

## ACCADEMIA EXAM PREPARATION CLASS

Prof. Beatrice Fabbri

**Monday to Thursday: 4:15-5:45 p.m**

**Office hours: Monday to Thursday 2:30-3:45 p.m. and after class by appointment.**

**The class will start on Tues., Sept. 1 and end on Thurs., Sept. 24.**

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

This four week course is specifically designed for Studio Art students who must prepare to take the Italian written and oral exam for entry to the *Accademia delle Belle Arti di Firenze*.

As the Academia entrance exam will be focused mainly on dictation and reading comprehension in Italian, this Italian beginner “fast track” class will be focused on learning the right pronunciation, how to spell words, expanding vocabulary and using it properly.

Learning Italian and studying art studio/art history will constitute the framework of this training. During this full immersion *Accademia* exam preparation course, the instructor will cover around 38 artists (painters, sculptors, architects) and 9 art movements and styles by submitting dictations, listening and/or reading comprehension exercises, summaries, home assignments all in Italian (see below section Appendix, list of artist & art movement and styles). Also, in order to become familiar with the specific Italian terminology in the field, I designed in agreement with your Studio Art Coordinator, Marsha Steinberg, a concise but quite complete **glossary of 100 words**. This glossary will include words for: **art studio techniques**, i.e painting or sculpting techniques, tools for painting and/or sculpting, colors and its nuances, etc. ; **Art history styles**: how to describe a building, a painting and, basically any work of art.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Build, develop and train listening, writing and speaking skills in Italian so to increase and fulfill language proficiency requirements for the *Accademia* entry exam. **Main focus will be given to dictation and issues related.**
- Build and train a core vocabulary of approximately 100 words highly functional and contextually appropriate.

- Memory strategies and techniques for handling and optimizing the language learning and the specifics about Italian in art history and art studio.

**METHOD:** The instructor will use traditional learning strategy (reading dictations at different speeds) as well as learning strategies which encompass use of Internet technology to assist learning in the classroom, so she can spend more time interacting with students instead of lecturing. This strategy includes diverse learning styles and levels of language proficiency focused on the listening and writing skills needed to pass the entrance exam at the *Accademia delle Belle Arti*. The instructor will concentrate on having sufficient contact time with each student and allowing each student time to exercise language during class. **Memory techniques and strategies will be central in this full immersion class. Mnemonics will help “glue” vocabulary to your memory much more effectively.**

**To summarize, the focus of this exam preparation class will be:**

**Daily activity in class guided as follows:**

**Listening and pronunciation:**

Watching and listening short documentaries on TV podcast and/or YouTube canals.

Repetition: re-read, re-watch, re-listen will be daily exercises in class!

**Writing:** Different types of dictation will be submitted by the instructor as follows:

Keywords dictation; selective dictation; dictation and punctuation; mixed dictation, etc.

**Speaking:** Basics on taking an Italian oral exam (exercises on pronunciation and phonology exercises).

**REQUIREMENTS:**

The pace of this class will be quite intense and will focus on listening, writing and speaking skills in Italian in order to successfully pass the exam.

**This course does NOT include any final grading. Willingness to work hard, fulfilling all daily home assignments and active participation in class are essential to this fast language track in order to be confident at the Accademia exam.**

**Daily homework as follows:**

- Listening comprehension exercises (audio files assigned by the instructor).
- 1/2 work sheets will be handed out by the instructor each day with exercises dealing with issues discussed in class (brief reading comprehension with fill-in exercises).

- Brief research projects and/or summaries **in Italian** on Italian art history and artists (length one paragraph) in order to be fluent with the writing in Italian.
- Memorization of vocabulary from art history/art studio glossary: from 5 to 10 words per day.
- In your PLP Italian class you will be assigned specific homework dealing with topics relating to your field of study in order to enhance proficiency.

