

*Italian Cultural Studies at Ca' Foscari
Columbia University*

INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY ITALIAN

-Summer 2017-

Instructor: Massimiliano Delfino

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Days and times: MW: 8:30 - 12:30; 1:30 - 3:30. Th 1:30 - 3:30.

Libro di testo: *New Italian Espresso 1*, Italian course for English speakers (Alma Edizioni, 2014), textbook and workbook.

Course goals:

This intensive course, open to students with no previous training in Italian, covers two semesters of Elementary Italian and prepares students to move into Intermediate Italian. The course provides students with a foundation in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- provide basic information in Italian about themselves, their interests, their daily activities;
- participate in a conversation on everyday topics using the major time frames of present and past;
- read short edited texts; understand the main ideas, and pick out important information, from authentic texts (e.g. menus, signs, train schedules, etc.)
- write short compositions on familiar topics;
- identify basic cultural rituals and practices in the context of their occurrence.

Course rules: No use of electronic devices is allowed in class if not explicitly required for activities by the instructor. It is forbidden to use online translators.

Attendance and participation:

Please note that regular attendance is crucial to this course. The accelerated pace of an intensive course makes coming to every class particularly important. Students should participate actively in class discussions and interact with teacher and classmates.

Classes will be held in Italian and students should make an effort not to speak English – gestures are ok too!

Tip: Do **not** fear making mistakes! They are the key to your language proficiency!

SETTIMANA 1

Lunedì 12 giugno – Giovedì 15 giugno

Lesson 1: Primi contatti (Contesto: La Scuola, i Compagni e la Classe)

Communicative functions: greeting people (formal vs informal); introducing oneself; asking basic questions.

Grammar and vocabulary: Essere and chiamarsi; alphabet; adjectives of nationality; introduction to regular verbs.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Map of Italy, Italian gestures. 🎵 Musica italiana: Jovanotti, *Bella*.

Lesson 2: Buon appetito (Contesto: Il Cibo)

Communicative functions: ordering in a restaurant.

Grammar and vocabulary: singular and plural of nouns; definite and indefinite articles; numbers; the verbs essere, fare, avere.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Italian food, Italian MasterChef recipe video.

Compiti settimana 1:

Workbook: lessons 1, 2. Composition 1.

SETTIMANA 2

Lunedì 19 giugno – Giovedì 22 giugno

Lesson 3: Io e gli altri (Contesto: Vita Professionale)

Communicative functions: asking and giving personal details; talking about work; speaking formally.

Grammar and vocabulary: -are verbs; professions; tu vs. Lei.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: working in Italy.

Lesson 4: Tempo libero (Contesto: Hobbies)

Communicative functions: talking about leisure time; expressing preferences.

Grammar and vocabulary: -ere and -ire verbs (presente indicativo); the verb piacere; adverbs of frequency.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Italian lifestyle. 🎵 Musica italiana: Lucio Battisti,

E penso a te / Claudio Cecchetto, Gioca jouer

Lesson 5: In giro per l'Italia (Contesto: La Città)

Communicative functions: describing a place; asking and giving directions; asking and telling time.

Grammar and vocabulary: adjectives; presente indicativo of irregular verbs; c'è/ci sono.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: studying Italian in Italy, depictions of the city.

Compiti settimana 2:

Workbook: Lessons 3, 4, 5. Composition 2. Quiz #1.

SETTIMANA 3

Lunedì 26 giugno – Giovedì 29 giugno

Date TBA: MIDTERM (1 hour)

Lesson 6: In albergo (Contesto: La Città)

Communicative functions: booking a hotel room; describing a house; giving timetable information.

Grammar and vocabulary: modal verbs; preposizioni articolate; a che ora?

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: l'agriturismo.

Lesson 7: Un fine settimana (Contesto: Le Vacanze)

Communicative functions: planning/talking about a trip.

Grammar and vocabulary: passato prossimo; adverbs of time.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: traveling in Italy. 🎵 Musica italiana: Lucio Battisti, *Sì, viaggiare*

Compiti settimana 3:

Workbook: Lessons 6, 7. Composition 3. Quiz #2.

SETTIMANA 4

Lunedì 3 luglio – Giovedì 6 luglio

Lesson 8: Vita quotidiana (Contesto: L'Amore)

Communicative functions: describing a typical day; describing traditions and holidays.

Grammar and vocabulary: reflexive verbs; possessive adjectives.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Italian traditions.

Lesson 9: La famiglia

Communicative functions: describing family relations.

Grammar and vocabulary: Possessive adjectives with words denoting family relationships; passato prossimo of reflexive verbs.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Italian families. 🎵 Musica italiana: Edoardo Bennato, Viva la mamma

Lesson 10: Saperi d'Italia (Contesto: Cucina e Ristoranti)

Communicative functions: describing food and eating habits.

Grammar and vocabulary: direct object pronouns; ne as partitive expression.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Wine culture in Italy.

Compiti settimana 4:

Workbook: Lessons 8, 9, 10. Composition 4. Quiz #3.

SETTIMANA 5

Lunedì 10 luglio – Giovedì 13 luglio

Lunedì 10 luglio: ORAL PRESENTATIONS (morning).

Lesson 11: Fare acquisti (Contesto: La Moda)

Communicative functions: shopping for clothes; making polite requests.

Grammar and vocabulary: indirect object pronouns; condizionale presente.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: the Italian fashion industry.

Lesson 12: I nostri ricordi

Communicative functions: describing past situations and habits; talking about your childhood.

Grammar and vocabulary: imperfetto.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: growing up in Italy. 🎵 Musica italiana: Francesco de Gregori, L'Imperfetto

Compiti settimana 5:

Workbook: Lessons 11, 12. Composition 5. Quiz #4.

SETTIMANA 6

Lunedì 17 luglio – giovedì 20 luglio

Lesson 13: Non è bello ciò che è bello... (Contesto: Arte e Artisti)

Communicative functions: describing someone's appearance and personality; making comparisons.

Grammar and vocabulary: comparatives and superlatives; condizionale presente.

Cultural topics/readings/video clips: Estratti di storia dell'arte, il cinema italiano.

TBA: FINAL EXAM (morning, 3 hours)

GRADING POLICY

Participation 20%

Compositions 10%

Quizzes 15%

Midterm 20%

Final Exam 25%

Oral Performance 10%

Italian accents keyboard combinations:

Windows users:

à ALT+0224	ì ALT+0236
À ALT+0192	Ì ALT+0204
è ALT+0232 (verbo essere: lui/lei è)	ò ALT+0242
È ALT+0200	Ò ALT+0210
é ALT+0233 (perché)	ù ALT+0249

É ALT+0201	Ù ALT+0217
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Macintosh users:

The easiest way is to use the tool “Show Character Viewer” and select the single vowel every time you need it.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change during the semester.