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# Beginning Italian

COURSE DESIGNATOR: FLOR 1002

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 5

CONTACT HOURS: 75 hours

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Low Intermediate course of Italian uses a communicative approach to help you quickly develop the ability to communicate in Italian in everyday practical situations as well as to acquire the skills necessary to read and write effectively in Italian. From the start, you will be expected to comprehend and produce some Italian by actively engaging in communicative activities that have real world relevance. Role-plays, pair and group work, and specific tasks and assignments carried out in and out of class will provide you with numerous opportunities for learning the language while interacting with locals and other learners in Italian. Listening, reading, speaking, and writing are integrated into all activities and are tested in compositions, oral presentations, grammar tests, and exams. Special emphasis is placed on the expansion of communicative functions and of the vocabulary. Finally, class and home assignments and projects will encourage you to become acquainted with various aspects of Florentine life and with the culture and society of Italy at large.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. understand Italian spelling and pronunciation
2. participate in conversations on topics about contemporary Italian society, including food, fashion, music, art, weekend activities, holiday celebrations, education, and professions, health, and well-being
3. master a body of socio-cultural information, including the use of formal and informal register within Italian culture
4. understand and recognize Italian grammar and syntax
5. describe things, people, and places
6. talk about present, past, and future events
7. read and discuss increasingly complex texts in different genres
8. write fairly complex texts on yourself, Florence, Sicily (Taormina experience), cultural differences also within Italy and the US

## METHODOLOGY

Through the integration of the different language skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing as well as the introduction of cultural concepts, you will learn to communicate in the target language in progressively more involved daily life situations. Since language and culture are deeply connected (language is culture and culture is language), each class will introduce you to linguistic skills such as communicative functions, grammar structures, vocabulary, and pronunciation, but will at the same time provide you with a deeper knowledge of Italian culture. Grammatical theory will be always connected with the practical use of the language. All of the didactic materials used throughout the course, such as textbooks and multimedia sources, are in Italian. You will be asked to take part in role-plays, write papers, and dialogue with other students, with Italian people, and the teacher. **Constant interaction in Italian is the core of the learning process.** The city of Florence becomes a cultural laboratory where language can be studied in context: with its world-famous museums, fashion tradition, lively markets and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, it is a composite of contemporary Italian culture that you will discover through out-of-class activities, projects, and visits.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

Completion of elementary level of Italian.

## REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

**Avanti! Beginning Italian** - Student Edition, *Mc Graw Hill* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

Extra material distributed in class

## GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

Quiz	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Composition (TEMA)	10%
Oral presentation	15%
Written final exam	20%
Oral final exam	15%
Participation and homework assignments	10%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

## TESTS AND FINAL EXAM

Throughout the semester you will be given two Quizzes, one Mid-Term, one Oral Presentation, one Composition, and one Final exam (written and oral). The tests will focus on specific grammatical and cultural elements but will also include review material, so anything already taught may appear.

## COMPOSITION (TEMA)

During the semester you will be asked to write **one** major **double** draft composition in Italian. The first draft will be written in class. No dictionary or notes will be allowed. Your instructor will give you feedback which you may use to develop a second draft. Your second draft will be completed at home and handed in to your instructor within the deadline stated on the syllabus and will be worth up to five extra points. Failure to do so will ultimately lower your final composition grade by two points.

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

During the semester, you will complete one individual oral presentation. Presentations will take place during class time. The information you will learn during the in-class presentations will provide some of the content for the face-to-face oral exam you will have with your instructor at the end of the semester. Therefore, it is in your best interest to take notes and ask questions during the presentations, to better keep track of the content for future reference. Your instructor will provide further details during the semester.

## OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Out of class activities are designed to help you practice vocabulary and reemploy the linguistic structures learned in class in real situations. As the language learning progresses, you will directly interact with native speakers, especially in the *Oltrarno* neighborhood where the Study Center is located, or with Italian students, to learn more about Italian culture and test your progress in Italian. You will visit Italian shops, city landmarks, and museums. During a special conversation class, you will also have the opportunity to meet with Italian students and talk about young people's life in Italy.

## PARTICIPATION

Participation includes but is not limited to the following:

- Your use of Italian and willingness to ask/answer questions in class.
- Your cooperation and willingness to participate actively in *all* class activities, including small group work.
- Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.
- The use of all electronic equipment (cell phones, pagers, iPods or MP3 players, etc.) during class is prohibited. All equipment must be turned off and stored in the classroom. Any evidence of cell phones (use, ringing, buzzing, etc.) and similar equipment use will result in an automatic ZERO in attendance/participation for that day.
- Your promptness and daily preparation for each class, including assigned homework and other course related materials. Since language is used for communication, the ultimate goal of the language student is to be able to communicate information in the foreign language.

## COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1: REVIEW: CAPITOLI 1-2-3-4				
Date	Grammar structures (review)	Communication and vocabulary	Activities	Exams
Tue 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nouns: gender and number</li><li>• Indefinite and definite articles</li><li>• Adjectives</li><li>• Verbs <i>essere</i> and <i>avere</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introducing yourself</li><li>• Greeting someone</li><li>• Exchanging personal information</li><li>• Expressing likes and dislikes</li><li>• Describing people</li></ul>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Scrivi la tua presentazione (50-70 parole)	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alphabet and Pronunciation</li> <li>• Numbers</li> </ul>		
Web 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Present tense of regular and irregular verbs</li> <li>• Adverbs of frequency</li> <li>• Interrogatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking and telling time</li> <li>• Asking when events occur</li> <li>• Days of the week</li> <li>• Months and seasons</li> <li>• Talking about what you like to do in your free time</li> </ul>		
Thu 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More irregular verbs</li> <li>• Prepositions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking about what people do</li> <li>• Describing places</li> </ul>	<b>Out-of-class activity IN PIAZZA</b>  <b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Descrivi la tua piazza preferita a Firenze. (50-70 parole)	

WEEK 2: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 5				
Date	Grammar structures (review)	Communication and vocabulary	Activities	Exams
Tue 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possessive adjectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking about food and beverages</li> <li>• Talking about eating habits</li> <li>• Ordering at the bar</li> </ul>	<b>Out-of-class activity AL BAR</b>	
Web 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modal verbs (verbs+infinitive)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordering at the restaurant</li> </ul>		
Thu 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbs <i>sapere</i> and <i>conoscere</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting someone to do something</li> <li>• Accepting and declining an invitation</li> </ul>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Le tue abitudini alimentari. (50-70 parole)	

**WEEK 3: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 6**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflexive verbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking about daily routine</li> <li>• Daily routine activities</li> </ul>		
Web 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct objects pronouns (Handout)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking about fashion (clothes and accessories)</li> </ul>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> La tua giornata tipica (70-90 parole)	
Thu 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indirect objects pronouns (Handout)</li> </ul>			

**WEEK 4: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 6**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present progressive</li> <li>• Adverbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telling what you are doing in a specific moment</li> <li>• Describing actions</li> <li>• Alphabet and Pronunciation</li> <li>• Numbers</li> </ul>		
Web 8			<b>Out-of-class</b> <i>LA RINASCENTE</i>	
Thu 9			<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Il tuo rapporto con la moda (70-90 parole)	<b>QUIZ</b>

**WEEK 5: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 7**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Present Perfect (<i>passato prossimo</i>) of regular verbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about your weekend activities</li> <li>Talking about past experiences and events</li> </ul>		
Web 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Present Perfect (<i>passato prossimo</i>) of irregular verbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about past experience and events</li> <li>Expressions of time in the pas</li> </ul>		
Thu 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Present Perfect (<i>passato prossimo</i>) of regular and irregular verbs</li> <li>Negative expressions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about Italian music</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Conversazione con studenti italiani</b></p> <p><b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Che cosa hai fatto ieri? (90-100 parole)</p>	

**WEEK 6: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 7**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Review</li> </ul>			
Web 22				<b>MID-TERM</b>

Thu 23	<b>Conversazione con studenti italiani</b>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> La tua vacanza di primavera (100-120 parole)	
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SPRING BREAK; NO CLASS

**WEEK 7: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 8**

Date	Grammar structures (review)	Communication and vocabulary	Activities	Exams
Tue 7	• The Present Perfect ( <i>passato prossimo</i> ) of reciprocal and reflexive verbs	• Talking about American and Italian holiday celebrations		
Web 8				<b>TEMA</b>
Thu 9	• More about prepositions	• Expressing good wishes	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> La tua festa preferita (100-120 parole)	

**WEEK 8: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 8**

Date	Grammar structures (review)	Communication and vocabulary	Activities	Exams
Tue 14	• The Imperfect	• Talking about childhood		

Web 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Imperfect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing how things used to be and talking about what people used to do in the past</li> </ul>	<b>Out-of-class activity</b> <b>PALAZZO</b> <b>DAVANZATI</b>	
Thu 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Imperfect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about the Italian education system</li> </ul>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> La mia infanzia (100-120 parole)	<b>Revised composition due (typed)</b>

**WEEK 9: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 9**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Past Progressive</li> <li>The Imperfect vs the Present Perfect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about past experiences</li> </ul>		
Web 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Imperfect vs the Present Perfect</li> </ul>			
Thu 23			<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Creative writing: Scrivi una storia (100-120 parole)	<b>QUIZ 2</b>

**TAORMINA STUDY TOUR**



**WEEK 10: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 10**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about education and professions</li> <li>Expressions of time in the future</li> </ul>		
Web 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Future</li> </ul>		<b>Out-of-class activity</b> <b>LA BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE</b>	
Thu 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Future of probability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about future plans</li> <li>Expressing hypothesis of probability</li> </ul>	<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> I tuoi progetti per il futuro (100-120 parole)	

**WEEK 11: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 10**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 11		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparing Italian and American lifestyle</li> </ul>		
Web 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about slow food and street food</li> </ul>	<b>Out-of-class activity</b> <b>IL MERCATO CENTRALE</b>	
Thu 13			<b>SCRIVIAMO</b> Le tue opinioni sullo stile di vita degli italiani e degli americani (100-120 parole)	<b>ORAL PRESENTATION</b>

**WEEK 12: REVIEW: CAPITOLO 10**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Grammar structures (review)</b>	<b>Communication and vocabulary</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Exams</b>
Tue 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talking about your Italian experience</li> </ul>	<b>Conversazione con studenti italiani</b>	
Web 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Review</li> </ul>		<b>CACCIA AL TESORO</b>	
Thu 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Review</li> </ul>			

**LIBERATION DAY; NO CLASS**

**WEEK 13**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Tue 24	Review for Oral and Written Final
Web 25	<b>WRITTEN FINAL</b>
Thu 26	<b>ORAL FINAL</b>

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

## **UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

### **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT:**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.