Schedule: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

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merli@gonzaga.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Prerequisites
ITAL 101

Course Description
The main goal of this course is to help students develop the skills necessary to communicate comfortably and accurately in Italian.
You will have numerous opportunities to improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing. A firm knowledge of grammar will also help you to achieve your goals.
You will also improve your "cultural competency" since each chapter in the textbook pairs themes of Italian culture with points of grammar.
We will focus on improving communication skills and increasing vocabulary in the following daily situations:
- Talking about family
- Describing daily activities
- Describing rooms and furniture
- Talking about free time, sports and hobbies
- Talking about travelling
- Talking about past experiences and about things you used to do
- Describing actions, situations, people and things in the past
- Talking about the future
- Expressing wishes and requests politely

Course Objectives: to develop the students' linguistic skills by introducing more complex structures in order to teach students to communicate and enable them to effectively interact with the real Italian context.

Specific outcomes: by the end of the course the students are expected to be able to communicate comfortably in daily situations on familiar matters as well as on topics of personal interest and to describe personal experiences, past events and future plans.
They will also be able to comprehend dialogues and texts dealing with cultural topics such as Italian family, free time and sport, music, holidays and traditions.
During targeted class activities, students will be placed in situations which are linguistically challenging and culturally new for them, and asked to overcome communication barriers (e.g. speaking to Italians using both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication).
In this way, students will develop and demonstrate an awareness of and empathy toward people who face similar struggles in their environment, language and culture (immigrants, social linguistic minorities...).
The outcome is for students to begin the process of becoming open minded global citizens.

**Required texts:**
Professor Merli will provide the students with study materials and tools.

**Teaching Method**
The course offers you interactive classes based on a communicative approach to language study. You will be exposed to a wide variety of materials - that will range from textbook, on-line resources, to audio and video materials, in order to develop your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.
Different types of classroom activities will be proposed, such as listening activities, role-plays and role-taking, interviews, grammar and vocabulary exercises, conversations and written compositions.
We will also organize a series of field trips and visits in downtown so that you can interact with native speakers and practice the language in the authentic Italian context.
Of course, a teaching method is efficient if the students prepare for class in the correct way and participate actively.

**Decorum – Class rules**
Cell-phones must be off. Food and beverage are not admitted in class, except for bottled water.
No technical devices (laptops, I pads etc) are accepted without teacher permission.
Disruptive behavior is not accepted and if repeated it will negatively affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade or may result in removal from the course.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class from the first day of the semester. The student entering class after role has been taken has to contact the professor at the end of the lesson to record his/her presence. However, this does not mean that coming late is acceptable. Two late arrivals may be excused, three turn automatically into an absence and will affect the attendance and participation part of the final grade.
Students can miss one week's work for ITA 102, four classes. It is their responsibility to make up any missed work. If they miss a quiz or a report they can make it up only with the professor's permission.

More than one week's work missed is going to be penalized as follows:

1. One extra absence,
by lowering the attendance and participation grade as determined by the professor
2. Two extra absences, by lowering the final grade by a whole letter grade
3. Three extra absences, by grading the whole course F

Assessment Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Quizzes and Exams:* There will be four written quizzes, one written Mid-Term and a written and oral Final Exam.
Missed exams will be counted as an F.
No make ups allowed unless the absence is for certified reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 24th Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb. 9th Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>Feb. 23rd Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar. 16th Thursday</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mar 30th Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>T.B.A.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Homework:* students are expected to complete all the assigned homework in order to be well prepared for each class and are responsible for any work missed due to absence.
During the semester, you will be required to meet twice with an Italian university student for a conversational exchange. The first meeting will take place during class hours and the second one will be organized independently.
If you meet for a third time and submit a report about your three encounters, you will receive 3 extra points in your final grade

*Oral Presentations:* In groups of 2-3, you will prepare a dialogue or a presentation to present for the class. You will first collaborate to write the text, and then perform in class. The written part will be included in the total grade.

*Compositions:* (200 words) must be typed, double spaced and submitted on the due date. Any writing done with electronic translators will not be graded.
No late submissions will be accepted, without previous professor approval.
Final Exam: You will have a cumulative written final exam and an oral exam given by appointment during final week.

Significance for the final grade of attendance and participation

A: the student has no absence, is punctual and respectful with the professors and the classmates, is always prepared for class (has done the reading and writing assignments); He/she actively participates in class activities.

B: the student is respectful and punctual, is prepared for class, participates in class activities and has a good level of understanding and an appropriate use of language.

