
IT 105 BEGINNING ITALIAN I
IES Abroad Milan Syllabus

DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to meet the needs of beginner students participating in a study abroad program. The course will introduce the students to the most frequent everyday situations to facilitate their ability to communicate and function in a new environment. Grammar and vocabulary will always be presented, analyzed and practiced in a context which is meaningful to the students. Oral skills will be emphasized while grounding in grammar will consolidate the understanding and use of the language structures. Vocabulary is based on everyday situations.

STUDENT PROFILE: This course is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of Italian. By the end of the course, students will develop a basic foundation in the five skills: intercultural communication, reading, writing, listening, and speaking to accomplish a variety of basic everyday needs in the Italian culture as described in the learning outcomes below.

PREREQUISITES: None

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve some of the outcomes for the Novice Abroad level as defined by the *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. The key learning outcomes from the MAP are summarized below:

1. Intercultural Communication
 1. Students will be able to meet basic everyday needs using verbal communication, use compensatory strategies when they do not know the word or expression (repetition, body language, etc.), and identify some basic nonverbal communication strategies.
 2. Students will be able to recognize basic appropriate and inappropriate expressions and behaviors in the host language.
 3. Students will be able to distinguish between basic representations of formality and informality in the language.
 4. Students will understand that there may be differences between cultural stereotypes and generalizations between the home culture and host culture.
2. Listening
 1. Students will be able to understand basic statements, requests, descriptions, and questions in specific cultural context relevant to them (hosts' interactions, Center interactions, studying, shopping, transportation, meals).
 2. Students will be able to use context to understand the gist of some basic spoken language they overhear, including the media, conversations between others, and announcements.
3. Speaking
 1. Students will be able to use some basic phrases appropriately in some everyday situations (home, the IES Abroad Center, the community).
 2. Students will be able to express some basic needs by asking questions, and get what they need in uncomplicated, everyday situations.
4. Reading

1. Students will be able to identify and understand basic sentences.
 2. Students will be able to interpret main ideas in short passages and news headlines, but their understanding is often limited to the words or groups of words that they have seen in class.
5. Writing
1. With limited accuracy, students will be able to write short sentences and short paragraphs about basic and concrete topics they have studied, such as themselves, their families, their friends, their likes and dislikes, and their daily routines.
 2. Students will be able to send basic emails, text messages, postcards, and online posts, and fill out some basic forms.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Classes are taught with a communicative approach to facilitate students' ability to use their own resources and to develop confidence and familiarity with the target language. The instructor will lead the students through the process of learning using various techniques. Working in pairs or small groups is especially emphasized. Starting from the first week and throughout the rest of the course students will be assigned various "on site" interactive activities, to encourage them to use the language in practical situations, to interact with locals and with their Italian student companions in order to find out about Italian lifestyle and culture. The instructor will use task-based field trips and class activities to make the students aware of the strong relationship between language and culture. For this purpose the instructor will reinforce students' independence by providing them historic and cultural background before they go on field trips.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT: Exclusive use of Italian language in class, active participation in all class activities, homework, research regularly completed as indicated by the instructor, oral and written tests and exams, attendance and punctuality. Students will be required to enter the Moodle course page on a regular basis in order to access readings, exercises, and any other regular and extra material.

	%
Oral exam	15
Midterm	20
Video project	15
Final exam	30
Class participation, engagement and homework	20

A 100-93: excellent;

A- 92.9-90: very good performance;

B+ 89.9-87: good;

B 86.9-83: nearly good performance;

B- 82.9-80: more than adequate performance;

C+ 79.9-77 / C 76.9-73: adequate performance;

C- 72.9-70: not completely adequate performance;

D 69.9-65: inadequate performance;

F 64.9 and below: really unsatisfactory performance.

CONTENT:

Students will be required to enter the Moodle course page on regular bases in order to access readings, exercises, and any other regular or extra material.

Students are expected to go to class having studied in detail the Assignments as indicated on the syllabus and by the teacher in class.

	Content	Assignments	Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)
Week 1-2	1. Functional: greeting, asking questions, introducing yourself, describing yourself 2. Grammatical: alphabet, numbers, to be, to have, pronunciation, definite and indefinite articles, gender and number of nouns and adjectives 3. Vocabulary: useful phrases 4. Culture: Italian gestures	N.E.* unit 1 and 2 Course Moodle page	Ia, IIa, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
Week 3	1. Functional: talking about yourself, describing your daily routine; ordering food at the Italian “bar” 2. Grammatical: present tense of regular verbs 3. Vocabulary: at the Italian “bar” 4. Culture: field study “Al Bar”	N.E.* unit 2 and 3 Course Moodle page	Ia, Ib, Ic, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
Week 4	1. Functional: talking about your free time, expressing tastes 2. Grammatical: present tense of regular verbs, frequency adverbs 3. Vocabulary: hobbies, leisure activities 4. Culture: what to do in Milan	N.E.* unit 3 and 4 Course Moodle page	Ia, Ib, Ic, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
Week 5	1. Functional: expressing one’s likes and dislikes 2. Grammatical: present tense of irregular verbs, verb “piacere” 3. Vocabulary: shops in the city, at the groceries store 4. Culture: field study “Eataly”	N.E.* unit 4 Course Moodle page	Ib, Ic, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va, Vb
Week 6	1. Functional: talking about past events 2. Grammatical: present perfect regular verbs, the choice of the auxiliary 3. Vocabulary: time expressions 4. Culture: geography of Italy	N.E.* unit 7 Course Moodle page	Ia, Ib, Ic, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVb, Va, Vb
Week 7	1. Functional: talking about past events 2. Grammatical: present perfect irregular verbs 3. Vocabulary: holidays; weather 4. Culture: travelling in Italy	N.E.* unit 7 Course Moodle page	Ia, Ib, Ic, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVb, Va, Vb
Week 8	1. Functional: introducing and talking about your family 2. Grammatical: possessive adjectives 3. Vocabulary: family 4. Culture: the Italian family	N.E.* unit 9 Course Moodle page	Ia, IIa, IIb, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Va, Vb
Week 9	FINAL REVIEW		

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL:

* New Italian Espresso 1, Alma Edizioni (handed out in class by the teacher).

Supplementary materials (handouts, pictures, readings, videos and films scenes, song lyrics, games, etc.) will be provided by the teacher or available on the Moodle course page.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend classes each day. IES Abroad Milano allows a maximum of **TWO excused absences per course**, to be used for emergencies related to health, family, religion. **Each further absence** will automatically **result in a penalty of 2 point off (2/100)** on the final grade. Please note that this rule does not apply to exams: failure to attend your midterm and/or final exam will automatically result in an F grade on that paper/exam. **SEVEN absences per course will result in a failing grade (2 excused absences included)**. Furthermore, absence on the date of scheduled tests, presentations or quizzes does not entitle to recover/reschedule such tests. If using absences for travel, students must be aware that they may remain with no excusable absence in case of illness.

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