Also, you are requested to visit on your own either the Uffizi Gallery or the Palazzo Pitti (Palatine Gallery) and take notes about paintings or in order to talk about them in class. You could start with a virtual tour at: [www.virtualuffizi.com](http://www.virtualuffizi.com) . Also check: [www.uffizi.com/galleria-degli-uffizi/](http://www.uffizi.com/galleria-degli-uffizi/)

**PLEASE NOTE: Every first Sunday of the month all state-run museums have free entrance. Sept. 6, 2015 is the first Sunday of the month. Save this date!**  
(Uffizi and Palazzo Pitti are state-run museums)

**COURSE FEES: 2,50-3 euro** are necessary to buy an address book (to write down all of the art studio vocabulary); entrance fee to the Uffizi Gallery 12,50 euro or the Galleria Palatina 8,50 (unless you take advantage of the free entrance on Sunday, September 6.).

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** The mandatory attendance is required for every session and no absences are allowed unless for serious illness or injury. Be punctual and alert in class in order to profit from these challenging language training sessions.

## **SCHEDULE**

Since each class will last 1h30, the instructor will schedule time as follow: 30 minutes listening-30 minutes writing-30 minutes speaking. If needed, each section's schedule time could be increased or decreased following the students' performances week after week, in order to optimize goals.

### **WEEK 1**

**From 09/01/2015 to 09/03/2015:**

**Listening:** audio files and/or YouTube materials on pronunciation and spelling and related exercises (focus on syllables and words).

**Writing:** 2-3 dictations at different speeds.

**Speaking:** Practice on pronunciation (games and exercises); conversation about art studio techniques and artists

### **WEEK 2**

**From 09/07/2015 to 09/10/2015:**

**Listening:** 2/3 audio files and/or TV documentaries and related exercises.

**Writing:** 3 dictations at different speeds and related exercises.

**Speaking:** conversation about art studio and/or artists (each student is asked to talk from 5 to 10 minutes). Practice on pronunciation (games and exercises);

### **WEEK 3**

**From 09/14/2015 to 09/17/2015:**

**Listening:** 3 audio files and/or TV documentaries and related exercises.

**Writing:** 4 dictations at different speeds and related exercises.

**Speaking:** conversation about artists (each student is asked to talk from 5 to 10 minutes). Practice on pronunciation (games and exercises).

### **WEEK 4**

**From 09/21/15 to 09/24/15**

**Listening:** 3 audio files and/or TV documentaries and related exercises.

**Writing:** 4 dictations at different speeds and related exercises.

**Speaking:** conversation about artists (each student is asked to talk from 5 to 10 minutes). Practice on pronunciation (games and exercises).

**09/24/2015 : 4:15-5:15 p.m *Accademia* simulation test**

**5:15:5:45 p.m - revise in class**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- **Handouts and/or worksheets will be given by the instructor at the beginning and at the end of each class. These materials will include issues discussed in each session.**
- **Art studio vocabulary of reference will be given at the beginning of this course.**

**Please take care of all material, since these are the essential references for studying and revising either to work accurately in class or on your own at home!**

## APPENDIX

**This is the essential list of artists and art movements and styles that will be of reference for dictations, listening and reading comprehension exercises, summaries, etc.**

**Artists:** Cimabue, Giotto, Gentile da Fabriano, Simone Martini, Duccio di Buoninsegna, Fratelli Lorenzetti, Masolino, Masaccio, Beato Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Filippino Lippi, Paolo Uccello, Piero della Francesca, Sandro Botticelli, Domenico Ghirlandaio, Filippo Brunelleschi, Leon Battista Alberti, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raffaello Sanzio, Tiziano Vecellio, Benvenuto Cellini, Giambologna, Andrea del Sarto, Pontormo, Rosso Fiorentino, Agnolo Bronzino, Caravaggio, Artemisia Gentileschi, Guido Reni, Guercino, Lorenzo Bernini, Antonio Canova, Giovanni Fattori, Signorini, Lega, Banti, Boldini.

**Art Movements and Styles:** Byzantine art -Arte Bizantina (focus on the Battistero), Gotico - Gothic (parallel/contrast Cimabue-Giotto/Simone Martini-Gentile da Fabriano), Renaissance and Humanism - Umanesimo e Rinascimento, Mannerism - Manierismo, Baroque - Barocco, Neoclassicism - Neoclassicismo, Macchiaioli (i.e. “the Italian Impressionism”).

