

IT 101 ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE IN CONTEXT: NOVICE ABROAD I

IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

This course presents the basic structures of the Italian Language through a communicative and direct approach. The student will become familiar with Italian language and culture through reading, listening, and writing activities concerning different aspects of the Italian life. Study abroad enhances the chances of communicative competences that are most difficult to foster in a mere classroom setting. As such, students will be exposed to different communicative situations and contexts, so that they will naturally gain confidence outside of class and become more willing to use the language from the very beginning. Speaking and listening activities will be an important part of each class period: particular emphasis will be put on idiomatic and common expressions. By the end of the course students will realize they are better assimilated into everyday Italian life and culture, as they can now meet their everyday needs.

It is a highly participatory course that rewards daily efforts by students. The pace is quick and lively: those who commit seriously to this adventure will be pleasantly surprised by the quick, concrete results of their efforts.

STUDENT PROFILE:

This course is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of the language.

By the end of the course, the successful student 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 host culture as described in the learning outcomes below.

CREDITS: 6

CONTACT HOURS: 90

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:

Italian will be used in all instances, with emergency use of English for disambiguation. **"Pledge for Italian-only in class"**: in class students are invited to formally commit themselves to using Italian only.

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The approach to learning is direct and designed for an immediate use of the Italian language. In class, students are asked to use new communicative strategies in different situations, so that at the end of the lesson, outside of class, they can apply the basic grammar rules they just learned. This learning process stimulates students. They are never considered as passive recipients, but active users of the language for their immediate need.

During class activities, students will often work in pairs or small groups. They will collaborate with each other in order to find out answers and solve problems; this way they also have an opportunity to socialize and learn from classmates in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. This is meant to encourage participation while reducing anxiety; students can help each other to succeed before surrendering and asking the teacher for assistance.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Following each class students must review, memorize, and repeat aloud the material present in class, and write down / reorganize / learn new vocab / rules, before completing the assignments. **Homework is not graded, except in exceptional cases specified by the instructor, but it contributes to the assessment of students' participation grades and is key to success in the class.**

Students are always required to be up-to-date with class work. They should access homework and course content by logging in daily to the class website (Moodle) or by asking a classmate/the teacher, especially if they miss a class. In this case, it is their responsibility to obtain the information about the material covered in their absence. Unless agreed upon with the instructor in advance, assignments must be submitted on the date originally assigned even if students are absent from class.

- Final Intensive Exam– 15%
- Oral Exam 1 - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Oral Exam 2 – 10%
- Video Assignment – 10%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Active Participation through discussion, reading, and writing – 15%

Final Intensive Exam, Midterm Exam, Final Exam: written exams which include sections dedicated to listening comprehension, dictation, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, logically ordering dialogue, reading comprehension, and writing.

Oral Exam 1: skits performed in groups (which involve writing, memorizing, and performing a scene suggested by the instructor)

Oral Exam 2: individual presentations on a topic introduced in class by the instructor

Video Assignment: vlog in Italian that reflects the student's experience in Milan.

Participation: Active and thoughtful participation in class that demonstrates the student's preparedness for class and engagement with the language and culture. Effort to use Italian in all instances is key for successful participation in the course.

On request, after completion of the Midterm exam, students can receive information about their grade breakdown and discuss it with the teacher.

GRADE SCALE:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Notes
A	93-100	Passing grade
A-	90-92.9	
B+	87-89.9	
B	83-86.9	
B-	80-82.9	
C+	77-79.9	
C	73-76.9	
C-	70-72.9	
D	65-69.9	
F	0-64.9	Failing grade

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve several 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:

- I. Intercultural Communication
 - a. 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.

- b. Students will be able to recognize basic appropriate and inappropriate expressions and behaviors in the host language.
- c. Students will be able to distinguish between basic representations of formality and informality in the language.
- d. Students will understand that there may be differences between cultural stereotypes and generalizations between the home culture and host culture.

II. Listening

- a. 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).
- b. 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.

III. Speaking

- a. Students will be able to use some basic phrases appropriately in some everyday situations (home, the IES Abroad Center, the community).
- b. Students will be able to express some basic needs by asking questions, and get what they need in uncomplicated, everyday situations.

IV. Reading

- a. Students will be able to identify and understand basic sentences.
- b. 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.

