



ITAL 101: Exploring Perugia: Culture, Language, and Reflection Section A

Course Syllabus

Spring Semester 2022

Instructors: Italian instructors

Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 60

Class Hours:

Office Hours:

Course Type: Standard course

Lab Fee:

Course Description

Exploring Perugia is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on achieving a basic level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences (speaking, writing, reading and comprehension) regarding familiar contexts, everyday life activities and simple interaction with native speakers. At the same time, it introduces students to various, relevant aspects of contemporary Perugian life and Italian culture, asking them to reflect on their own experience of immersion in a different cultural environment. This course has three pillars: language, culture, and reflection. Basic Italian language instruction is at the core of the class. Students will learn fundamentals of the Italian language in order to interact 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 acquire basic skills in speaking 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. This course is the equivalent of a standard first semester college-level Italian course in the United States.

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:

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

Assessments

The fundamental approach of this class is the following: after an intense first three weeks, the class will nudge you to recall and use what you've learned about the Italian language. There are *many* low stakes, low stress assignments that together make up your grade. Be sure to consult Moodle and mark the due dates in your calendar as missed assignments accumulate quickly. 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 unexcused absences before this grade starts to go down.

Participating in class with completed homework (12.5%)

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 (2.5%)

Tandem is your chance to get to know Italian students and have a relaxed, semi-structured conversation with them. Attendance at a Tandem meeting (February 16th or March 2nd) is worth 2.5%: each class will be assigned one of the two dates.

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.

“Italiano in bocca e Perugia nel cuore” Assignments (20%)

This phrase means “Italian in [your] mouth and Perugia in [your] heart”: we want to encourage you not only to see different parts of Perugia but to use your Italian as you explore the city. These weekly assignments will ask you to go to different parts of the city and use the Italian you’ve learned in class to accomplish certain simple tasks: ordering a coffee, asking for directions, buying cheese at the supermarket, having a pizza with Italian friends, etc. For each assignment you’ll turn in either a recording or a selfie or both. These assignments are basically pass/fail: if you turn them in, you get full credit.. All assignments will have a thorough prompt on the course’s Moodle site.

Midterm Exam (15% each)

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% each)

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:

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional Excellent
A-	90% - 92%	
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 Policy

Absences for Covid-related circumstances: in order to keep the entire Umbra community healthy and to comply with local laws, you may not enter the Umbra premises if you have a temperature of 37.5 °C (99.5 °F) or higher. For all students who display any relevant symptoms, the procedure will be the following:

1. avoid going to class;
2. immediately notify the Student Services staff;
3. be prepared to get tested for COVID at a local pharmacy within the day.

The following additional conditions apply:

- Students may attend classes remotely and without academic penalty via Zoom or Skype but only if they are waiting for the test to be scheduled or performed.
- Students with a positive test result (or who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive) must follow all applicable quarantine or isolation requirements and may attend classes remotely, without academic penalty.
- Students with a negative test result are allowed to attend class in person.

It is Institute policy that students with symptoms be tested. Any student refusing testing will not be admitted to the Institute under any circumstances and any absences will not be considered eligible for an extra absence for any classes missed. In other words, refusing a test and staying in one's apartment is considered an unexcused absence.

Class attendance (in person or through live connection) is mandatory. Students are allowed two "free" absences, which do not need to be justified. However, it is considered common courtesy to inform the instructor of your absence when possible. It is the students' responsibility to keep them in case of real necessity (sickness or any other unforeseen inconvenience that may prevent students from being in class).

Additional absences relating to illness may be approved by the Academic Director but only if a medical certification is provided. Each additional absence, unless for a very serious reason, will lower the students' grade by one grade level (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. It is also the policy of the Institute that any student who has eight or more absences automatically fails the class.

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.

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.

Week 1: Feb 7, 8, 9, 10

Assignments:

Textbook: "Per Cominciare" and Unit 1

Quiz on Moodle

Wednesday (Feb 9): field trip during **your regular class time**. Meet at the **Fountain** first!

