



## ITL 101 | SYLLABUS

**Intensive Elementary Italian I  
PLP 2017  
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m**

**Instructor:** Giacomo Poli  
**Office Hours:** After class and by appointment  
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**Skype:** prototipoli

### **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.

### **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 to 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 during office hours if you need extra-explanations and practice**

### **Requirements:**

#### **Home Assignments:**

- 4-5 exercises 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, i.e bus, post office, bar, city, brief descriptions, etc.).
- Vocabulary charts: from 5 to 10 max words and/or idiomatic expression to memorize per day.(see more in the attached MEMORANDUM):

## About weekly test/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: listening comprehension;  
reading comprehension;  
multiple-choice exercises;  
fill-in exercises;  
vocabulary oriented exercises;  
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: October 24, 25, 26 (time and schedule to be announced)**

**Oral exam format:** Students are required to set an oral conversation with a peer about daily life topics such as:

1. Presentations and self-description: personality, moods, daily and/or weekly habits;
2. ask for/give information downtown;
3. describe a recent trip (by using the past tense);
4. shopping (grocery, pharmacy, clothing store);
5. Going to a restaurant/bar/pizzeria;

**Oral exam will last 10 minutes for each student. Topic will be chosen by lot during the oral exam session among the above mentioned.**

**Written Exam: The final exam will take place October 27 from 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.**

**Written exam format:** It will include all issues dealt with in class during the course.

**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 absence will lower the grade**), punctuality, class participation, home assignments: **20%**
- weekly tests on Friday: **40% total**
- written and oral final exam: **40%**

**All weekly tests are mandatory.**

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

## Grading average system:

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

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY PLP 2017**

Attendance to PLP CSU courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the course but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies) as follows: 3 unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; 4 unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; 5 unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. More than five unexcused absences could result in failure of the course (see **Grading** – attendance counts for up to 20% of your final grade).

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 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 in class.

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 weekly tests (40% of the grade) or the final exam (40% of the grade) could mean failure of the course.

Remember that during PLP there are weekly exams every Thursday or Friday from 10:00 – 12:00, students missing any weekly exam could 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 COSTS : 21,52 euro (discounted 10% as original price is 23,90 euro, discounted price for CSU students only, at the Feltrinelli Bookshop in via Cerretani) for the textbook: M.La Grassa, *Italiano all'Università*, Roma, edilingua, 2013 vol. 1.\***

**\*Sept, 7: from 11 a.m to 12:00 p.m: Teacher will walk students to purchase the textbook at the Feltrinelli Bookstore: Bring money!!**

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

### **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: from (Sept. 4 – Sept. 8)

Introduction.

Italiano all'Università: textbook: Unit 1.

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.

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

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

Thursday, Oct.7: from 11a.m -12 p.m.: Teacher will walk students to Feltrinelli's bookstore to purchase the textbook.

**Friday, Sept.8: review for 1.5 hours (9:00-10.30 a.m), followed by General Meeting in aula magna at 10:30 am Completion of Resident Permit Kits (permesso di soggiorno) with CSU staff and PLP faculty. No weekly test this week.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> week: Sept.11-15

Italiano all'Università, Units 1 -2

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.

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.

Vocabulary through using Realia : 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.

**Thursday, Sept. 14: Weekly test: review for one hour and test 1**

**Friday, Sept. 15: NO CLASS TODAY - CSU FIELD TRIP, AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY - LA CERTOSA-RICASOLI.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> week: Sept.18-22

Italiano all'Università Units 2 and 3

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.

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.

Vocabulary through using Realia: 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: Friday, Sept. 22: review for one hour, test 2.**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> week: Sept. 25-29**

Italiano all'Università Units 3-4

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.

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.

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

**Weekly test: Friday, Sept. 29: review for one hour, test 3.**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> week : Oct.2-5**

Italiano all'Università: Unit 5

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.

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*)

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

**Weekly test: Thursday, Oct. 5: review for one hour, test 4.**

**Friday Oct. 6: NO CLASS DUE TO CSU FIELD TRIP: PADOVA, VERONA, VICENZA AND VENEZIA (Friday, Oct.6- Sunday, Oct.8) \*\***

**\*\*field trip date is subject to change**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> week: Oct.9-13**

Italiano all'Università: Units 8 and 11

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).

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)

Vocabulary through using Realia: 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, Oct. 13 review for one hour, test 5.**

#### **7<sup>th</sup> week: Oct.16-20**

Italiano all'Università Units 8 and 11 and review

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.

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

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

**Weekly test: Friday, Oct.20: review for one hour, test 6.**

**8<sup>th</sup> week: Oct.23-27**

**Oct. 23: Last day of class: Units 8 and 11: General Review and Practice: focus on oral and vocabulary competencies.**

**ORAL EXAMS:**

**Tuesday, Oct.24; Wednesday, Oct. 25; Thursday, Oct.26 : schedule for oral exams to be posted on bulletin board the week before exams take place.**

**Friday, Oct.27: WRITTEN FINAL EXAM 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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

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

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

**Periodical site visits in town: these site visits are designed as further language training for students.**