



**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM - FIRENZE**

**SYLLABUS ITL 101I - Intensive Elementary Italian I**

**PLP 2016 August 29 - October 21**

**Instructor: Francesco Serrini**

**Office hours: Mon. and Tues. from 12:00 to 1:00pm**

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**DESCRIPTION:**

The objective of this course is to provide students with the basic linguistic ability to cope with everyday situations intertwined with a basic but solid grammar backbone structure. Practice will take place in all four basic skills: listening, understanding, speaking, reading, and writing, with opportunities for self-expression in concrete situations. A specific focus will be given to build up a vocabulary that is the main tool to learn, express and interact in daily context.

**Intended for students with no previous structured study of Italian.**

**METHOD:**

Presentation (introduction of new material in context), practice (a controlled practice phase to enhance listening, understanding, comprehension and expression skills) and production (activities in class and home assignments designed for less-controlled practice to enhance memorization and writing & vocabulary skills). Teaching method may incorporate visual aids such as computer, tv and listening aids such as radio to make the learning of the language enjoyable students. The instructor supports students by devoting some class time to non-traditional activities, such as role-play and drama games to be done in class and in occasional site visits to help them gain confidence in their ability to learn and use the language in an autonomous way.

**GOALS:**

This full immersion course is designed to achieve the ability to use the language correctly and appropriately to accomplish communication goals corresponding to level A1 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Commitment and persistence are the major factors in language learning and the instructor will be willing to help students keeping on track with short-terms goals week per week so to make them confident with communication. Feel free to meet the instructor before and after class and during office hours if you need extra-explanations, tutoring about issues dealt in class.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **HOME ASSIGNMENTS:**

- 4-5 written exercises per day.
- Vocabulary charts: from 5 to 10 max words and/or idiomatic expression to memorize per day.
- 1 oral report/role-play/dialogues to be done alone and/or in group of two or three about daily situations (presentations, asking for information and directions, brief descriptions, etc.) each two days.

### **ABOUT WEEKLY TESTS/EXAMS:**

**WEEKLY TESTS:** They will take place **each Friday.**

**Review:** From 9:00 a.m to 10:00 a.m:

**Weekly test:** then from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m.,.

**Weekly test format: multiple-choice exercises, fill-in exercises, reading comprehension, vocabulary, short compositions (2h length).**

Weekly tests will be returned to students at the beginning of the week with comments and grades. Before and after the weekly test, Fridays are devoted to review issues dealt in class during the week.

**ORAL EXAM:** They will take place, **from Oct.18 to Oct 20 time to be announced**

**Oral exam format:** Students are required to set an oral conversation with a peer about daily life topics. Oral exam **will last 10-15 minutes max.** for each student.

**WRITTEN EXAM:** They will take place **10/21/2016 from 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.**

**Written exam format:** It will include all issues dealt in class during the course: grammar, reading and oral comprehension exercises, vocabulary & idiomatic expressions, short composition.

### **GRADING:**

Grading will be based on attendance, punctuality, home assignments, class participation, weekly tests, oral & written exams. More than two unexcused absences will lower grade.

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

**All weekly tests are mandatory. Be PUNCTUAL!**

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

## ATTENDANCE POLICY -MEMORANDUM

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, 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. Phones must be turned on silent mode.

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 9:00 A.M – 12:00 P.M, 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 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.

The Professor is available, by prior appointment, for short clarifications and explanations before and after class and/or during office hours.

### GRADE AVERAGE SYSTEM:

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

**CLASS COSTS : 19,12 euro (discounted 10% original price which is 21,24 euro only for CSU students at the Feltrinelli Bookshop in via Cerretani) for the textbook: M.la Grassa, Italiano all'Università, Roma, edilingua, 2013.**

**Note:** Also, provide yourself with an address book to write down new words to memorize in order to build your own vocabulary to use in/out class on your own.

## CALENDAR SCHEDULE

**1<sup>st</sup> week: from 08/30/2016 to 09/02/2016**

### **Introduction.**

#### **Italiano all'Università: textbook: Unit 1.**

**Grammar:** the alphabet (sounds and spelling); to be and to have (present tense); gender of nouns and adjectives; some adjectives of quality; negative sentence.

**Oral Expression:** Greetings; Saying hello: what is your name, where do you come from, how old are you; asking for/answering for general information; Daily basic Italian phrases. Idiomatic expressions with to be and to have.

**Vocabulary:** cardinal numbers from 0 to 100; nationalities and countries; classroom and personal objects, food and beverages I.

**2<sup>nd</sup> week : from 09/05/2016 to 09/09/2016**

#### **Italiano all'Università, Units 1 -2**

**Grammar:** Present tense regular and irregular verbs (3 conjugations –are,-ere,-ire) focus some **movement verbs** (andare, venire, tornare, partire); prepositions (**focus on** in, a, da, di, su, con) and their use, definite articles, article+noun+adjective agreement. Possessive adjectives.

**Oral Expression:** Making friends: greetings; asking about your studies; making plans and arrangements I; doing some shopping, making invitations to dinner and prepare a meal. Daily activities (at school, at home, with friends, etc.); Feeling good/feeling bad with to be and to have in Italian.

**Vocabulary:** jobs, activities, hobbies, sites, colors, seasons and months, weather forecast (present tense); Food and beverages II, meals, shopping at large(clothing and shoes); idiomatic expressions and some phrasal verbs. Chart of most used adjectives of quality in daily conversation I.

