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*The American  
University of Florence***SYLLABUS**Rev. 7  
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**SQUOLA – CENTER FOR CULTURAL AND ITALIAN STUDIES**

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**SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS****DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE****COURSE TITLE: ELEMENTARY ITALIAN 101****COURSE CODE: ISITEI101****3 Semester Credits****1. DESCRIPTION**

This introductory language course is intended for students with no prior knowledge of Italian. The course presents linguistic fundamentals and essential grammatical structures necessary for elementary communication. Students will learn the regular conjugations of common -are, -ere, and -ire verbs, working primarily with present tense verbs. Simple prepositions will also be introduced along with other fundamental structures.

**2. OBJECTIVES**

During the course emphasis will be given to all four abilities to be developed while learning a language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be guided in the establishment of pronunciation and communication skills both in and outside class, and assisted in familiarizing themselves with the Italian language and cultural environment in which they are immersed. In addition to the acquisition of basic communicative skills, students will also be required to complete written exercises, and assignments to strengthen grammatical structures and vocabulary.

**Grammar:**

Acquiring the basic structures of the language.

Simple grammatical structures and sentence patterns.

**Vocabulary:**

Understanding and using basic vocabulary regarding the concepts of space, time, quantity and quality.

Mastering the basic vocabulary necessary for the most common and concrete communicative situations.

**Listening:**

Understanding the most commonly used expressions in daily verbal communication, such as simple information and very brief dialogues, instructions addressed carefully and slowly.

**Speaking:**

Using the most common colloquial expressions in daily social communication for self-identification, greetings, asking for and giving basic information.

Using the language in order to identify and describe surroundings (in limited terms).

### **Reading:**

Understanding simple texts for practical use.

### **Writing:**

Writing simple texts.

## **3. REQUIREMENTS**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## **4. METHOD**

This course consists of lectures, class discussions, projects. Mediums for instruction used will include, but are not limited to, interactive and hands-on activities which challenge thought processes, academic texts and studies, videos, slides, guided problem solving, and experiential and/or field learning activities where applicable.

## **5. TEXTBOOK – FURTHER READINGS – RESOURCES**

TEXTBOOK (Copy available at the university library):

- La Grassa, Matteo. *L'italiano all'università 1, Corso di lingua per studenti stranieri A1-A2*. Edizioni Edilingua.

The textbook is mandatory for successful completion of the course.

Where applicable, additional materials, handouts and/or notes will be provided by the instructor.

## **LIBRARIES IN FLORENCE**

Please consult the posted schedules for official opening times of the university library. Also note that the library is for consultation only and it is not possible to borrow materials. The library is equipped with a scanner and internet access so that you may save or email a digital copy of the pages needed.

Students may also utilize additional libraries and research centers within the local community:

### **BIBLIOTECA PALAGIO DI PARTEGUELFA**

Located in Piazzetta di Parte Guelfa between Piazza della Repubblica and Ponte Vecchio. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

[http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca\\_palagio\\_di\\_parte\\_guelfa/](http://www.biblioteche.comune.fi.it/biblioteca_palagio_di_parte_guelfa/)

### **BIBLIOTECA DELLE OBLATE**

Located in via dell'Oriuolo 26. Please consult the library website for hours of operation:

[www.bibliotecadelleoblatoe.it](http://www.bibliotecadelleoblatoe.it)

### **THE HAROLD ACTON LIBRARY AT THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FLORENCE**

Located in Lungarno Guicciardini 9. Please consult the library website for hours of operation. This library requires a fee-based student membership. For information: [www.britishinstitute.it/en](http://www.britishinstitute.it/en)

## **6. FIELD LEARNING**

Please consult your Official Registration for any mandatory field learning dates. Field Learning Activities cited in Official Registrations are an integral part of the course and also include an assignment

that counts towards your final grade, details will be provided on the first day of class.

## **7. COURSE MATERIALS**

No additional course materials are necessary.

## **8. COURSE FEES**

Course fees cover course-related field learning activities, visits, and support the instructor's teaching methodologies. Book costs are not included in the course fee. The exact amount will be communicated by the instructor on the first day of class.

## **9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM**

10% Attendance

10% Participation

20% Quizzes

20% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

15% Oral Presentation

A = 93-100 %, A- = 90-92%, B+= 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B-=80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C=73-76%, C- =70-72%, D = 60-69%, F= 0-59%, W = Official Withdrawal, W/F = Failure to withdraw by the designated date.

## **10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION**

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and student are central to the academic policy and reflected in the attendance regulations. Student presence is mandatory and counts toward the final grade.

**Absences** are based on academic hours: 1 absence equals 3 lecture hours.

Two absences: 6 lecture hours, attendance and participation grade will be impacted.

Three absences: 9 lecture hours, the final grade may be lowered by one letter grade.

Four absences: 12 lecture hours, constitutes automatic failure of the course regardless of when absences are incurred.

