syllabus ITAL 101
Claudia Cremasco

course objectives

The course objectives will focus on the following language competencies: a. contextualized languages situations: comfort zone; b. greetings; c. beginning verb tenses; d. basic syntactical order for target language; e. basic phonetics; and cultural competencies: a. simple lyrical poems and songs; b. geographical locations; c. gestures.

course description

The course will expose students to Italian culture and daily life, both during the language instruction (as the target language is always presented in context) and in an additional cultural seminar.

LANGUAGE COMPONENT: This 34-36 hour component will introduce students to conversational and written Italian, focusing on basic oral expression, listening comprehension, elementary reading and writing. Emphasis will be placed on Italian culture and daily life. Moreover the students will be presented with a series of elementary communicative situations, and will be encouraged to speak in a realistic manner in pairs or in groups within these contexts.

CULTURAL COMPONENT: This 10 hour component is intended to explore contemporary issues and cultural expression to provide context and insight into the student’s personal experience in Italy. Students will watch three Italian feature films with illustrated introductions in Italian. Each student will also participate in small groups in an Italian cooking lesson for a complete multi-course meal. Students will shop for the ingredients for this authentic meal in an outdoor market and in typical food shops.

course requirements

* Attendance: Regular attendance (includes paying attention!) is critical to the language-learning process, therefore it is required and will be taken for each class. Lateness and frequent absences will be reflected in your final grade. As part of the course we will watch three Italian movies to broaden your exposure to Italian language and culture, and you will attend a cooking class.
* Participation: Constructive participation in all class activities is essential and will affect your grade. You are expected to use Italian as much as possible during class.
* Preparation: You must come to class ready. Following the calendar, and the announcements made in class do the assigned preparation activities (usually readings and vocabulary memorization), and review what we did in previous classes.

Homework

* Esercizi of Domani: following the calendar, students are required to complete and self-correct, using the answer key, the Esercizi. At the end of each Modulo the students are also required to complete the Pagina della Fonetica, and the Test. The assignments will be reviewed for completeness and graded.

It is important and more effective to do the assigned exercises and study Italian every day for short, regular intervals rather than all at once the day before the assignments are due.
• **Temi**: these are compositions (4 in all) based on the themes presented in class or in the textbook. Following the calendar, students are required to turn them in during class on the due day. (Details to follow)

• **Esercizi in citta’**: these are hands-on activities (4 in all). Following the calendar students are required to turn them in during class on the due day. (Details to follow)

• **“Andiamo in scena”**: students in groups will be required to prepare a skit based on one of the communicative situations presented in class. (Details to follow)

  *Sorry… no assignment will be accepted late. Notice that all the assignments will be graded and be an important part of your final grade.*

• **Testing**: there will be a mid-term and a final exam as indicated on the calendar. There will be no make-ups. Only those students who present a legitimate and documented excuse for their absence will be allowed to make up the test.

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**textbook**

*Domani* by Carlo Guastalla and Ciro Massimo Naddeo

Please note: You will be given handouts during class. You are expected to keep this information available and readily accessible throughout the term. You should keep this information together in a folder.

**grade calculation**

Grades will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>65 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esercizi</td>
<td>50 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 p. for each chapter - <em>Unita’</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagina della Fonetica, Test</td>
<td>15 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 p. for each <em>Modulo</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temi</td>
<td>20 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5 p. for each composition)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esercizi in citta’</td>
<td>20 p.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 p. for each <em>Esercizio</em>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>80 p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>80 p.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total (100%)**  
350 p.

**Grades:**

- A (94 – 100)
- A- (90 - 93)
- B+ (87 – 89)
- B (84 – 86)
- B- (80 – 83)
- C+ (77 – 79)
- C (74 – 76)
- C- (70 – 73)
- D+ (67 – 69)
- D (64 – 66)
- D- (60 – 63)
- F (0 – 59)

**final word**

*Have Fun!* This course requires some hard work, but I hope you will experience the excitement of starting to speak a new language!