

Elementary Italian I (ITAL 0101) Syllabus

Summer 2019 | University of Pittsburgh | Pitt in Rome

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Melissa Demos, PhD	mmd21@pitt.edu	Italiaidea, by appointment

Welcome to the Italian Program in the Department of French and Italian! We are glad that you have chosen to study Italian with us. Please refer to this syllabus for explanations of our department's policies and resources.

General Information

Description

Our goal in the French and Italian language programs is to guide you in the **development of speaking and literacy skills in Italian through the communicative acts of reading, writing, listening, and creating discourse around texts of all types**. We want you to develop to the greatest possible extent a competency in comprehending and producing both spoken and written Italian, as well as sociocultural competency in communicating with people who speak it.

Expectations and Goals

The main focus of classtime is on communication, and we strive for **maximum use of Italian in the classroom**. Because you might have limited opportunities to speak or hear Italian outside of class, classroom time is devoted to help develop your competency in these areas. This means that **your instructor will speak only Italian to you during class, and you will be expected to do the same with your instructor and classmates**. Should you need additional explanations or wish to discuss matters not directly related to course content, your instructor will be happy to speak to you in English before or after class and during office hours.

The goals of this course are:

- Speak Italian well enough to **describe, narrate, and ask/answer questions** in the present tense about a variety of topics related to your university life, your home, your daily activities, and pastimes.
- **Comprehend Italian with sufficient ability** to grasp the main idea and some supporting details in short conversations (spontaneous or recorded) that pertain to the topics mentioned above.
- **Read and understand the main idea and some details** of materials (both literary and non-literary) about a variety of topics.
- **Write sentences and short paragraphs** on familiar topics relating to personal interests and practical needs.
- Begin to develop an **awareness of Italian culture**.
- Begin to **understand how on a basic level Italian functions** as a language.

Much of the responsibility of learning a language falls on you, the student. A large part of your grade is based on **attendance and participation**. Because it is not realistic to expect to communicate in a new language if you are not physically present to practice it, it is essential that you attend class regularly, even if you do not feel prepared for that day's activities. In general, I expect students to:

- Come to every class or communicate regarding absences in a timely manner (before class)
- Turn in homework and other assignments on time
- Come to class prepared, having read all required texts and completed all assignments
- Communicate any difficulties that you are having in class with me

Students should expect me to:

- Provide a dynamic and engaging classroom environment
- Grade all homework and assignments in a timely manner
- Respond to emails within 24 hours
- Communicate expectations and provide rubrics for major assessments before their due date

Course Materials

Required Materials

For this class, you have a text manual that gives presentations of grammar and some vocabulary. It also provides active links to websites which you should use as (ungraded) homework assignments to practice. I expect that you will read/watch all assigned materials for any given week on this site **before coming to class**.

Courseweb will be used to keep track of your grades and will be used to communicate with students via email.

Optional Materials

If you would really like to have a more traditional book to study on your own time, we recommend the book *Using Italian* (Kinder & Savini, 2004). There are also many excellent online dictionaries that you should explore. A list with links can be found in Appendix 1 (pg 64) of the manual.

Course Schedule ****These dates may be subject to change.**

Refer to the course manual for full descriptions of weekly objectives. Quizzes are given in class. "Progetti" (projects) are longer homework assignments with a presentational component. All other assessments are regular homework assignments given in class. See Courseweb for complete information on all assignments including detailed directions, grading rubrics, and due dates.

week	date	argomenti	manuale di grammatica	progetti/quiz
1	21 maggio	Greetings & pronunciation	Week 1 in the manual	
	22 maggio	Afternoon lesson 2.30pm - Al mercato	Week 1 / 2 grammar	
	23 maggio	Al bar - articoli & sostantivi	Week 11 vocab	
2	27 maggio	Afternoon lesson* -caccia al tesoro		Vocab/diario1 due
	28 maggio	In trattoria -	Week 3 grammar	Quiz 1
	29 maggio	In centro - verbi	Week 4 Gram / 6 vocab	Progetti 1
	30 maggio	In centro - verbi / preposizioni	Week 4 / 6	
3	3 giugno	A scuola - aggettivi	Weeks 2 &3	Vocab/diario2 due
	4 giugno	A scuola - avere / essere	Weeks 2 &3	Progetto 2
	5 giugno	A casa - aggettivi possessivi	Week 4	
	6 giugno	A casa - la famiglia	Week 4	
4	10 giugno	Midterm Tempo libero	Week 5	Midterm Vocab/diario3 due
	11 giugno	Tempo libero	Week 5	
	12 giugno	in Italia - Geografia	Week 8	
	13 giugno	in Italia	Week 8	
5	17 giugno	In montagna - il tempo	Week 9	Vocab/diario4 due
	18 giugno	In montagna - verbi modali	Week 9	Quiz 2
	19 giugno	Al mare - verb irregolari	Week 10	
	20 giugno	Al mare	Week 10	progetto 3
6	24 giugno	Sul palco	Week 13	Vocab/diario5 due
	25 giugno	Al Cinema	Week 14	
	26 giugno	Ripasso per l'esame finale		progetto 4
	27 giugno	Esame finale		

Grades

Midterm	20%	Progetti (4)	15%
Final	20%	Participation & compiti	20%
Quizzes (4)	15%	5 Diari / glossari (settimanale)	10%

Grading Scale

A+ 98%	B+ 88%	C+ 78%	D+ 68%	F 59% or lower
A 93%	B 83%	C 73%	D 63%	
A- 90%	B- 80%	C- 70%	D- 60%	

Additional Information and Resources

Cell phones/laptops

Cell phones should be switched off at the beginning of class. **You are not permitted to make or take calls, text, or otherwise use your phone during class time.** Your participation grade will be negatively affected should you choose to do so. Laptops may not be used except for presentations.

