



**ITAL 301: Perugia and Beyond:**  
**Advanced Grammar, Conversation and Cultural Reflection**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Spring Semester 2023**

**Instructor:** Livia Matarazzo, MA

**Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 60

**Class Hours:** Mon., Tue., Wed., Thu. 4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. (Aula 2)

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

**Email:** TBA

**Course Type:** Standard course

**Pre-requisites:** 4 semesters of college level language instruction or permission of the instructor

**Lab Fee:** \$ 95.00

**Course Description**

Perugia and Beyond: Advanced Grammar, Conversation and Cultural Reflection is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on achieving and strengthening an Advanced level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences (speaking, writing, reading and comprehension) regarding a wide variety of topics. 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 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 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 B2 or B2+ 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. Understanding a wide range of demanding, longer clauses, and recognize implicit meaning.
  - b. Expressing ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions.
  - c. Using language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.
  - d. Producing clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
2. Convey their understanding of contemporary political and economic issues in Italy
3. Participate in sophisticated discussions of contemporary Italian culture.
4. 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.
5. 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:

Textbook: *Quitalia.it*, Le Monnier

## Assessments

### *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.

### *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!

### *Attendance at Tandem (10%)*

Tandem is your chance to get to know Italian students and have a relaxed, semi-structured conversation with them. Attendance at two Tandem meetings (both dates TBA) is worth 2.5%: each class will be assigned two of the four dates. See Moodle for the dates for your section.

### *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 Exam (25%)*

The final exam will be cumulative: it will cover material from the whole semester. As with the mid-term, there will be a thorough prompt on Moodle and the exam will include an oral component.

## **Grading**

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)

## **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 turned off before the beginning of each class.

Note: This course may have one or more meetings in the didactic garden located in Via delle Prome 17.

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

**Tuesday:** Prendere il caffè

**Activity:** *Getting a coffee at a local bar*

**Competencies:**

- Ordinare
- Invitare qualcuno e rispondere a un invito

**Grammar:**

- Pronomi diretti
- La particella *ci*
- Gli avverbi di modo

**Wednesday:** La spesa

**Activity:** *Shopping at the grocery*

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere e dire il prezzo
- Chiedere una quantità

**Grammar:**

- Pronomi diretti
- Ne partitivo
- Ce l'ho

**Thursday:** La casa

**Activity:** *Around the apartment Interactive game*

**Competencies:**

- Parlare di case e appartamenti
- Chiedere e dare informazioni su un'abitazione
- Descrivere un appartamento
- Localizzare oggetti nello spazio

**Grammar:**

- Preposizioni

**Friday:** Il viaggio

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

**Competencies:**

- Raccontare al passato

**Grammar:**

- Passato prossimo
- Verbi con il doppio ausiliare

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

**Textbook:** Unit 2

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere di raccontare e raccontare al passato (esperienze personali e di amici)
- Esprimere emozioni e stati d'animo al passato

**Grammar:**

- Usi del passato prossimo e dell'imperfetto
- Trapassato prossimo

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

**Textbook:** Unit 3

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Parlare di emozioni e stati d'animo al passato
- Esprimere desideri realizzabili e non realizzabili
- Dare consigli

**Grammar:**

- Verbi modali con passato prossimo
- Condizionale semplice e composto

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

**Textbook:** Unit 3 - 4

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Esprimere intenzioni e propositi

**Grammar:**

- Superlativo relativo
- Futuro semplice
- Ripresa dei pronomi

***Activity:** Tandem Language Exchange with Italian students on Feb. 7*

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

**Textbook** Unit 4-5

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Chiedere e dare informazioni su sé stesso
- Dare consigli
- Esprimere una norma
- Fare ipotesi

**Grammar:**

- Alcuni verbi pronominali (andarsene, farcela)
- Il pronome relativo *che*

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

**Review week**

**Midterm Exam: February 23**

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

**Textbook:** Unit 6

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies**

- Chiedere di descrivere e descrivere
- Dare consigli
- Dare istruzioni

**Grammar**

- Ripresa dell'imperativo

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

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

**Textbook:** Unit 7

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies**

- Descrivere
- Lamentarsi
- Protestare

**Grammar**

- Forma passiva con essere
- Pronome e aggettivo indefinito *nessuno*
- Connettivi (siccome, poiché, visto che...)

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

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

**Textbook:** Unit 8

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Raccontare
- Esprimere (brevemente) opinioni
- Dare istruzioni

**Grammar**

- Le particelle pronominali *Ci* e *Ne*
- L'imperativo con i pronomi e con *Ci* e *Ne*

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

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

**Textbook:** Unit 9

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Esprimere opinioni, speranze, stati d'animo, necessità

**Grammar:**

- Congiuntivo presente e passato in dipendenza da verbi
- Concordanza dei tempi

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

**Textbook:** Unit 10

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Esprimere probabilità e possibilità
- Esprimere dubbi
- Fare supposizioni

**Grammar:**

- Ripresa congiuntivo

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

**No classes on Monday 10 April.**

**Textbook:** handouts

Quiz on Moodle

**Competencies:**

- Dare e chiedere informazioni
- Descrivere luoghi
- Descrivere aspetti di alcune città italiane

**Grammar:**

- Ripresa del pronome relativo *che*
- Pronome relativo *cui*
- Pronomi relativi *il quale, la quale, i quali, le quali*
- Pronome *chi*

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

**Review week**

**\*\*\* Final Exam: April 20 \*\*\***