

BASIC ITALIAN - SUMMER 2017

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Office hours: M-W, 11:30-12:30

I. Course Description:

Basic Italian is the course for all those students who approach the Italian language for the first time. It is designed for absolute beginners, and its general objectives are to provide students with basic tools for oral and written communication in Italian. The course also wants to be an opportunity to learn about Italian culture and life and to reflect about intercultural differences and similarities. The instructor and the students work together to develop the four skills of speaking, understanding, reading and writing through readings, listening materials, videos and films and a variety of language technologies.

II. Course Objectives:

The main objectives of this course are the following:

- To develop students' ability to communicate both orally in basic situations of everyday life such as informal encounters, transactions in shops or tourist facilities, and in writing, through the composition of simple texts such as letters, messages and brief essays on cultural topics.
- To develop analytical skills through reading and writing.
- To develop students' ability to use language both functionally (for example, to introduce themselves, ask for information, order food at a restaurant) and expressively (for example, to describe what kind of people they are, or their likes and dislikes)
- To promote intercultural awareness and contact through discussions and reflection on Italian customs, traditions, and daily life.

III. Methodology:

Basic Italian is a communicatively-oriented course, the language is taught through exposure to authentic situations and texts, which constitute the basis for formal and grammatical reflection. Thus, grammar is not taught independently of the texts presented in class and the focus is not on the formal aspects of the language, but on communication. Most of the materials and explanations are in Italian and classes are conducted for most part in Italian, though the textbook's grammatical explanations are in English.

IV. Resources:***a. Textbook:***

Parliamo italiano! 5th Edition by Suzanne Branciforte and Elvira Di Fabio, Binder Ready Version with Activities Manual. **ISBN: 9781119312857**

b. Technology, Videos and Films:

Use of technology is strongly encouraged and BlackBoard/Canvas, web resources and/or other technologies are used in all classes to provide further practice on specific grammatical points, to offer guided access to culturally salient Internet sites and up to date materials for the development of oral and written skills. Students will also watch and work on at least one Italian film and different types of video materials.

V. Guidelines for Student Participation and Work:

General university guidelines apply also to this course. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to do homework daily and to hand it in on time. Homework may include a variety of assignments, including some compositions aimed at developing written ability.

VI. Evaluation:

Students of Basic Italian are regularly evaluated, both through quizzes and tests. The final grade, however, will be assigned taking into consideration oral performance and oral presentations, compositions, attendance, homework, and class participation. Quizzes are given for each unit, while tests cover materials from two units (1-2 for the first test, 3-4 for the second test and 5-6 for the third test). In addition, there is a final exam that covers units 1 (and preliminary) through 6. No make-up tests are allowed unless exceptional circumstances (such as medical emergencies) occur. The grade for oral performance is assigned based on an average between 2 oral exams and daily performance. Students in this class also complete, and are graded for, 3 writing assignments. Grades will be assigned according to the following criteria:

Grading system:

Tests (3)	30%
Quizzes (3)	10%
Oral performance	15%
Writing	15%
Homework, attendance and participation	10%
Final exam	20%

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+ 67-69, D 65-66, F 0-64