

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
SYLLABUS**

**ITL 125**

**Elementary Italian Conversation & Reading**

**Monday – Wednesday: 14.00-15:50**

**Fall Semester 2015-2016**

**Instructor Luciano Albertocchi**

**Office Hours: Monday, 16.00-17.00**

**Wednesday, 16.00-17.00**

**Email: luciano.albertocchi@libero.it**

**AIMS OF THE COURSE**

The aim of this course is to develop oral comprehension, reading and oral skills. All work is centered on giving students confidence and developing language proficiency in reading and speaking. No less important is the more extensive exposure to Italian culture that will result from direct contact with such sources as contemporary literature, cinema, music and art.

**CLASS FORMAT**

Short stories and newspaper and magazine articles will be read, and special emphasis will be placed on literary, art and movies terminology. Students will make oral presentations consisting of research on and summary of the assigned readings, and will also be asked to present individually assigned readings to the class. Four feature films will be shown, with an introduction by the instructor and class discussion afterwards. Oral reading of passages appropriate to students level of proficiency will also be required. Visit and discussion of temporary exhibitions that may come up. The following list is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the class's rate of progress.

**Contemporary culture and society in Italy:**

Readings on Campania, Sicilia, Lombardia, Calabria

Readings on La Cucina italiana and newspaper articles

Readings on Firenze e il Fiume Arno

**Art and architecture:**

Visit to the Museo Marino Marini

Discussion of works by Maurizio Cattelan and Arturo Martini

Discussion of civil and religious famous squares in Florence

Discussion of 'Quartiere di S.Croce'

I Grandi Fotografi Italiani

Individual presentation of an artwork or architecture work chosen by the student.

**Literature: selected readings to include:**

Natalia Ginzburg, Le piccole virtù and La Famiglia

Niccolò Ammaniti, Fango

Elena Ferrante, L'amica geniale

**Movies:**

Terraferma by Emanuele Crialese

Latin Lover by Cristina Comencini

Pane e tulipani by Silvio Soldini

La Grande Bellezza by Paolo Sorrentino

## **GRADING and CLASS REQUIREMENTS**

Grading will be based on attendance, punctuality, outside assignments, quizzes, class participation, class presentations, and a final oral examination.

Grading weights:

Final oral exam 35%

Class participation and attendance: 30%

Oral presentations: 35%.

More than two unexcused absences will lower grade.

**Dates of exams can not be changed to adjust to students' individual needs.**

## **CLASS COSTS**

Entrance to Museo Marini, €6.

Book: Federica Campanini, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni, 8 Euro

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY – REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & Other**

Photocopies (provided by the instructor): excerpts from works by Natalia Ginzburg, Niccolò Ammaniti, Elena Ferrante.

Magazines (purchased by the students). Films (provided by the instructor).

Novel: Federica Campanini, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni

## **EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

Short quizzes at the beginning of selected class hours.

Oral reports assigned periodically.

Written Summaries assigned periodically.

Final oral examination: Date to be announced

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the class's rate of progress.

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| 1st week | presentation and conversation.<br><i>La Cucina italiana</i> , reading and question answering.  |
| 2nd week | Movie: <i>La Grande Bellezza</i> by Sorrentino<br>Introduction and class discussion.   |
| 3rd week | Reading and report of chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of <i>L'ultimo Caravaggio</i> .<br>Works of Cattelan and Martini, reading and question answering. |
| 4th week | Visit to museum and individual presentation of an art work.<br>Quartiere di S.Croce, reading and question answering.                           |
| 5th week | <i>La Sicilia</i> , reading and question answering.<br>Chapt. 6, 7, 8, 9 of ' <i>L'ultimo Caravaggio</i> '                                     |
| 6th week | Movie: <i>Pane e Tulipani</i> by Soldini<br>Introduction and class discussion  |

7th week	La Campania, reading and question answering. Movie: Latin Lover by Comencini Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 of 'L'ultimo Caravaggio'.
8th week	Literature, selected readings Chapt. 14, 15, 16, 17 of 'L'ultimo Caravaggio'
9th week	Venezia, reading and question answering. Oral presentations on towns
10th week	Movie: Terraferma by Emanuele Crialese Introduction and discussion. Chapters 18, 19 of 'L'ultimo Caravaggio'.
11th week	Quartiere di S.Croce: reading and question answering. Chapters 20, 21, 22 of 'L'ultimo Caravaggio'. Review.
12th week	Each student presents a program's topic for the final review.
13th week	Final Exam: Feb. 9 – 12, exact day and time to be announced

### **EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**

Oral reports: assigned periodically.

Final examination: exact date and time to be announced

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Italian Language students

RE: Italian Language courses, addition to the syllabus

FROM: The Italian Language Department

Attendance to these courses is mandatory and more than two unexcused absences will lower the grade (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or serious emergencies).

More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding ten minutes will be considered an absence.

During the academic year photocopies and other material will be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who have not been in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies. All assigned homework should be completed prior to entering the class. Use of the computer in class is restricted to oral presentations.

The language spoken in class is Italian. No other activities such as eating, etc. are allowed.

Dates of exams can not be changed for individual needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final exams and plan their trips after the last exam. It is important to tell friends and relatives about this so they do not surprise you by buying tickets for you for trips to be made before that date. Missing the midterm or the final exam will mean failure of the course.

Remember that during the PLP there are weekly exams every Friday from 10:00 – 12:00, students missing that exam will receive an F.

The completion during the PLP of one of the Italian Language courses ITL101 I, ITL102 I, ITL 201 I or 301 I is prerequisite for admission to Italian classes in the Fall Semester. The completion of two of the Fall Semester Italian courses is prerequisite for admission to Italian classes in the Spring Semester.

Incompletes will be allowed only for serious emergencies and must be completed within two weeks. Professors are available, by prior appointment, for short clarifications and explanations, during office hours.