

Italian Cultural Studies at Ca' Foscari, Venice
Columbia University

Intensive Intermediate Italian

Instructor

Matteo Pace

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Day/Time and Location: M 8.30 – 11.30AM, 12.30 – 2.30PM
W 11.30 – 3.30PM
R 12.30 – 3.30PM

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

An intensive and fully-immersed course that covers two semesters of Intermediate Italian in six weeks, and prepares the students for advanced language and literature study. The course is open to students who have covered already one year of college-level Italian (or the equivalent). The program will strengthen the basic language competences that the students already studied in Elementary Italian in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while discussing and exploring cultural and social issues of Italy. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the main point and select the important information from authentic material (e.g. newspaper articles, movies, interviews, menus, schedules).
- Provide information about themselves, their interests and daily activities; narrate past and future events; express doubts, hopes, and hypotheses; make formal and informal requests; navigate through cultural materials and social practices of contemporary Italy.
- Have a good understanding of an Intermediate-level Italian grammar (differences in tenses and moods, use of pronouns, code-switching and various registers); integrate and master their vocabulary related to different topics such as art, social media, literature, gastronomy, politics, contemporary culture and society.
- Refine their command in producing both oral texts (informal conversation, in-class debates, oral presentations), and written texts (weekly compositions).

Please note that regular attendance is crucial to this course. The accelerated pace of an intensive course makes coming to every class particularly important. For the same reason, it is necessary for students to have a good working command of the linguistic structures and vocabulary they acquired during their elementary-level study of Italian, as the course will build on these foundations from the very first class.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions and activities, and to interact with both teacher and classmates.

Classes will be held **in Italian**, and students should make an effort not to speak English – gestures are ok too! Special emphasis will be placed on oral communication in order to build the students' confidence and help them get the most out of their experience in an Italian-speaking environment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Gruppo Italiaidea, *Italian Espresso 2. Italian Course for English Speakers* (Firenze: Alma Edizioni, 2007). Textbook and Workbook.

WEEKLY PROGRAM

Settimana 1 (12-16 Giugno)

Funzioni comunicative: Raccontare di fatti passati, fare progetti futuri, parlare di sé.

Grammatica: Indicativo passato prossimo e imperfetto. Indicativo futuro semplice. Pronomi diretti, indiretti, riflessivi.

Cultura: Musica italiana. Il mondo del lavoro.

Compiti

Tema #1 (Rispondere a un annuncio di lavoro)

Settimana 2 (19-23 Giugno)

Funzioni comunicative: Sugerire e chiedere consigli. Dare istruzioni. Fare comparazioni.

Grammatica: Imperativo formale e informale. Imperativo coi pronomi. Comparativi e superlativi. Pronomi relativi.

Cultura: La cucina italiana. Vivere e studiare in Italia.

Compiti

Tema #2 (Scrivere una ricetta)

Quiz #1 (su Settimana 1)

Settimana 3 (26-30 Giugno)

Funzioni comunicative: Esprimere e riferire opinioni personali. Discutere e argomentare.

Grammatica: Condizionale passato. Congiuntivo presente e passato.

Cultura: Città italiane e periferie. Luoghi comuni e stereotipi.

Compiti

Tema #3 (Raccontare la propria città ideale)

Quiz #2 (su Settimana 2)

Settimana 4 (3-7 Luglio)

MIDTERM (su Settimane 1-3)

Funzioni comunicative: Riferire fatti e opinioni. Descrivere un libro.

Grammatica: Congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato. Congiuntivo e connettivi. Forma passiva. Condizionale.

Cultura: Social media. Radio, televisione e giornali. Testi letterari.

Settimana 5 (10-14 Luglio)

Funzioni comunicative: Raccontare feste e tradizioni. Fare ipotesi.

Grammatica: Frasi ipotetiche nel presente e nel passato. Pronomi relativi.

Cultura: Le tradizioni italiane. Ambiente ed ecologia.

Compiti

Tema #4 (Recensione)

Quiz #3 (su Settimana 4)

Settimana 6 (17-21 Luglio)

ESAME FINALE (Settimane 1-6)

Funzioni comunicative: Discutere, lamentarsi, giustificarsi. Raccontare un viaggio.

Grammatica: Concordanza dei tempi del congiuntivo. *Si* impersonale. Gerundio.

Cultura: La società italiana contemporanea. L'Italia da scoprire.

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

GRADING POLICY

Participation	20%
Compositions	10%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
Oral Performance	10%