V. Writing

- a. 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.
- b. Students will be able to send basic emails, text messages, postcards, and online posts, and fill out some basic forms.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be responsible for their own class attendance and to give academic responsibilities priority over other activities. Regular class attendance is mandatory. For physical and mental health reasons, IES Abroad Milano allows a maximum of **THREE (3) absences in each Italian language course**, TWO (2) absences in each Area Studies course, and ONE (1) absence in each Seminar course. Every absence beyond this allowance will automatically result in a penalty of 2 percentage points off the final grade. SEVEN (7) absences will result in a failing grade in Italian language and Area Studies courses. FOUR (4) absences will result in a failing grade in Seminar courses. **Failure to attend a scheduled exam, test, quiz, or presentation will automatically result in an F grade on that assessment.**

Please also note that **being repeatedly late** to class is considered a sign of disrespect towards the instructor and classmates. This kind of behavior is not tolerated and will severely affect your participation grade.

CONTENT:

Students are expected to enter the Moodle course page on regular bases in order to access readings, exercises, and other materials. They are also expected to come to class having studied/completed the assignments indicated on the syllabus and by the instructor in class.

Class	Content	Assignments
Week 1 <i>Session 1</i>	Intercultural communication: welcome to Milan! - Introducing yourself, greetings - Listening: alphabet, peculiar sounds and their spelling	N.I.E. UNIT 1 Practice introductory questions and answers
<i>Session 2</i>	Intercultural communication: introduce yourself (I) - Formulating basic questions - Formal vs. informal - Speaking: asking introductory questions	N.I.E. UNIT 1 Practice question words, gender and number of nouns
<i>Session 3</i>	Intercultural communication: communicate effectively in Italy - Using and understanding gestures - Speaking: asking polite questions	N.I.E. UNIT 2 Practice agreement with adjectives
<i>Session 4</i>	Intercultural communication: at the Italian café - Speaking: ordering at a bar/restaurant/gelateria - Reading: the menu, the check	N.I.E. UNIT 2 Practice definite & indefinite articles
<i>Session 5</i>	Intercultural communication: introduce yourself (II) Writing: short presentation / my identity card	N.I.E. UNIT 2 Practice present tense of to be & to have
Week 2 <i>Session 6</i>	Intercultural communication: my routine - Talking about daily activities - Writing: short paragraph about your daily routine	N.I.E. UNIT 3 Practice present tense of regular verbs (I)
<i>Session 7</i>	Intercultural communication: your routine - Ask someone about their day - Speaking: interview Italian students about their life routine - Listening: small talk about daily routine	N.I.E. UNIT 3 Practice present tense of regular verbs (II)
<i>Session 8</i>	Intercultural communication: a day in the life of an Italian student - Reading: universities' bulletin board - Writing: ads for the bulletin board	N.I.E. UNIT 3 Practice present tense of regular verbs (III)
<i>Session 9</i>	Final Exam Intensive Review	N.I.E. UNIT 1, 2, 3 General review of all the grammar topics presented Final Intensive Mock Exam
<i>Session 10</i>	FINAL INTENSIVE EXAM	FINAL INTENSIVE EXAM
Week 3 <i>Session 11</i>	Intercultural communication: free time - Talking about free time - Listening: small talk about free time - Speaking: asking/answering questions about free time and preferences	N.I.E. UNIT 4 Practice present tense of irregular verbs (I)
<i>Session 12</i>	Intercultural communication: likes and dislikes Expressing likes and dislikes	N.I.E. UNIT 4 Practice verb to like, expressions with verb to

