



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE

ACCADEMIA EXAM PREPARATION CLASS SYLLABUS – PLP 2016

Prof. Beatrice Fabbri

Monday to Thursday: 4:15-5:45 PM

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

The class will start on Tues., Aug. 30, 2016 and end on Thurs., Sept. 22.

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1. 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 using 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, color and its nuances, etc.; **Art history styles**: how to describe a building, a painting and, basically any work of art.

2. OBJECTIVES:

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

- Acquire memory strategies and techniques for handling and optimizing the language learning and the specifics about Italian in art history and studio art.
3. **METHOD:** The instructor will use traditional learning strategies (i.e., reading dictations at different speeds) as well as learning strategies which encompass the 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 the 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 organized as follows:

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

Keywords dictation; selective dictation; dictation and punctuation; mixed dictation, etc. at different speeds. **(please: bring with you a notebook and an address book in class to practice handwriting in Italian and write down vocabulary to memorize)**

Listening and pronunciation: phonetics, spelling exercises and games of any type related to the field.

Reading and Oral comprehension: Watching and listening to short documentaries on TV podcast and/or YouTube canals, audio files, etc.

Speaking: Basics of taking an Italian oral exam.

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

4. REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

Daily home assignments as follows:

- Listening comprehension exercises (audio files and/or videos to listen and watch as assigned by the instructor).
- Half-page worksheets 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 and be prepared for the oral ~~session~~ exam as well.
- Memorization of vocabulary from art history/art studio glossary: from **5 to 10 words per day**.

NOTE: In order to train your visual memory, i.e. how to recognize quickly different and most important Medieval, Pre-Renaissance, Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque artists, I highly suggest spending one day during the weekend visiting on your own either the Uffizi Gallery or the Palazzo Pitti (Palatine Gallery) **and taking notes on paintings** in order to talk about them in class. You could start from a virtual tour at: www.virtualuffizi.com . Also check for general information: www.uffizi.com/galleria-degli-uffizi/

****Also, Every first Sunday of the month all state-run museums have free entrance. Sept. 4, 2016 is the first Sunday of the month. Save this date!** (Uffizi and Palazzo Pitti are state-run museums.) Or if you visit on another day, the entrance fee for the museum is 12,50 euro.

5. ACCADEMIA ADMISSION EXAM (Basics):

Italian Proficiency 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 (Dictation) will take place **Monday, September 26 at 9:00 a.m.**

The oral exam will take place the day after, Tuesday, September 27.

For these exams, you will be required to do the following:

Italian 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).

Only if you pass the written exam will you be admitted to take the oral exam the following day.

Italian 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 from Thursday, Sept. 29 to Monday, October 3.**
- **Monday, October 3 there will be a Final review exam session in which you are required to interact **in conversation with professors** in Italian about your work.**

6.COURSE FEES: 2,50-3 euro are necessary to buy an **address book and a notebook** (to practice hand writing in Italian and to practice writing in Italian correctly as well as memorizing all the art studio vocabulary).

7. 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.

8. 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.

Some extra-hours will be included in this class, Friday 09/09/2016, Friday, 09/23/2016, Monday, 09/26/2016 (time TBA), and Thursday Sept. 28 and/or Friday, Sept. 29: afternoon time to TBA.

WEEK 1:

From 08/30/2016 to 09/01/2016

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 and related exercises.

Speaking: Practice of pronunciation (games and exercises); conversation about studio art techniques and artists. Related exercises on memorization techniques.

WEEK 2:

From 09/05/2016 to 09/08/2016

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

Writing: 3 dictations at different speeds and related exercises.

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

Friday 09/09/2016 : 3:00 p.m- 4:30 p.m: studio art & art history glossary exercises, 2 dictations and related exercises

WEEK 3:

From 09/12/2016 to 09/15/2016

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 of pronunciation (games and exercises).

WEEK 4:

From 09/19/2016 to 09/22/2016

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 of pronunciation (games and exercises).

Friday, 09/23/2015 3:00-4:30 p.m Accademia simulation test

WEEK 5: from 09/26/2016 to 09/30/2016

Monday, 09/26/2016, 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m: Italian written exam at the Accademia. BE ON TIME!

Monday, 06/26/2016: afternoon Time - TBA

Individual class for the oral exam session to be held, Tuesday, Sept. 27. Each student will have 30-45 minutes of individual class. This class will be based on refining oral skills and the ability to interact in Italian about Italian history basics, topics dealt with during the written exam, and a brief summary of student's projects.

Thursday, Sept. 29 and/or Friday, Sept. 30: afternoon time to TBA

Individual class to interact in Italian during the final interview after the Studio Art's exam taking place during this week. This means the ability to interact in Italian about your own artwork. Details to be announced.

9. 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 and home assignments.**
- **Art studio vocabulary of reference will be given at the beginning of this course.**
- **Handouts about Italian Art history 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!

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.

Cernigliaro, Maria Angela, *Arte –testi ed attività per stranieri*, Roma, Edilingua, 2011

Capraro G.Marco (et al.), *L'Italiano creativo*, Roma, Guerra Edizioni, 2013.

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.

Arte e Dossier, rivista diretta da Philippe Daverio, 1986-to present , Firenze, Giunti.

10. APPENDIX

This is the essential list of artists, 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, Pontorno, 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”).

**** The CSU library has specific sections for Art History: so please, stop by and ask Paola Fidolini to have a look at the rich collection held in the library. Among several catalogues and monographs, I highly suggest taking a look at Art & Dossier, Giunti edizione. This informative magazine published in Italy since 1986 provides a general but precise overview of Italian artists and movements.**

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/ learning Italian for alphabet

Dizionario.rai.it (DOP) : the most important source of reference for right pronunciation in Italian.

vocabolaudio.it (list of words read by a native speaker)

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://italian.about.com/

www.initalia.rai.it

www.italiano.rai.it

www.fluent-forever.com/it (section Italian)

Podcast:

Listening and speaking:

AlmaTV

Tunein.com (online radio)

Art history & Italian language:

www.arte.rai.it

www.sapere.it/sapere/enciclopedia/arte-e-architettura.html

Treccani channel – storia dell'arte

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 : *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.*

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.