

Italian 1202 – Intermediate Italian

Course Description

Welcome to Intermediate Italian!

This course is designed to improve your language skills and to further your knowledge of Italian life and culture.

Required texts

You will need to buy from the Columbia University Bookstore the package containing the following books:

Tognozzi-Cavatorta PONTI *Italiano terzo millennio*
A Workbook-Laboratory Manual for PONTI
All texts published by Houghton Mifflin
Dizionario Harper-Collins-Sansoni

PORTFOLIO:

We do not use regularly the textbook. Students are expected to collect all the handouts and other materials provided by the teacher in a portfolio.

Course goals

In this course students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Italian and an understanding of Italian culture. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- use a sufficient range of language to be able to give clear description, express viewpoints on most general topic;
- show a relatively high degree of grammatical control;
- use cohesive devices to link his/her utterances into clear and coherent discourse;
- give detailed descriptions and presentations on a wide range of subjects related to his/her field of interest, expanding and supporting ideas;
- write clear and detailed text on a variety of subjects related to his/her field of interest, synthesizing and evaluating information and arguments,
- understand straightforward factual information about common everyday life;
- interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction;
- express news and views effectively in writing, and relate to those of others;
- express him/herself appropriately in different cultural and communicative situations.

Course requirements

1. Class participation

Being part of a language class involves:

- Listening to your teacher and to your classmates every time they speak asking them to repeat (in Italian) when you do not understand what they said
- Speaking only Italian in class. Gesturing and using body language is OK too. Speaking in a loud and clear voice so that everybody in the class can hear you.
- Taking notes during class, unless the teacher tells you not to do it.
- Be prepared to work in groups or in pairs. When the teacher asks you to sit in a group or in a pair, quickly moving to your assigned place and listen to the teachers instructions for the activity. Showing interest in other students' ideas and suggestions and contributing to the accomplishment of the task of your group, pair or entire class.

2. Class preparation

You are expected to go to class prepared every day, having done all the homework assigned for that day.

If you are not able to prepare for a certain day class, talk to your teacher at the beginning of the class. Make up for the work for the following day.

An absence is absolutely not considered an excuse for not knowing your assignment. If you are absent, call another student up as soon as possible to find out about what was done in class and about the assignment.

Homework assignments include written as well as oral assignments.

Homework must be legible and tidy.

You must also show improvement by not repeating the same mistakes over and over. Homework counts towards your grade (see grading policy.)

All written homework and lab work is due on the day assigned and will not be accepted late unless there are exceptional circumstances.

All essays must be submitted on the due date. No late work will be accepted.

Improvement is a very important part of the course and you are required to actively work on it. After your homework has been given back to you from your instructor, you must spend some time looking at your teacher's indications and comments, and make the requested corrections.

Lab work must be done regularly and follow the sequence of lessons. We cannot stress enough the importance of keeping up with lab practice as this provides essential reinforcement to class work. Students have the options of doing the lab exercises on line from their room or going to the Language Lab. The Lab for ALL students is located in **Lewison**, two floors down. You are expected to spend about a **minimum of an hour** of work a week on the Lab.

Listening tapes will be available online at the LRC website:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lrc/> (click on "files online" and log in with *Cunix ID and password*).

Lab Manual and Ponti textbook Answer Keys will be available on the same site.

Essays: Students are expected to write compositions of 200-300 words (they must be typed, double space) on an assigned topic, using vocabulary and structures they have learned and practiced in class. Essays will be graded on comprehensibility, content/information, vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy.

Each essay will be written twice. The first time, students will receive comments about content and grammatical errors. The first draft must be carefully written, correctly spelled and thoroughly proofread as if it were the final copy. Mistake, which you can correct yourself, will be underlined, while the instructor will provide the correct form for mistakes that you cannot correct alone. This first draft will count as 60% of the composition or paper grade. The second time, students should incorporate the instructor's suggestions and make **corrections**. The second draft is a revision of the first and will count as 40% of the paper grade. It should be turned in no later than one week after you received the corrected first draft back. Late second drafts will not be accepted and the grade recorded will be the grade of the first draft.

Learning from your mistakes is a very important part of the course and you are required to actively work on mistake corrections and to show progress by not repeating the same mistakes over and over.

The final grade will be improved if you have corrected your essay accurately.

3. Quizzes

There will be weekly compositions or summaries ("temi") a **Midterm Exam** a **Final Exam**. **Quizzes** emphasize the material contained in a chapter, but also includes listening comprehension, reading comprehension, dictation and writing. The lowest grade on a quiz is dropped. There are no make up quizzes. If you miss a quiz, it will be counted as your lowest grade and dropped. If you miss another one, you get a '0'.

The final exam has a **written** and an **oral** part to test your overall communicative abilities. During the semester you will have speaking assignments to build your speaking abilities.

4. Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**: language acquisition is a skill which needs regular practice. The instructor will take attendance each day. You are not allowed more than **four absences** during the semester for classes which meet four times a week, and **two absences** for classes which meet twice a week. After the fourth (or second) absence, your attendance and participation percentage of the grade will be lowered as follows:

0-4 (0-2 if class is twice a week):	A
5-6 (3)	B
7-8 (4)	C
9-10 (5)	D
11 or more (6 or more)	must drop the course or F

Exceptions may be made for extreme unforeseen circumstances.
We make exceptions for religious holidays you must observe.

A doctor's note does not represent an excuse for an absence, unless you are sick for a prolonged period of time with a severe illness that prevents you from going to class, in which case your Dean must notify your teacher, and you are expected to keep up the work. Doctor appointments, interview appointments and such are absolutely not accepted as excuses. You are responsible for making them outside of class time.

5. Lateness

If you arrive late to class consistently you might be asked to leave the class.
Late arrivals disrupt the class.

Also, you are expected to stay till the end of every class. Early departures are not permitted unless you have a very special reason and you inform your teacher at the beginning of class. Unjustified late arrivals or early departures count as absences.

Your final grade is based on:

Attendance and participation/ oral activities/ sketches	20%
Oral performance Midterm	5%
Compositions	15%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam (written and oral)	15%
Final oral performance	10%

Your final letter grade will be calculated as follows:

A+	=100 plus
A	=94-100
A-	=90-93
B+	=87-89
B	=83-86
B-	=80-82
C+	=77-79
C	=73-76
C-	=70-72
D	=65-69
F	=0-64

Undergraduate students CANNOT take this course for Pass/Fail.

TUTORING SERVICES

Some students will find that they benefit from the aid of a tutor. Students who need tutoring can go to the Learning Center in 508 Lewisohn (854-4097) to request FREE tutoring. Ideally this should be done early in the semester. The Department of Italian also posts a list of graduate students who make themselves available for paid individual tutoring.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Caffè e conversazione is an informal group that meets once a week in Hamilton. The group, open to all levels including beginners, provides an informal setting to practice Italian and to meet other students, as well as some native speakers of Italian. All studying Italian and all Italian-speaking students on campus are invited. Ask your instructor for weekly hours.

SERATA AL CINEMA

The department sponsors a weekly Italian film series. **Attendance at one film** over the course of the semester is **REQUIRED** of all students enrolled in Intermediate Italian 1202.

STUDY ABROAD

Students who have completed three semesters or more of college Italian are eligible for studying in Italy. Students can spend one semester or one year studying in Bologna, Florence, Padova, Rome, Venice or another Italian city. Students can also spend a summer studying in Italy with one of several programs.

For information on study abroad, students must contact the Language Coordinator.