	• Reading: people's profiles on social networks • Writing: your profile on a social network	have
Week 4 <i>Session 13</i>	Intercultural communication: making plans • Talking about frequency of actions • Speaking: asking and telling the time, make plans with friends	N.I.E. UNIT 4 Practice present tense of irregular verbs (II)
<i>Session 14</i>	Intercultural communication: texting • Arranging activities • Listening: vocal messages • Reading & Writing: instant messages	N.I.E. UNIT 5 Practice expressions with verb to do
Week 5 <i>Session 15</i>	Intercultural communication: Milan and its neighborhoods (I) • Describing your neighborhood in Milan, comparing Milan to your hometown, what's special about Italian cities • Listening: information about interesting landmarks in Milan	N.I.E. UNIT 5 Practice using frequency adverbs
<i>Session 16</i>	Intercultural communication: Milan and its neighborhoods (II) • Speaking: talking about a city (Milan, hometown, a city you have just visited) Reading: tourism flyer • Writing: brief description of a city	N.I.E. UNIT 5 Practice using there is / there are
<i>Session 17</i>	ORAL EXAM 1: SKITS • COURSE-RELATED TRIP: EXPLORING MILANO	ORAL EXAM 1
Week 6 <i>Session 18</i>	Intercultural communication: holidays in Italy • Talking and comparing lifestyles • Listening: small talk about a typical day vs. a special occasion/holiday	N.I.E. UNIT 8 Practice reflexive verbs
<i>Session 19</i>	Intercultural communication: greeting cards • Congratulating someone on special occasions and public holidays • Speaking: saying the date, using the appropriate expression in the appropriate occasion • Reading & Writing: greeting cards greeting cards	N.I.E. UNIT 8 Practice possessive adjectives 1st and 2nd person singular
Week 7 <i>Session 20</i>	Midterm Review	N.I.E. UNIT 4, 5, 8 general review of all the grammar topics presented
<i>Session 21</i>	Midterm Review	Midterm mock exam
<i>Session 22</i>	MIDTERM EXAM	MIDTERM EXAM
Week 8 <i>Session 23</i>	Intercultural communication: past experiences (I) • Talking about past events • Speaking: asking question about past events	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice the choice of the auxiliary verb
<i>Session 24</i>	Intercultural communication: past experiences (II) • Listening: small talk about past events • Writing: short paragraph about a relevant past experience	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice regular past participles

Week 9 <i>Session 25</i>	Intercultural communication: past experiences (III) - Speaking: describing a holiday - Reading: blog posts about holidays	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice irregular past participles
<i>Session 26</i>	Intercultural communication: vacations - Speaking: asking about holidays, asking for advice on where to go/what to do on holiday - Reading: holidays' reviews - Writing: postcards	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice past tense (I)
Week 10 <i>Session 27</i>	Intercultural communication: what happened Listening: Italian news	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice past tense (II)
<i>Session 28</i>	Intercultural communication: the news (I) - Reading: short newspaper articles - Writing: short article about an interesting event / particular occurrence (factual or fictional)	N.I.E. UNIT 7 Practice the use of adverbs of time
<i>Session 29</i>	Intercultural communication: the news (II) - Speaking: retelling a news event - COURSE-RELATED TRIP: EXPLORING MILANO	N.I.E. UNIT 9 Practice past tense of reflexive verbs
Week 11 <i>Session 30</i>	ORAL EXAM 2: STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS	ORAL EXAM 2
Week 12 <i>Session 31</i>	Intercultural communication: Italian families - Talking about habits of Italian families, cultural differences & similarities - Reading: short article(s) about the Italian family - Writing: your family tree	N.I.E. UNIT 9 Practice using possessive adjectives
<i>Session 32</i>	Intercultural communication: your family - Describing your family - Listening: other people's families and their habits - Speaking: talking about your family, asking about someone's family	N.I.E. UNIT 9 Practice using possessive adjectives with family members
<i>Session 33</i>	Intercultural communication: going shopping - Listening: interaction in a clothing shop - Speaking: how to ask for help in a clothing shop - COURSE-RELATED TRIP: EXPLORING MILANO	N.I.E. UNIT 11 Practice vocabulary
Week 13 <i>Session 34</i>	Intercultural communication: fashion in Milan - Describing one's look - Reading: short article(s) about the importance of fashion in Milan - Writing: blog post about fashion in Milan	N.I.E. UNIT 11 Practice using verb piacere, present and past, and the expressions "stare bene/male" (a qualcuno)
Week 14 <i>Session 35</i>	Final Exam Review	N.I.E. UNIT 7, 9, 11 general review of all the grammar topics presented VIDEO ASSIGNMENT DUE

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS: *New Italian Espresso* TextBook and Ebook (on BlinkLearning) & *New Italian Espresso* Ebook Workbook (on BlinkLearning). The book and the codes to access the BlinkLearning platform will be handed out in class by the teacher.

ITALIAN LEVEL CHANGE: If you feel you have been placed in the wrong language level/your home school requires you to take a specific level for credit, you need to:

- 1-Talk to your instructor during the break or after class within the first 3 days of class;
- 2-Book an appointment with the Italian Faculty Coordinator via Moodle;
- 3-Go to the appointment and discuss your situation.

Please keep in mind: Your home school **MUST** approve your language level change. If you intend to proceed with the change, you will have to provide a written confirmation. **ALL CHANGES MUST be requested within the first 3 days of class.**