Placement Exam

If you have not previously taken Italian courses at the University of Pittsburgh *and* have some knowledge of Italian, you are required to take a placement exam before registering in this course. If you have taken a placement exam recently and were placed into this course, please contact your instructor to confirm that this level is appropriate for you. Please contact your instructor if you have any questions regarding this information.

Participation

Since participation is a large component of your final grade in this course (15%), your daily efforts to arrive punctually, come to class prepared, and participate in all class activities are essential. **Outstanding participation** is defined as habitually arriving for class on time, always listening attentively when others speak, asking pertinent questions, volunteering in all activities, participating in all activities with enthusiasm, and responding to questions from others. **Average participation** is defined as occasionally arriving late to class, sometimes listening to others when they speak, sometimes asking questions, participating in some activities, occasionally contributing to group activities, and occasionally responding to questions. **Unacceptable participation** is defined as often arriving late to class, not listening when others speak, seldom asking questions, not contributing much to group work, and seldom responding to questions. Your instructor will keep track of your participation and will keep you informed of your progress in this area. The grading rubric will be posted on Courseweb.

Extra Credit

We do not offer extra credit in any of our Italian 0001 classes.

Assignments and Quizzes

All homework must be submitted on time. Quizzes will be given in class on a regular basis to check your progress. Your instructor will not accept late work unless there are extenuating, documented circumstances. Always communicate such circumstances as soon as possible to your instructor.

Attendance

Because of the communicative nature of this course, it is essential to come to class regularly. Attendance is taken every day. You are allowed up to two "free" absences during the semester. There are no excused or unexcused absences for these two absences. **On your third absence, you will lose 5 percentage points from your final grade and each subsequent absence will result in one additional point off the final grade for any classes missed.** For example, if at the end of the semester you have a final grade of 85% (B), upon the third absence the final grade is automatically penalized for a total of 80% (B-). A **documented** medical condition or family or personal emergency (provided to your instructor within one week of your return to class) will constitute the sole exception to this rule.

Tests and presentations

Students who are unable to take a scheduled test or make a presentation **must notify their instructor prior** to the lesson. Students who miss a test or presentation without notifying their instructor **will not be allowed to make up the test or oral component of their project.** Students who have conflicts with the final exam time must notify their instructor **at least two weeks prior to the final exam.** The department will then provide for an alternate testing time. All students must take the exam during this departmental sanctioned time.

Classroom Recording Policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Email Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Your instructor will do his/her best to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them.

Student Evaluations of this Course (OMET)

The Department of French and Italian greatly values student feedback. The OMET online evaluations are the primary tool we use to assess instructors and evaluate courses. These evaluations are used to develop and improve curricular design and instructional efficacy. In addition, OMETs are shared with upper level administration when deciding on contract renewal, promotion, awards, tenure, etc. We thank you for taking the time to provide thoughtful and constructive feedback. Whether in the Language Media Center or in the regular classroom, OMETs will be conducted during class time towards the end of the semester; however, students may opt to complete the OMET online after the link becomes live on my.pitt.edu. There is no penalty for students who opt not to take the OMET.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious ethical matter and an infraction of University Policy. Students should familiarize themselves with both the University Policy on Academic Integrity (available at <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>) and the Department of French and Italian Plagiarism Policy (<http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/undergraduate/plagiarism.php>). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of human or online translators (i.e. Google Translate)
2. Unauthorized editorial help (asking a friend in an upper level course for help)
3. Unattributed use of an author's ideas (theft of intellectual property)
4. Unattributed use of an author's words (lack of proper citation)

Any student who plagiarizes will be immediately reported to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies charged with matters of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for first-time violations typically result in a '0' or an 'F' grade for the assignment. Second violations may result in a failing grade for the course and expulsion from the University. Please do not hesitate to contact your instructor or the Language Program Coordinator, Lorraine Denman (denman@pitt.edu), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources Services (DRS; www.drs.pitt.edu), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 **BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR ITALY**. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

If you are having trouble in class

If, for any reason, you are having trouble in this class, please **first talk to your instructor**. Remember that your instructor is here to facilitate your learning, and that they want to help you. Your instructor can talk to you during office hours and/or via email to give you tips on how to do better, how to study Italian more effectively, and answer any questions that you may have about class. Alternatively, you can contact the Italian Language Program Coordinator, Lorraine Denman at denman@pitt.edu.

If you are having problems with anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, or other mental wellness issues, you can call the [University Counseling Center](#) for a free and confidential appointment. They also offer group therapy and support groups for students dealing with grief, social anxiety, trauma, and a variety of other issues. Call them at 412-648-7930 for an appointment. Other ways to deal with stress and anxiety when you return to campus include the [Stress Free Zone](#), located on the 3rd floor of the William Pitt Union. They offer a variety of classes, one-on-one appointments, and space where you can meditate, practice yoga, etc. They, too, can provide you with strategies to better cope with the stresses of college life.