**Weekly test: Friday, 09/09/2016**

**3<sup>rd</sup> week: from 09/12/2016 to 09/16/2016**

#### **Italiano all'Università Units 2 and 3**

**Grammar:** Present tense irregular verbs (-are,-ere,-ire) review and practice **on movement verbs and prepositions**; how to say like/dislike something (at the present tense, singular/plural: mi piace/non mi piace; mi piacciono/non mi piacciono); how to say you would like/dislike something (conditional tense: mi piacerebbe); more irregular verbs of the 3<sup>rd</sup> conjugation (–ire); review and practice prepositions.

**Oral Expression:** how to express like/dislike; to be sorry; how to express agreement and/or disagreement, asking for permission, making plans and arrangements II. Go shopping and/or prepare a meal at home; going to a restaurant.

**Vocabulary:** food and beverages III, medications, shops and shopping at large (clothing, shoes, etc.) II; common weights, sizes and measures; transportations. The body and the face; family members; Chart of most used adjectives of quality in daily conversation II.

**Weekly test: Thursday 09/15/2015**

**09/16/2016: NO CLASS TODAY - CSU FIELD TRIP, AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY - LA CERTOSA-RICASOLI.**

**4<sup>th</sup> week: from 09/19/2016 to 09/23/2016**

**Italiano all'Università Units 3-4**

**Grammar:** Review and practice present tense irregular verbs with/without prepositions I; indefinite articles; Modal verbs: potere, volere dovere, sapere at the present tense and their use in communication. How much and how long (quanto /per quanto) related to oral communication. Where(dove) related to oral communication. The use of "ci" in Italian language.

**Oral expression:** asking for information/giving information; asking for permission; what time is it? How to express will, obligation, desire, uncertainty, refusal, need, ability. Finding your way around, using a city map. Describe your own living space and buildings. Facial expressions in Italian.

**Vocabulary:** time; days of the week; road directions; the city: buildings and locations; travelling; idiomatic expressions I.

**Weekly test: Thursday, 09/22/2016**

**Friday, 9/23/16: Mandatory meeting for all students in aula magna at 9 AM, Resident Permit Kit distribution, followed by trip to the central post office to turn in kit + passport control. Italian teachers to accompany you to post office.**

**5<sup>th</sup> week : from 09/26/2016 to 09/30/2016**

**Italiano all'Università: Unit 5**

**Grammar:** articulated prepositions and their use; There is/there are; practice Review and practice present tense irregular verbs with/without prepositions I; practice of Modal verbs II. Some adverbs (*forse, sicuramente, mai*)

**Oral Expression:** how describe the living space, housekeeping activities, living with roommates; how to book a room in hotel, buy a ticket and ask for general information when travelling in another city and/or country.

**Vocabulary:** the living space: the apartment: furniture and appliances and related activities; transportation; idiomatic expressions II.

**Weekly test: Friday, 09/30/2016**

**6<sup>th</sup> week: from 10/03/2016 to 10/07/2016**

**Italiano all'Università: Units 8 and 11**

**Grammar:** Past tense sentence (passato prossimo), to be and to have; forms and agreement of the past participle (regular verbs, 3 conjugations -are, -ere, -ire) and their use; past tense (passato prossimo taking to be as an auxiliary) with verbs of movement, i.e andare, restare, uscire, venire,

arrivare. Irregular past participles of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> conjugations (focus and practice on these verbs fare, bere, piacere, prendere, aprire, dire, etc)

**Oral Expression:** share a daily experience (how you spent weekend, a trip, enjoyed a reading, accomplished a project, a movie, leisure activities, etc.) and/or a memory with others at the past tense; How to say your date of birth (the use of irregular verb *nascere* at the past tense).

**Vocabulary:** list of adjectives to describe sites, emotions and feelings; idiomatic expressions at the past tense; ordinal numbers related to days and weeks.

**Weekly test: Friday, 10/07/2016**

**7<sup>th</sup> week: from 10/10/2016 to 10/14/2016**

**Italiano all'Università Units 8 and 11 and review**

**Grammar:** review and practice, present tense, past tense sentence (passato prossimo). Past tense (passato prossimo) irregular past participles of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> conjugations (**focus and practice** on these verbs fare, bere, piacere, prendere, aprire, dire, etc); Past continuous (Imperfetto) to be, to have, three conjugations (-are,-ere,-ire); Matching the two past tenses (Passato Prossimo and Imperfetto). Some object pronouns used in oral communication.

**Oral Expression:** Travelling: making plans with a friend and/or family, how to reach the place (by train, plain, bus, etc.), booking a ticket; what to see and why; share a fieldtrip's experience with others (using past tense sentence); problem-solving issues while travelling.

**Vocabulary:** leisure activities; habits and manners in Italy and Europe while travelling (focus on food habits); Italian idiomatic expressions.

**Weekly test: Thursday, 10/13/2016**

**10/14/2016: NO CLASS DUE TO CSU FIELD TRIP: MILAN, TURIN (10/14 to 10/16/2016)**

**8<sup>th</sup> week: From 10/17/2016 to 10/21/2016**

**10/17/2016: Last day of class: Units 8 and 11:** general grammar review and practice: focus on oral and vocabulary competencies.

**FINAL EXAMS:**

**From 10/18/2016 to 10/20/2016: ORAL EXAMS (time schedule to be announced)**

**10/21/2016: WRITTEN EXAM 9am-12 pm**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

**La Grassa, Matteo, Italiano all'Università, Roma, Edilingua, 2013 vol.I.**

On a regular basis, additional material (charts, lists of words, etc.) will be provided to each student by the instructor in class and/or by email or loaded on googledocs. (Students are responsible for their own material).

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

Movie nights and occasional site visits.