



IT 303 ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING INDEPENDENT ABROAD III

IES Abroad Rome

DESCRIPTION:

The course is designed to facilitate students' deeper and more detailed knowledge of spoken and written Italian. The course will introduce the students to current events and everyday situations to encourage them to use the language in a relaxed and confident way as well as to discover as much as possible about Italian culture and lifestyle. After a quick review of the fundamental contents of IT301, the course will cover complex grammatical structures and vocabulary. Intense oral work, reading and writing exercises will always be presented, analyzed and practiced in a context which is based on listening and reading materials. Oral skills will be emphasized while a grounding in grammar will consolidate the understanding and use of the language structures. Vocabulary is based on everyday situations.

STUDENT PROFILE:

Students entering this level must be able to fulfill the learning outcomes of the Novice Abroad level, as defined by the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. Specifically, they should already be able to express themselves on a variety of concrete, everyday topics and meet their basic needs in the language. Students who enter this level may be more proficient in reading and writing skills than oral communication, especially if they have never traveled or studied abroad previously. Although students may have been exposed previously to certain competencies taught at this level, they need additional practice and instruction to move toward mastery of these competencies.

As students gain more self-awareness and self-confidence, they will attempt more in the community. Paradoxically, this means they may also experience more miscommunications and frustration. Reading and writing require effort, and many students will need to commit themselves in this regard. Students will also develop cultural awareness and skills to work through the challenges of adaptation in the local culture and learn to celebrate their successes. They will begin to appreciate the value of these language and intercultural skills.

CREDITS: 4

CONTACT HOURS: 60

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: Italian

PREREQUISITES: Students typically will have completed 3 semesters of Italian and will have met the completion of IES Abroad's IT 301 Emerging Independent Abroad outcomes, determined by placement test.

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. 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.

Students are expected to use only Italian during the class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who are placed in this level should be capable of achieving the outcomes in the Novice Abroad level as defined by the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*.

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

I. Intercultural Communication

- A) Students will be able to solve most daily troublesome situations and meet needs with limited help.
- B) Students will be able to make informed comparisons between the host culture and the students' home cultures.
- C) Students will be able to distinguish and to imitate verbal and nonverbal communication that reflects politeness, formality, or informality.
- D) Students will be able to recognize patterns of intonation, their meaning, and cultural implications.

II. Listening

- A) Students will be able to understand some interactions of moderate complexity (media, speeches, music, conversations, etc.), especially if the speaker is used to interacting with non-native speakers.
- B) Students will be able to understand direct requests, questions, and basic conversations on familiar and concrete topics.
- C) Students sometimes will understand commonly-used slang expressions and popular phrases.

III. Speaking

- A) Students will be able to talk about persons and things in their immediate environment, as well as their plans, wishes, and experiences, and they can provide a limited amount of supporting details.
- B) Students will be able to resolve moderately complicated situations involving familiar subjects.
- C) Students will respond to some questions that ask for an opinion or a belief on a topic with assistance and practice.

IV. Reading

- A) Students will be able to read passages and short texts (newspapers, lyrics, letters, short stories, etc.) and understand overall meaning.
- B) Students will be able to support their understanding of texts through the use of context or with the use of dictionaries or the assistance of others at times.
- C) Students will be able to read and understand most text messages on everyday topics.

V. Writing

- A) Students will be able to communicate with increasing effectiveness through notes, emails, and simple online discussions and chats.
- B) Students will be able to write short essays on concrete topics of limited levels of complexity and with less reliance on the communicative patterns of their native language.
- C) Students will be able to describe things, relate ideas, and express simple opinions in concrete language.

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.

- Class participation, engagement and homework (including field studies and use of the online Moodle page) – 30%
- 3 Quizzes - 15%

- Oral competence, including two oral tests - 20%
- Midterm Exam – 15%
- Final Exam – 20%

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments	Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)
Survival Lesson	Developing survival skills: A brief overview of important concepts of Italian culture and useful Italian phrases		
Week 1 & 2	La mia Roma 1. Functional: Thinking and talking about own study abroad experience. 2. Grammatical: Review of <i>passato prossimo/imperfetto</i> , compound pronouns, <i>trapassato prossimo</i> . 3. Vocabulary: Emotions and feelings. 4. Culture: Rome then and now.	• Video comprehension: La mia esperienza in Italia • Field Assignment: Com'era Roma • Quiz 1	I.B, II.B, III.A, III.C, IV.B, V.C
Week 3 & 4	Vita in città 1. Functional: Describing a city, expressing disapproval, making hypothesis, expressing wishes. 2. Grammatical: Present and past conditional 3. Vocabulary: The city life. 4. Culture: City lifestyles and life quality.	• Reading Comprehension: Gianni Rodari: "Il paese con l'Esse davanti" • Composition: Vado a vivere in ...?	I.B, II.B, III.A, IV.B, V.C
Week 5	Intensive review MIDTERM EXAM	Oral Presentation	
Week 6-7	Andiamo al cinema 1. Functional: Talking about a movie, expressing preferences, giving opinions. 2. Grammatical: Present and past subjunctive, conjunctions 3. Vocabulary: movies and movie theatres 4. Culture: Cinema in Italy.	• Field study: Villa Borghese • An Italian movie: "Scialla"	I.C, I.D, II.B, III.A, IV.B, V.C
Week 8-9	Il piacere di leggere 1. Functional: Summarizing a book's plot, expressing judgments. 2. Grammatical: <i>Imperfetto e trapassato</i> subjunctive, hypothetical sentences 3. Vocabulary: books and reading. 4. Culture: Literary genres and writing styles.	• Song comprehension: "Tutto l'amore che ho" • Field assignment: Andiamo in libreria • QUIZ 2	I.D, II.C, III.A, III.C, IV.B, V.B
Week 10-11	Da dove veniamo 1. Functional: Confronting opinions, analyzing stereotypes, identifying discrimination and prejudices. 2. Grammatical: Impersonal forms. 3. Vocabulary: common sayings and idiomatic expressions.	• Video comprehension: Italian gesture • Reading Comprehension: "Ellis Island" • QUIZ 3	I.B, II.B, III.A, III.B, IV.B, V.A

	4. Culture: Italian gestures.		
Week 12	Made in Italy 1. Functional: Encouraging, supporting an idea. 2. Grammatical: Imperative with compound pronouns, impersonal forms. 3. Vocabulary: clothing, design and interior design. 4. Culture: The language of advertising and marketing.	Group Assignment: Create an advertisement for IES Abroad	I.B, II.B, III.A, III.C, IV.B, V.C
Week 13	General Review		I.C, II.A, II.B, III.A, III.B, IV.B, V.A
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	Oral presentation 2	

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than two classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- 303 IES Abroad Reader – Italian Faculty IES Roma
- Gruppo CSC “Gramm.it for English-speakers”, Bonacci editore
- IES Abroad course pack designed for the course and supplementary materials (readings, videos and films scenes, song lyrics, games, etc.) will be provided by the teacher or available on the Moodle course page.