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself getting a coffee at Bar Duomo (and take the MiniMetro with your class)

Topics:

- asking for the meaning of a word
- asking for things
- asking someone's identity
- describing your interests
- asking for the bill
- asking for price

Grammar

- Alphabet
- definite articles and indefinite articles
- cardinal numbers, *essere* & *avere*
- adjectives and names
- Intro 1st/2nd/3rd conjugation verbs
- prepositions (in, a), *Mi piace*

Week 2: Feb. 14, 15, 16, 17

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 2 and Unit 3

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself asking how to get to the "Tempietto" at the tourist office and take a selfie when you get to the Tempietto (Church of Saint Michael Archangel).

Topics:

- describing your family
- asking and giving info about the house
- describing a room, an apartment, a city

Grammar

- 1st/2nd/3rd conjugation verbs
- intro to irregular verbs
- plural and singular
- interrogatives
- conjunctions
- possessives
- c'è/ci sono
- prepositions (sotto, sopra...)

Week 3: Feb. 21, 22, 23, 24

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 4 and Unit 5

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself asking for *due etti* (200g) of cheese or cold cuts at the Umbrò supermarket.

Topics:

- asking and telling the time
- giving information on timetables
- talking about your habits
- talking about your free time
- express obligation or needs (free time)

Grammar

- present conjugation
- demonstratives
- prepositions
- (in)formal address
- *andare, stare, uscire*, & modal verbs: *dovere, potere* and *volere*
- reflexive verbs

Week 4: Feb. 28, Mar 1, 2, 3

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 6

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself ordering a pizza at Verace with your Italian friends and walking up Via della Viola to take a selfie of yourself at the Cinema Postmodernissimo.

Topics:

- asking someone to talk about the past
- telling about the past
- telling about someone's life

Grammar

- Passato Prossimo (Past Tense /Present Perfect)
- *sapere* vs. *conoscere*
- irregular verbs

Week 5: Mar. 7, 8, 9, 10

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 7

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: No assignment for this week.

Break:

- telling about the past (trips and travel)

Grammar

- review Presente e Passato Prossimo of regular and reflexive verbs (Present, Past Tense and Present Perfect)

******March 10******
Midterm Examination

Week 6: Mar 14, 15, 16, 17

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 8

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself talking about what you see as you walk up Via della Viola on your way to see the movie at the Cinema Postmodernissimo.

Topics:

- asking and talking about prices
- asking for permission
- asking for a quantity of something
- asking and telling about the past (in the store)

Grammar

- direct pronouns
- pronouns with modal verbs
- *Ne* partitive
- *ce l'ho*

March 17-27, Friday-Sunday: Semester Break

Week 7: Mar. 28, 29, 30, 31

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 8 and Unit 10

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself at the Museo Archeologico asking the hours they're open and take a selfie in the Frontone park.

Topics:

- asking and giving information
- describing to the past
- memories

Grammar

- review of pronouns and the partitive
- gerunds (-ing)
- Intro *Imperfetto*

Week 8: Apr. 4, 5, 6, 7

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 9 and Unit 10

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: Record yourself at the Prato di San Francesco describing your weekend.

Topics:

- asking about and expressing your tastes
- expressing whether you like something

Grammar

- Indirect pronouns
- Present and Past of *piacere*

Week 9: Apr. 11,12, 13, 14

Assignments:

Textbook: Unit 10

Quiz on Moodle

Italiano in bocca: No assignment for this week.

Topics:

- describing to the past
- memories
- describing habits in the past
- comparison between the present and the past (memories)

Grammar

- *Imperfetto*

*****Note that this week, there is no class on the Monday after Easter (April 18th):
class will be held, however, on Friday, April 22nd.*****

Week 10: Apr. 19, 20, 21, 22

Assignments:

Textbook: Handouts

Italiano in bocca: no assignment for this week

Topics may include a review or any of the following:

- submitting a questionnaire and presenting its results
- congratulating someone on a special occasion and public holidays
- saying the date

- talking about one's country's public holidays

Grammar

- prepositions *da... a*
- the date
- possessive adjectives (review)

Apr. 25-29 Final Examination TBD