C: the student is not always prepared for class. He/she has a minimal participation.

Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74–76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65–66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86–89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Accommodation for students with learning disabilities

Documented learning disabilities or other medically certified problems that need special accommodation for any of the student's expected academic performances will be treated with the due attention.

Suggestions for successful learning:

- Experience Italian culture
- Use Italian whenever possible (in the pensione, the stores, etc.)
- Meet Italians!
- Tell people that you are studying the language *sto studiando italiano* if they use English with you
- Don't let the fear of making mistakes prevent you

Course Outline

Week one Settimana uno (9-12 gennaio)
Greeting people; introducing oneself; the alphabet; numbers; adjectives of nationalities; present tense of *essere* and *chiamarsi* and first conjugation verbs. Ordering in a cafe and in a restaurant; asking for things in a polite way; asking for the bill/price; food and beverage; *preferire* articles, nouns and adjectives.
**Week two Ì Settimana due (16-19 gennaio)**
Introducing someone; describing people’s activity; present tense of 2nd and 3rd conjugation verbs; verbs *avere*, *fare*, *andare*, preposition with country/city names; world languages; professions. Talking about free time and leisure activities; expressing one’s likes and dislikes; present tens complete; adverbs of frequency; parts of the day; expressions with *avere*.

**Week three Ì Settimana tre (23-26 gennaio)**
Describing cities; talking about quality of life in a given city; following and giving street direction; asking and telling time; verbs *dare*, *dire*, *rimanere*, *uscire*, *venire*; preposition *in* + means of transport; *c’è* and *ci sono*; *scusa*/*scusi*; Italy’s cities and monuments; Booking a hotel room; describing one’s favorite hotel; describing room; modal verbs; *bene* and *male*; preposition *di* + time; time expressions; furniture; months and season.

✔️ **QUIZ 1 Martedì 24 gennaio**

**Week four Ì Settimana quattro (30-3 febbraio)**
Describing a perfect weekend; talking about past; understanding description in past; past tense of regular verbs and some irregular; *vuole* and *vogliono*; weather condition; time expressions in past. Describing one’s work habits and working hours; describing and asking about someone’s daily routine; present tense of reflexive verbs; everyday actions.

**Week five Ì Settimana cinque (6-9 febbraio)**
Describing a family tree; talking about family and family habits; possessive adjectives; past tense of reflexive verbs; family relationships. Talking about one’s eating habits; writing a shopping list; talking about typical Italian recipes; direct pronouns; partitive use of preposition *di*; partitive with *ne*; food and dishes; measurement units.

✔️ **QUIZ 2 Giovedì 9 febbraio**

**Week six Ì Settimana sei (13-16 febbraio)**
Talking and asking about events the will occur in the future; future fashion style; shopping for clothes and shoes; adjectives referring to colors; future tense; direct and indirect pronouns; *piacere*; present conditional.

**Week seven Ì Settimana sette (20-23 febbraio)**

Review and Mid-term Exam Ì Revisione e Esame di metà semestre

Spring Break (27-3 marzo)
Week eight - Settimana otto (6-9 marzo)
Understanding a survey; talking about animals; expressing opinion on animal testing; describing past situations; talking about one’s childhood; ũimperfettoũ tense; ũpassato prossimoũ vs. ũimperfettoũ; animal nouns; time expressions.

Week nine - Settimana nove (13-16 marzo)
Understanding and giving physical descriptions; describing one’s personality; reading one’s horoscope; making/accepting/refusing invitations; ũavereũ and ũessereũ with ũfinireũ and ũcominciareũ; superlative with ũissimoũ; progressive form ũstare + gerundioũ.
✓ QUIZ 3 Giovedì 16 marzo

Week ten - Settimana dieci (20-23 marzo)
Understanding and writing short rental ads; understanding and giving home description; expressing wishes; ordinal numbers; comparatives; home features and furniture.

Week eleven - Settimana undici (27-30 marzo)
Comparing Italian social habits and traditions with those of one’s country; understanding and giving orders, recommendations and instructions; ũimperativo informaleũ; position of direct and indirect pronouns with ũimperativoũ; tourist activities and accommodation solutions; Italian habits and traditions.
✓ QUIZ 4 Giovedì 30 marzo

Week twelve - Settimana dodici (3-6 aprile)
✓ ORAL PRESENTATION

Week Thirteen - Settimana tredici (10-13 aprile)
General review.

17 - 20 aprile: Esame finale