**Passages for dictations, reading comprehensions, and all various language training practices are taken from the following textbooks:**

Angelino, Maddalena & Ballarin Elena, *L’Italiano attraverso la Storia dell’Arte*, Roma, Guerra Edizioni, 2015.

Adorno, Paolo & Mastrangelo, Adriana, *l’Arte. Correnti, artisti e società. Itinerari di lettura paralleli*, Firenze, G.d’Anna, 2001.

Argan, Giulio Carlo, *Storia dell’Arte Italiana*, Firenze, Sansoni, 1970,

### **OTHER TOOLS:**

This is a brief list of links I checked and tested to be used as extra tools for enhancing listening, writing and speaking skills. Also some of these sites will be of reference for in-class-activities.

#### **Websites:**

**Italian phonology:**

**[italianlanguageguide.com/](http://italianlanguageguide.com/) learning Italian for alphabet**

**[Dizionario.rai.it](http://Dizionario.rai.it) (DOP) : the most important source of reference for right pronunciation in Italian.**

**[vocolaudio.it](http://vocolaudio.it) (list of words read by a native speaker)**

**[En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian phonology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_phonology)**

**Spelling and writing:**

**omniglot.com (online encyclopedia for writing systems in all languages – section Italian)**

**[www.oneworlditaliano.com](http://www.oneworlditaliano.com)**

**<http://italian.about.com/>**

**[www.initalia.rai.it](http://www.initalia.rai.it)**

**[www.italiano.rai.it](http://www.italiano.rai.it)**

**[www.fluent-forever.com/it](http://www.fluent-forever.com/it) (section Italian)**

**Podcast:**

**Listening and speaking:**

**AlmaTV**

**Tunein.com (online radio)**

**Art history & Italian language:**

**[www.arte.rai.it](http://www.arte.rai.it)**

**[www.sapere.it/sapere/enciclopedia/arte-e-architettura.html](http://www.sapere.it/sapere/enciclopedia/arte-e-architettura.html)**

**Treccani channel – storia dell’arte**

**[www.culturaitalia.it](http://www.culturaitalia.it) - see sezione Arti visive**

**canale Loescher- Italia dal vivo**

**Podcast:**

**Exibart TV**

**Finestre sull’arte**

**A3 Il formato dell’Arte**

**Passepartout (Philippe Daverio)**

**APPs for pronunciation and spelling in Italian:**

Dragon dictation for I-Phone or Android (this app is extremely useful)

Dictadroit voice recorder for Android

IT **Words Finder Italian/Italiano** PRO for I-Phone

iSpeak and **Spell** for I-Phone

Spell checker for Android

Speak and Spell for Android

Pronunciation King for Android

**Software for memorization (Flashcards):**

[www.ankisrs.net](http://www.ankisrs.net) : This is one of the best memorization programs, like flashcards (free download), that works on every platform, including smartphone. It synchronizes (even with media) across all devices, has fast card creation and supports pictures and sounds.

**Some basics about the *Accademia* Admission Exam:**

The Italian entrance exam at the *Accademia* consists of two parts: written and oral. The two parts will be taken on two different days.

The written exam will take place on Mon., Sept. 28

The oral exam will take place on Tues., Sept. 29

For these exams, you will be required to:

**For the written exam:**

1) Dictation in Italian about art history issues (length: one paragraph)

2) Brief summary in Italian about issues discussed in class dictations (length: one paragraph).

If you pass the written exam, you will be admitted to take the oral exam the following day.

**For the oral exam:**

Brief interview about art history, your favorite artist, your experiences and goals in the field of art, etc. (length: 10-15 minutes max.)

**If you pass both the written and oral exams, you will proceed to the practical exams (painting/sculpture), which will take place Sept. 30 through Oct. 2.**

You will be expected to participate in a brief interview (*colloquio*) in Italian, following your practical exams, where you will illustrate your portfolio and discuss it with the *Accademia* professors.