Please note:

- The above hours refer to lecture hours. Please note that the contact / credit hour policy in the academic catalog includes additional distribution ratios according to delivery category. Ex: 1 absence equals 6 FL/SL/Lab hours or 9 EL hours.

- Hours may be distributed in different formats according to the academic course schedules.

### **LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE**

Arriving late or departing early from class is not acceptable. Two late arrivals or early departures or a combination will result in an unexcused absence. Travel is not an exceptional circumstance.

### **TRAVEL (OR DELAYS DUE TO TRAVEL) IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE FROM CLASS.**

It is the student's responsibility to know how many absences are incurred. If in doubt, speak with your instructor!

**Participation:** Satisfactory participation will be the result of contributing to class discussions by putting forth insightful and constructive questions, comments and observations. Overall effort, cooperation during group work, proper care of work space and tools, responsible behavior, and completion of assignments will be assessed. All of the above criteria also apply to Field Learning and site visits.

## 11. EXAMS – PAPERS – PROJECTS

Two **quizzes** will account for a total of 20% of the final course grade. For time and date refer to course website. The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason. Format:

Quizzes are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session.

The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.

Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

The **Midterm** and **Final** exams each account for 20% of the final course grade. For exam time and date refer to course website. The time and date of the exam cannot be changed for any reason. Format:

Exams are cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the session and will test all four abilities (Listening, Reading, Writing, Speaking).

Exams may include multiple choice questions, fill-in the blanks, vocabulary exercises, reading with true/false replies, a listening comprehension, and an essential writing exercise.

The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself

The **Oral Presentation** accounts for 10% of the course grade. Topic, length, guidelines, and due date will be provided on course website.

Vocabulary knowledge and appropriate usage, comprehensibility, pronunciation, content (not reading from notes), ability to answer instructor/classmates and questions during class and completion of all tasks assigned will be assessed.

## 12. LESSONS

<b>Lesson 1</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p>Presentation of the course and introduction to the class syllabus. Information on method, objectives, exams, and oral presentation.</p> <p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing yourself, asking/giving personal details</li> <li>• Greeting people upon arriving</li> <li>• Asking about pronunciation and spelling, asking about meaning and translation of a word, asking someone to repeat something</li> <li>• Asking question in formal and informal register</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Italian alphabet, Italian spelling with examples and question words</li> <li>• Adjectives of nationality</li> <li>• Negative form <i>non</i></li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Be able to introduce yourself in Italian providing information such as name, age and what city you are from</p> <p>Learn about the Italian pronunciation</p> <p>Understand the different contexts of application of the formal and informal register</p>
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 1: Ciao, io sono Anna. E tu?

## Lesson 2

<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greetings</li> <li>• Country names and adjectives of nationalities</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking for address and telephone number</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal pronouns</li> <li>• Present tense: conjugation of <i>essere</i> and <i>avere</i></li> <li>• Present tense: singular forms of <i>chiamarsi</i></li> <li>• Singular and plural forms of nouns ending with <i>-o</i> and <i>-a</i></li> <li>• Singular and plural forms of adjectives ending with <i>-o</i>, <i>-a</i> and <i>-e</i></li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Be able to conjugate the verbs <i>essere</i> and <i>avere</i></p> <p>Be able to ask for the address and the telephone number</p>
<b>Readings/Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 1 – Ciao, io sono Anna. E tu?

<b>Lesson 3</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking for address and telephone number</li> <li>• Using numbers from 0 to 100</li> <li>• Learning the names of the classroom objects</li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom objects</li> <li>• Cardinal numbers from 0 to 100</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students of Italian in the world</li> <li>• Motivations for studying Italian</li> </ul> <p><b>QUIZ 1</b></p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Learn numbers from 1 to 100</p> <p>Understand the importance of motivations in learning new languages</p>
<b>Readings/Assignments</b>	<p>Read: Unit 1 – Ciao, io sono Anna. E tu?</p> <p>Read: <i>Conosciamo gli italiani</i></p>

<b>Lesson 4</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing someone</li> <li>• Asking someone how he/she is and saying how one is doing</li> <li>• Greeting people upon leaving</li> <li>• Asking for someone's profession and mentioning one's occupation</li> <li>• Talking about different kind of jobs</li> </ul>

	<p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nouns of the second group (ending in "e ")</li> <li>• Present tense: regular verbs in the three conjugations <i>-are, -ere, -ire</i></li> </ul> <p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Come stai? / Come va?</i></li> <li>• <i>Cosa studi?</i></li> <li>• Profession names</li> <li>• Workplaces</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	Learn useful expressions to introduce someone else Learn about most common jobs in Italy
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 2 – Lavori o studi?

