



**ITL 125 Elementary Reading &  
Conversation**  
**Fall 2017–2018**  
**Mon and Wed: 14:00 – 15:50**

**Instructor: Giacomo Poli**  
**Office Hours:** After class and by appointment  
**Email: [g.poli@csufirenze.it](mailto:g.poli@csufirenze.it)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The course will focus on improving oral skills: reading and speaking. The course is designed to prepare students for concentration courses offered in Italian during the Spring Semester. Emphasis will be placed on Art History, Literature, Cinema, and historical, sociological and cultural aspects of Italy, thus allowing students to deepen their understanding of Italian society and everyday life. The aim of the course is to give students confidence in developing proficiency in written and oral comprehension, and in the vocabulary related to the topics covered in class. Special focus will be on new words and expressions, oral summary of readings, and speaking.

### **CLASS FORMAT**

Reading and comprehension of short stories; passages; newspapers and magazine articles; introduction, viewing and discussion of Italian movies, lexical studies; oral reports. The following list is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the instructor to reflect the class' rate of progress.

#### **Movies:**

- Marco Tullio Giordana: *I cento passi*;
- Emanuele Crialesi: *Terraferma*;
- Daniele Lucchetti: *Mio fratello è figlio unico*;
- Gabriele Mainetti, *Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot*

#### **Italian culture, traditions and society: selected readings on life in Italian regions such as**

- Lombardia;
- Sicilia;
- Piemonte;

#### **Biographies:**

- *Firenze e la nascita dell'alta moda italiana: Ferragamo e Pucci.*

#### **Art, Architecture & Design:**

- visit to the Museo **Gucci? Ferragamo?**; visit to *Il Cinquecento a Firenze* at Palazzo Strozzi, discussion of works by Michelangelo Pistoletto and Maurizio Cattelan;
- *A glimpse of Italian design: from the 60s to the 80s.*

#### **Literature:**

- Stefano Benni: *Fratello Bancomat, Il dottor Niù*;
- Dino Buzzati: *Due pesi due misure* and other short stories

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

**Photocopies** (provided by the instructor): excerpts from works of several Italian authors, newspapers and magazines articles. Magazines (purchased by the students).

**Films:** (provided by the instructor).

**Book:** \_\_\_\_\_, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni

## GRADING:

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

### Examination schedule:

Oral reports assigned periodically.

**Final oral examination: Feb. 6–8, exact date and time to be announced**

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

### Grading weights:

Class participation – 30%

Oral presentations – 35%

Final oral exam – 35%

More than two unexcused absences will lower the grade.

### Grading scale:

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

## CLASS COSTS:

**Entrance to** Museo Gucci or Ferragamo, €\_\_\_\_\_.

**Entrance to** *Il Cinquecento a Firenze: Tra Michelangelo, Pontormo e Giambologna*, TBA, €5

**Book:** Federica Campanini, *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni, €7,90 (pdf version from <http://www.almaedizioni.it/it/catalogo/scheda/lultimo-caravaggio-pdf/>).

## CONDUCT (see more in the ATTENDANCE POLICY on the last page):

- Phones must be invisible and either turned off, or set to silent mode.
- Only use your laptop computers during class when asked to by your instructor.
- Italian will be spoken in class at all times. Remember to ask questions in Italian. If you need to ask a question that is too complicated for you to say in Italian, you must ask for permission to switch into English («Posso parlare un momento in inglese?») **You should, however, avoid the use of English as much as possible.**
- E-mails and communications from the instructor will be in Italian, while your e-mails to the instructor will have to be both **in Italian AND in English.**

**Students with special needs:** Students who have a disability that might affect participation in Italian courses and wish to discuss academic accommodations should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

**A final piece of advice from the instructor:**

Italian does not have word or expression to translate the English concept of “cramming.” This is no accident. Learning a language does not happen overnight. You will get the most out of the course by continually building upon the concepts that you learned during the PLP and other Grammar Classes.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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** could 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 five minutes will be considered as 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 cannot 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 could 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, ITL201 I or ITL301 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.

**CLASS CALENDAR:**

<b>06-08 novembre</b>	<b>13-15 novembre</b>	<b>20-22 novembre</b>
<b>Week 1 – Regioni italiane:</b> Lombardia e Piemonte.	<b>Week 2 – Architettura e design:</b> Il design italiano degli anni '60.	<b>Week 3 – Letteratura:</b> Stefano Benni – Biografia; <i>Fratello Bancomat, Il dottor Niù</i>
<b>27-29 novembre</b>	<b>04-06 dicembre</b>	<b>11-13 dicembre</b>
<b>Week 4 – Arte:</b> Michelangelo Pistoletto e Maurizio Cattelan – Biografia e opere. – <i>Visita a Il cinquecento a Firenze</i> <b>COST: €5 (out of pocket) to be confirmed</b>	<b>Week 5 – Regioni italiane:</b> Sicilia <b>Letteratura:</b> Leonardo Sciascia – Biografia; estratto da <i>Il giorno della civetta</i> , 1961.	<b>Week 6 – Film:</b> <i>I centopassi</i> , Marco Tullio Giordana, 2000.
<b>18-20 dicembre</b>	<b>08-10 gennaio</b>	<b>15-17 gennaio</b>
<b>Week 7 – Cultura:</b> Firenze e la nascita dell'alta moda italiana: Ferragamo e Pucci. – <i>Visita al Museo Gucci o Museo Ferragamo</i> <b>COST: €7 (out of pocket)</b>	<b>Week 8 – Film:</b> <i>Terraferma</i> , Emanuele Crialese, 2011.	<b>Week 9 – Cultura:</b> L'Italia della contestazione e della lotta armata. Fabrizio De Andrè – <i>Storia di un impiegato</i> , 1973; Lucio Dalla – <i>L'anno che verrà</i> , 1979;
<b>22-24 gennaio</b>	<b>29-31 gennaio</b>	<b>5-7 febbraio</b>
<b>Week 10 – Film:</b> <i>Mio fratello è figlio unico</i> , Daniele Lucchetti, 2007.	<b>Week 11 – Letteratura:</b> Dino Buzzati – Biografia; « <i>Due pesi e due misure</i> » in <i>Sessanta racconti</i> , 1958. Review for the oral exam.	<b>Week 12: – Film:</b> <i>Lo chiamavano Jeeg Robot</i> , Gabriele Mainetti, 2016.

**Week 13, Feb. 12 - 14: Exams – exact days and times to be announced**

The **final oral exams, 15 minutes for each student**, will be divided into two parts:

1. a presentation on Art, movies, Literature, society topics, etc.(taking models from the contents of the course);
2. the readings done and the movies seen during the course.

**Important:** The short book *L'ultimo Caravaggio*, Alma Edizioni, will be read throughout the course both as class activity and homework. Activities related to the book (comprehension checks, commentaries, original conclusions etc.) will be held in class at least once a week.

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