase their personal copies of the following:

*QuilItalia*, beginner edition (A1 to A2/B1), Le Monnier (ISBN 978-8800802680)

### Assessments

Final grades will be based on the following:

#### *Attendance in class (10%)*

You have to be in class to learn Italian. If you're in class, you'll be able to participate in the various exercises.

Your grade for the attendance is essentially pass/fail, an easy 10%: if you're there, full credit! Class is four days a week. You can have up to 4 "sick days" (i.e. unexcused absences) before this grade starts to go down.

Thereafter it's 1% for each absence. Three late arrivals or early departures equal once absence.

#### *Participation at Tandem and "solo italiano" (10%)*

One of the great advantages students have in studying in Perugia is to make connections with local university students and exchange viewpoints and perspectives. Participation at Tandem and co-curricular events is required.

#### *Participating in class with completed homework (15%)*

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 (20%)*

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 (20%)*

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.

## **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:

<b>Letter Grade Range</b>	<b>Numerical Score Equivalent</b>	<b>Student Performance</b>
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)

## **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 & Lateness Policy**

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. All students are allowed 4 "sick days" (i.e. unexcused absences), which do not need to be justified. It is the student's responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity. i.e., sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class. More than 4 absences will affect your final grade by 1% per absence. Excessive

unexcused absences (16 or more) may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. Three late arrivals to or early departures from class will count as an unexcused absence. 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.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will be considered the equivalent of two unexcused absences. As such, absence from the co-curricular field trip will lower students' final grade in that course by 2% (the equivalent of two unexcused absences).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Director but only if a medical certification is provided. 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.

### **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.

### **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. Please note that cell phones must be set on silent mode before the beginning of each class. Computers and other electronic devices cannot be used during class lectures and discussions for anything other than note-taking, unless there has been specific academic accommodation.

### **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.

## Immersion Week: Jan. 17, 18, 19, 20

**Tuesday:** Prendere il caffè

**Activity:** Getting a coffee

**Competencies:**

- Espressioni utili in un bar
- Descrizione
- Richieste gentili

**Grammar:**

- Presente indicativo
- Uso di *vorrei*

**Wednesday:** La spesa

**Activity:** Shopping at the grocery

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere il prezzo e la quantità del cibo
- Esprimere i propri gusti alimentari

**Grammar:**

- Preposizioni
- Verbi modali

**Thursday:** La Casa

**Activity:** Around the apartment Interactive Game

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere e dare informazioni sulla casa
- Descrivere la casa

**Grammar:**

- Preposizioni semplici e articolate
- Alcune preposizioni improprie

**Friday:** Il viaggio

**Activity:** Field trip to Pian di Massiano by Minimetrol

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere indicazioni stradali
- Chiedere e dare informazioni su orari e prezzi

**Grammar:**

- Ci vuole/ci vogliono
- Uso di venire e andare

### Week 1: Jan. 23, 24, 25, 26

#### Textbook: Unit 4

Quiz on Moodle

#### Competencies:

- Chiedere e dire l'ora
- Chiedere e dare informazioni sugli orari
- Parlare delle proprie abitudini
- Chiedere e dare informazioni per darsi appuntamento

#### Grammar:

- Presente indicativo dei verbi regolari e irregolari
- Presente indicativo dei verbi riflessivi
- Preposizioni semplici e articolate
- Avverbi di frequenza

### Week 2: Jan. 30, 31 - Feb. 1, 2

#### Textbook: Unit 5

Quiz on Moodle

#### Competencies:

- Parlare del tempo libero
- Formulare, accettare e rifiutare un invito
- Esprimere volontà
- Esprimere obbligo o necessità

#### Grammar:

- Presente indicativo dei verbi modali
- I verbi sapere e piacere
- Ci locativo
- Avverbi di quantità
- Espressioni di frequenza

### Week 3: Feb. 6, 7, 8, 9

#### Textbook: Unit 6

Quiz on Moodle

#### Competencies:

- Chiedere di raccontare e raccontare al passato
- Raccontare la biografia di qualcuno

#### Grammar:

- Passato prossimo
- Passato prossimo riflessivi
- Espressioni di tempo al passato

**Activity:** Tandem Language Exchange Feb. 7

### Week 4: Feb. 13, 14, 15, 16

#### Textbook: Unit 7

Quiz on Moodle

#### Competencies

- Chiedere per avere
- Chiedere e dare informazioni

#### Grammar

- Scelta dell'ausiliare nel passato prossimo dei verbi iniziare, finire, ecc...
- Alcuni suffissi diminutivi

**Week 5: Feb. 20, 21, 22, 23**

**Review week**

## **Midterm Exam: February 23**

**Week 6: Feb. 27, 28 - Mar. 1, 2**

**Textbook:** Unit 8

Quiz on Moodle

### **Competencies**

- Chiedere e dire il prezzo
- Chiedere il permesso
- Chiedere una quantità
- Chiedere qualcosa in modo gentile
- Chiedere di raccontare e raccontare al passato

### **Grammar**

- Pronomi diretti
- Ne partitivo
- Ce l'ho
- Ci vuole/ci vogliono

## **\*\*\*March 6-9 Semester Break\*\*\***

**Week 7: Mar. 13, 14, 15, 16**

**Textbook:** Unit 10

Quiz on Moodle

### **Competencies:**

- Raccontare al passato
- Descrivere al passato
- Ricordare
- Descrivere abitudini al passato
- Fare confronti (tra il presente e il passato)

### **Grammar:**

- Imperfetto
- Espressioni di tempo relative al passato (*una volta, da bambino, all'epoca...*)

**Activity:** *Tandem Language Exchange on Mar. 14*

**Week 8: Mar. 20, 21, 22, 23**

**Textbook:** Unit 9

Quiz on Moodle

### **Competencies:**

- Chiedere ed esprimere i propri gusti
- Esprimere gradimento e non gradimento

### **Grammar**

- Pronomi indiretti
- Presente e passato del verbo piacere

**Week 9: Mar. 27, 28, 29, 30**

**Mar. 27-28 Solo Italiano Challenge - Karaoke night**

**Textbook:** Unit 11

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Esprimere un desiderio
- Chiedere e dare consigli
- Dare informazioni (esempio: in un annuncio)

**Grammar**

- Condizionale semplice

**Week 10: Apr. 3, 4, 5, 6**

**Textbook:** Unit 12

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Descrivere un regalo
- Raccontare una festa
- Fare programmi

**Grammar:**

- Pronomi combinati
- Futuro semplice

**Week 11: Apr. 11, 12, 13**

**No classes on Monday 10 April.**

**Textbook:** Unit 13

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Descrivere un regalo
- Raccontare una festa
- Fare programmi
- Dare istruzioni
- Dare consigli

**Grammar:**

- Imperativo diretto e indiretto, imperativo negativo, imperativo con pronomi

**Week 12: Apr. 17, 18, 19, 20**

**Review week**

**\*\*\* Finale Exam April 20 \*\*\***