

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
ITL 101I SYLLABUS**

**Intensive Elementary Italian I**

**Instructor:** Giacomo Poli

**PLP 2015**

**Office Hours:** After class and by appointment

**Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.**

**Email:** giac.poli@gmail.com

**General Description:**

This course is designed for absolute beginners in Italian. It will cover the four areas of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Although the main emphasis will be on the grammar and the practical use of Italian to an everyday communication, during classes there will be plenty of opportunity to describe Italian everyday life and culture.

**Course content:**

- Communication skills:

Asking for / giving personal information, asking questions, daily routines, explaining what is happening, expressing emotions, making plans, expressing opinions, comparing and contrasting things or ideas.

- Grammar topics:

The alphabet (consonants and vowels); numbers; personal pronouns; the gender and number of nouns and adjectives; regular and irregular nouns; definite and indefinite articles; regular and irregular verbs and their forms in the present tense; demonstrative adjectives; the structure of the Italian phrase; preposition and compound prepositions; time and dates.

- Vocabulary:

Greetings; hobbies and activities; free time; action verbs; nouns and adjectives; idiomatic expressions

**Objectives:**

The course aims to build student confidence to use the Italian language in a protected environment, and to give them the practical tools for communicating in everyday life and situations.

**Requirements:** (see more in the attached MEMORANDUM):

- 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.

**Grading:**

Grading will be based on attendance, punctuality, home assignments, class participation, weekly tests, oral & written exams. Grading weights: Attendance (more than two unexcused absences will lower the grade), punctuality, outside assignments & class participation 20%, weekly tests on Friday 40%, written & oral final exams 40%

**All weekly tests are mandatory.**

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

**Grading scale:**

A 100-94    A- 93- 90  
B+ 89-87    B 86-84    B- 83-80  
C+ 79-77    C 76-74    C- 73-70  
D+ 69-67    D 66-64    D- 63-60  
F 59-0

**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 classes.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**1<sup>st</sup> week:** Introduction

Qui Italia Unit 1.

Grammar: Nouns gender and number; simple present tense to be and to have; definite and indefinite articles (gender and number); main descriptive adjectives.

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: Saying Hello, what is your name, where do you come from, asking for/answering information, asking where places are, food, days & months. Idiomatic expressions with to have and to be.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week:**

Qui Italia, Unit 2

Grammar: simple present tense 3 conjugations (-are, -ere, -ire) and some irregular verbs (among those: andare, venire, stare); simple prepositions ; some adverbs (i.e, sempre, mai, qualche volta, etc.); definite and indefinite articles (review). There is –There are (c'è - ci sono). Negative tense I (use of “non”)

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: your home and its description, telling time, colours and numbers (from 1 to 100), what do you like/dislike, family. Shopping and going to a café/restaurant (table talk, food and lifestyle). Idiomatic expressions with to be and to have (revise).short expressions I.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> week:**

#### Qui Italia Unit 3

Grammar: simple present tense modal verbs (potere, volere, dovere); simple present tense irregular verbs (fare, preferire, uscire, partire and some others); simple and compound prepositions. Negative tense II (revise and with modal verbs).

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: hobbies and habits, relationships and emotions I; months and seasons; more about you I ; how to express will, obligation, need, permission, uncertainty, refusal. Arranging things II; finding your way around.

### **4<sup>th</sup> week:**

#### Qui Italia Unit 4

Grammar: Present perfect tense to be and to have and their usage with 3 conjugations; nouns and adjectives (number and gender match); prepositions. Use of ci (avverbio di luogo). Introduction to pronouns.

Oral expression & Vocabulary: relationships and emotions II (expressions about happiness, sorrow, regret, complain, etc.); family members; body and face; clothing (men & women); short expressions II.

### **5<sup>th</sup> week:**

#### Qui Italia Unit 5

Grammar: possessive adjectives and pronouns; demonstrative adjectives and pronouns; main elements about Italian ordinal numbers function as adjectives.

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: make plans, expectations, promises, etc. Phone calls (address and answers), weather forecast; Italian holidays and Italian food recipes, cuss words (polite).

### **6<sup>th</sup> week:**

#### Qui Italia Unit 6 and beginning Unit 7

Grammar: Simple Future tense to have and to be; Simple future 3 conjugations (-are, -ere, -ire); compound prepositions;

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: solving misunderstanding; writing a letter, email; problems (at the chemist's, doctor, etc.).

### **7<sup>th</sup> week:**

#### Qui Italia Ending Unit 7 and Unit 8.

Grammar: Italian compound prepositions II; Reflexive verbs, reflexive pronouns. Past continuous tense to be and to have, 3 conjugations (-are, -ere, -ire and some irregular verbs).

Oral Expression & Vocabulary: some Italian idioms and proverbs; verbs and synonyms; adjectives and synonyms.

### **8<sup>th</sup> week: FINAL EXAMS**

**10/19/2015 Last day of class - review** (focus will be specifically on role-play exercises for the oral exams and revise on essential issues for the written exam)

**10/20/2015; 10/21/2015; 10/22/2015: ORAL EXAMS (time schedule to be announced)**

**10/23/2015: WRITTEN EXAM 9am-12 pm**

## **MEMORANDUM from The Italian Language Department**

### **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 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 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 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, 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.