



CIEE in Ferrara, Italy

Course name:	Intensive course of Italian, Beginning I
Course number:	ITAL 1501 FERR
Programs offering course:	Ferrara Language and Culture
Language of instruction:	English/Italian
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2019

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to all of the basic elements of the Italian language. Through a communicative approach, students will learn to read, write, listen, and speak basic Italian. Additionally, students will gain familiarity with Italian culture through exposure to various media and creative projects. Students will master fundamental vocabulary pertaining to school, daily activities, telling time, travel, restaurants, city, and more. They will be able to communicate and exchange information in a simple way, in both the present and past tense.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ✓ Read and understand very simple written texts;
- ✓ Write short simple texts about themselves and very familiar topics;
- ✓ Understand basic information through oral conversations;
- ✓ Interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to help;
- ✓ Start to confront with Italian culture.

Course Prerequisites

No specific pre-requisites are needed for this course.

Methods of Instruction and Approach to learning and teaching

This course will combine lectures, class debates, fieldtrips and on-site classes, walking tours, conversations with guest speakers and creative activities. The approach used can be characterized as communicative and integrated. Communicative means that the focus of the course is on language use in realistic settings. Integrated means that the various aspects that make up the language learning experience are treated as complementary to one another. In other words, in one single activity, students may learn



some facts, practice certain grammatical structures, learn some communicative strategies and cultural aspects.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Participation:	40%
2. Homework:	20%
3. Oral Presentation:	20%
4. Final written exam:	20%

Course Requirements

Homework

Students will be given written exercises on a regular basis to check their progress. The topics will be connected to those analyzed in class.

Oral Presentation

Students will use simple sentences to present themselves and describe their daily activities in Rome. They will compare their typical day in Italy to that in US. They can use PowerPoint, videos, recordings, etc., to make their description more vivid and clear. At the end of the presentation, students can ask questions about it.

Final Exam

Students will take a final exam at the end of the course. The exam - listening (20%), reading comprehension (20%), vocabulary and grammar activities (40%), short essay (20%) - will include all topics analyzed in class.

Class Participation

Participation means attention and respect. You are expected to arrive to class on time not only to avoid an absence, but also to avoid disrupting the class. Late assignments will be marked down 5% after the first day and 1% every day afterwards. No coursework will be accepted after the last day of class.



Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1

Lesson 1

Grammar: alphabet and numbers; present tense of *essere* e *chiamarsi*; preposition *di* and *in* + city names; negation

Vocabulary: greetings; classroom objects; nationalities and countries

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 1, 12-25

Lesson 2

Grammar: plural and singular nouns; interrogatives; definite/indefinite articles

Vocabulary: *vorrei* and *preferire*; *per favore*

Assignment due: describe your favorite Italian recipes and meals

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 2, 26-39

Lesson 3

Grammar: present tense (third singular person, and singular forms of irregular verbs); prepositions; formal and informal address

Vocabulary: days of the week

Assignment due: describe a profession and its workplace

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 3, 40-53

Lesson 4

Grammar: present tense (plural persons); adverbs of frequency, *sapere* vs. *conoscere*; *piacere*

Vocabulary: leisure activities; university programs

Assignment due: describe your day

Reading and Exercises:



New Italian Espresso, Unit 4, 54-69

Lesson 5

Visit to the local market in the historical center

Review and midterm self-evaluation

Lesson 6

Grammar: present tense (*dare, dire, rimanere, uscire*); *a* vs. *in*; *c'è/ci sono*; noun-adjectives agreement; preposition of place

Vocabulary: Italy's major cities and monuments; transportations; street directions
Assignment due: shops and stores

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 5, 70-85

Lesson 7

Grammar: modal verbs; adverbs (*bene, male*); prepositions *a* + time; compound prepositions

Vocabulary: home and hotel rooms; time expressions; months and seasons

Assignment due: describe your American and your Italian bedroom

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 6, 86-99

Lesson 8

Grammar: past tense; irregular past participles; verbs taking *essere* as an auxiliary

Vocabulary: weather conditions; time expressions

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 7, 100-115

Lesson 9

Grammar: *finire* and *cominciare* + prepositions *di* and *a*; prepositions *da / a*; reflexive verbs; the date; possessive adjectives



Vocabulary: everyday actions; congratulations and wishes; public holidays
Assignment due: The last day of the intensive course needs a proper celebration:
write your goals and wishes!

Reading and Exercises:
New Italian Espresso, Unit 8, 116-129

Lesson 10

Oral presentations and Final Exam

Readings

Textbook: Balì, Magnani, Rizzo, Ziglio, *New Italian Espresso, Beginner and Pre-Intermediate*, Alma Edizioni

Additional readings will be provided by the professor during the course in the form of PDFs, photocopies etc.