

GONZAGA-IN-FLORENCE SYLLABUS

Course: ITAL 101: Elementary Italian I
Credits: 4 Credits
Instructor: G. Russo



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In this course students will develop the basic language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to communicate successfully in Italian.

In addition there will be a focus on achieving “cultural competency”, by studying such topics as Italian Geography, the Italian School system and the Italian family. Each unit in the textbook pairs themes of Italian culture with essential points of grammar.

Texts adopted for this elementary course of Italian are written in English by Italian authors. They are obviously updated as far as Italian culture and style of life are concerned and nicely illustrated. There are simple schemes and tables related to grammar, and with the help of the teacher, students will be able to understand with no difficulty. This kind of textbook does not indulge in technicalities, stressing the direct communication and requesting the students’ skills in creating their own sentences only following certain examples in the exercises that will be the students’ guide-line.

The first semester will stress the communication in the present, past and future tenses of the “modo indicativo” the present tense of “modo condizionale in order to be able to communicate with politeness and to express wishes and probabilities as well as give orders or advices with the use of “modo imperativo” Needless to say that subjects such as “il nome”, “l’ articolo”, “l’aggettivo” will be fundamental in the practical approach to the written and spoken language.

Lists of necessary vocabulary will be studied, digested and used in communicating and students will also be stimulated to create their own vocabulary, observing the signs in the streets, the shop windows and whatever else can pair the theories listed in the books.

Exams and quizzes will be written but “class participation” means that also students’ oral performances in class have great importance.

Regular attendance is highly recommended, being very important in a course where each new topic is strictly connected with the previous ones. This is the reason why this syllabus includes dates for each quiz. Mid term and final exam dates are to be announced.

In case of absences the student will be responsible for work missed.

Textbook: T.B.A.

Handouts and notes provided by the teacher

Grading scale: 90/100 = A
81/90 = B
71/80 = C
61/70 = D
Below 60 = E = failure

Grading system: 20% - Class participation, homework, absence
30% - Quizzes
15% - Mid Term Exam
35% - Final Exam

Quizzes & Exams: Quiz n.1 – October 2, 2008
Quiz n.2 – October 16, 2008
MidTerm - T.B.A.
Quiz n.3 - November 6, 2008
Quiz n.4 – November 20, 2008
Final Exam – To be announced.
All quizzes and exams will be held on Thursdays

Absence Policy: University policy allows a maximum of 8 absences for a 4 credit course. At the ninth absence the students grade is lowered to F = Failure.

Office Hours: By appointment.
From Monday through Thursday: 8:30 – 9:30