Instructor
Dr. Barbara Lastrucci
lastrucci@gonzaga.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Schedule
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:20-9:55
Tuesday: 4:00-6:00 pm

Course Description
In this course students will develop the basic language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in order to communicate comfortably and successfully in Italian. In addition there will be a focus on achieving "cultural competency" by studying such topics as Italian food, fashion and social habits.
This course strongly emphasizes the use of Italian in everyday situations.

Course Objectives
To develop the students' linguistic skills by introducing basic structures in order to teach students to communicate and enable them to interact with the real Italian context. We will focus on developing communication skills and increasing vocabulary in the following daily situations:

- asking for and giving basic information
- expressing personal needs, likes and dislike
- describing daily activities
- going to the open-air markets for grocery shopping
- going shopping and bargainning for clothing and souvenirs
- going to cafes and restaurants
- asking for directions on the street
- expressing past actions

Specific outcomes
By the end of the course the students will be able to demonstrate their ability to communicate comfortably in typical daily situations (introductions, in a caffè, at the market etc.) through role plays and written exams. They will also demonstrate comprehension of short oral dialogues and basic written texts. To complete the course students must be able to compose in class basic written texts in the form of e-mails, letters and short compositions.

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.s. 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 enviroment, language and culture (immigrants, social linguistic minorities...).
The outcome is for students to begin the process of becoming open minded global citizens.
Required texts
A Course Pack will be provided by the professor. Daily explanations by the professor will supplement, expand and simplify the material of the textbook, so that students will be assisted in learning the language and culture of Italy.

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, online 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
Cell-phones must be off. Food and beverage are not admitted in class, except for bottled water.
No technical devices (laptops, Ipads 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.

Gonzaga in Florence Attendance Policy
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class from the first day of the semester. The student entering class after attendance is taken has to contact the professor at the end and announce his/her presence. However, this does not mean that coming late is accepted. 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 four hours' work. It is their responsibility to make up for the missed work. If they miss a quiz or a report they are not allowed to have it at another time, unless the absence is for certified medical reasons and the professor and Dean agree.

More than four hours' work missed is going to be penalized as follows:

One extra hour:
1. by lowering the attendance and participation grade as determined by the professor
2.
Two extra hours
2. by lowering the final grade by a whole letter grade

Three extra hours
3. by grading the whole course F

Exams
Quiz 1: May 30, Tuesday
MidTerm Exam: June 8, Thursday
Quiz 2: June 20, Tuesday
Final Exam: June 30, Friday
Make-up exams are offered just in case of certified medical reasons; in this case you should contact the instructor as soon as possible, otherwise missing a test is the equivalent of an F that will be factored into your grade.

**Assessment Criteria**
Students are graded on two exams, two quizzes and class participation.
- Final: 30%
- Mid Term: 20%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Class Participation: 30%

Homework: students are expected to complete all the assigned homework in order to be well prepared for each class.

**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:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65 – 66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
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</tbody>
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**Academic Honesty**
Academic honesty is any action by which a student seeks to claim credit for the intellectual effort of another person or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. It includes unauthorized assistance in tests and examinations; intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others; submitting another person’s work as your own, or providing work for this purpose; submitting work of your own that has been substantially edited and revised by another person, or providing such an editing and revision service for others; submitting material from a source (books, articles, internet sites) without proper citation and bibliographic reference; paraphrasing material from a source without appropriate reference and citation; submitting substantially the same piece of work in more than one course without the explicit consent of all the instructors concerned; assisting other students in any of the above acts.

Students who are academically dishonest will receive a zero on the work in question or a failing grade for the course as a whole, depending on the importance of the work to the overall course grade and the judgment of the instructor.

**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.
Course Outline

**Week one (May 16-19)**
Presentation of the course.
Greeting people. Introducing oneself.
The alphabet. Numbers from 0 to 20. Questions words.
Present tense of *essere* and *avere*. Present tense of *chiamarsi* (singular forms: *io* and *tu*)

**Week two (May 23-26)**
Talking about one’s eating habits. Writing a shopping list.
Expressions for ordering in a restaurant.
Plural and singular nouns. Definite and indefinite articles. Numbers from 20 to 100.
Adjectives.
Expressing one’s likes and dislikes: verb *piacere*

**Week three (May 30 – June 1)**
Introducing someone. Describing people’s activities on a specific day of the week.
Asking and giving personal details.
Present tense. Regular verbs.
Prepositions.
Formal and informal address.

**Week four (June 6 - 9)**
Talking about free time. Talking about how often one does something.
Present tense: irregular verbs.
Adverbs of frequency.
Clothes vocabulary and shopping expressions.

**Week five (June 13 – 16)**
Following and giving street directions.
Different types of stores.
Asking and telling time. Asking and giving timetable information.
*Cè i ci sono.*
Prepositions of place.

**Week six (June 20 - 23)**
Talking about past actions and understanding descriptions of past events.
Past tense: passato prossimo of regular verbs with essere and avere.
Past tense: irregular past participles.

*June, 23rd: Final Exam*