<b>Lesson 5</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using verbs in conversation</li> <li>• Using the most common adjectives and find their opposite</li> <li>• Using prepositions in relation to places</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definite articles, use of definite articles in front of <i>consonant, s + consonant</i> and <i>z, vowel</i></li> <li>• Articles – nouns - adjectives agreement</li> <li>• Present tense: conjugation of irregular verbs <i>stare, fare, andare, dare, bere, venire</i></li> <li>• Simple prepositions <i>in, a, da, di</i></li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	Gain an understanding of genders and definite articles
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 2 – Lavori o studi?

<b>Lesson 6</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opposite pairs of common adjectives</li> <li>• Useful expressions for asking something</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> <i>Il mondo del lavoro</i></li> <li>• <i>Work in Italy</i></li> </ul> <p>REVIEW FOR MIDTERM</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	Get to know most common Italian adjectives and opposite pairs
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 2 – Lavori o studi?

<b>Lesson 7</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class

<b>Lecture</b>	MIDTERM EXAM
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<b>Lesson 8</b>	
<b>NA</b>	ACADEMIC BREAK

<b>Lesson 9</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordering in a café</li> <li>• Reading a menù</li> <li>• Getting someone's attention</li> <li>• Asking for things in a polite way</li> <li>• Thanking someone</li> <li>• Asking for, saying prices and paying</li> <li>• Expressing one's likes and dislikes</li> <li>• Expressing opinions and preferences about food and beverages</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Piacere: mi piace / non mi piace, mi piacciono / non mi piacciono</i></li> <li>• Present tense: third conjugation of <i>-isc</i> verbs</li> <li>• Use of <i>vorrei</i></li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	Learn how to order at the bar Learn the most common vocabulary related to the communicative situation of the bar
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 3 – Una bottiglia d'acqua, per favore

<b>Lesson 10</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food, beverages and objects in a café</li> <li>• Menù</li> <li>• <i>Vorrei</i></li> <li>• <i>Scusi!, Per favore, per cortesia, per piacere, grazie, prego</i></li> </ul> <p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking for permission</li> <li>• Asking someone to do something</li> <li>• Talking about one's eating habits</li> <li>• Doing grocery shopping: writing a shopping list</li> <li>• Indicating quantities</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b> Use of <i>ci locativo</i></p>
<b>Objectives</b>	Learn expressions to ask things politely Be able to talk about eating habits Learn Italian vocabulary for food and beverage
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 3 – Una bottiglia d'acqua, per favore

Lesson 11	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement units: <i>grammo, etto, chilo, litro</i></li> <li>• Food packaging</li> <li>• Shops and stores</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> <i>Gli italiani e il cappuccino</i></li> <li>• <i>Gli italiani e il bar:</i> understanding and analyzing habits and social behaviors</li> <li>• Italian breakfast</li> </ul> <p><b>QUIZ 2</b></p>
Objectives	Learn about units of measurement and common shops and stores
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Unit 3 – Una bottiglia d'acqua, per favore

Lesson 12	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p><b>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describing a city, a neighborhood, a street</li> <li>• Giving and following street directions</li> <li>• Asking and telling time</li> <li>• Reading timetables</li> <li>• Asking for and giving information about shops and stores opening hours</li> <li>• Expressing indecision and ability</li> </ul> <p><b>GRAMMAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indefinite articles, use of indefinite articles in front of <i>consonant, s + consonant</i> and <i>z, vowel</i></li> <li>• Present tense: conjugation and use of modal verbs <i>potere, dovere, volere</i></li> <li>• <i>Present tense: conjugation of sapere and use in different situations</i></li> </ul>
Objectives	<p>Be able to describe a city using common adjectives</p> <p>Be able to ask and tell time and read a timetable</p> <p>Ask and give directions</p>
Readings/ Assignments	Read: Unit 4 – Vado a piedi o prendo l'autobus?

Lesson 13	
Meet	In class
Lecture	<p><b>VOCABULARY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities and buildings, signposts, urban landscape vocabulary (street, boulevard, square, bridge, traffic lights, junctions etc.)</li> <li>• Street directions</li> <li>• Expressions denoting position: <i>davanti a / prima di, dietro a / dopo, a destra, a sinistra, dritto, di fronte, in mezzo a / tra, accanto a</i></li> <li>• Means of transport</li> <li>• <i>Che ore sono? Che ora è? Sono.../ E'....</i></li> <li>• Timetable and opening hours</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Days of the week</li> </ul> <p><b>CULTURE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> <i>Autobus? No, grazie, prendo il motorino!</i></li> <li>• Understanding times and working days</li> <li>• City buses</li> </ul>
<b>Objectives</b>	Learn the days of the week Become familiar with the vocabulary related to the street
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Read: Unit 4 – Vado a piedi o prendo l'autobus?

<b>Lesson 14</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<b>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</b> Review and Exam preparation
<b>Readings/ Assignments</b>	Submit Oral Presentation

<b>Lesson 15</b>	
<b>Meet</b>	In class
<b>Lecture</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>