

IT 301 ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING INDEPENDENT ABROAD I

IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

IT301 is the continuation of IT101/102 and helps students master with greater ease and self-confidence more complex tasks. It reviews and expands the major grammar points, with a special focus on **speaking** and listening skills. In fact, it is based on a **direct communicative approach** to the language.

It is a challenging and highly participatory course that rewards daily efforts by students. The pace is quick and lively, and those who **work regularly** will be surprised by their considerable progress by the end. In general, Italian will be the only language used in class. Many of you will find this difficult at first, but it will seem natural soon enough. Do not despair when you feel that some of your questions are not answered during class: the answer to complex grammar questions is available in your native language in textbooks and on Moodle (uploaded files) and may always be asked the instructor. In class, **concentrate on learning Italian in Italian**. Your learning process will be faster. *European level: A1-A2*

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 to review the material and practice a lot. Instruction will move toward mastery of these competencies and will expand on new material.

Students will also develop **cultural awareness** and skills to work through the challenges of adaptation in the local culture. As students gain more self-awareness and self-confidence, they will attempt more in the community. Increasingly, they will appreciate the value of language and intercultural skills. Keep in mind that learning a language requires motivation and effort, and students will need to commit themselves in this regard.

This course builds upon skills introduced in Novice Abroad. By the end of the course, the successful student will begin to develop some communicative and cultural self-confidence necessary to attempt moderately complex tasks in the language, as described in the learning outcomes below.

CREDITS: 6

CONTACT HOURS: 90

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian will be used in all instances in class, with emergency use of English for disambiguation. “Pledge for Italian-only in class”: students are invited to formally commit themselves to using Italian only in class, with classmates and when talking/writing to the teacher. Please note that **the attempt at using the target language also outside of class will be considered positively** (See Class Engagement Rubric), while the consistent use of English will have a negative impact on the Class Engagement. Please note also that language mistakes during class activities will not affect the grade.

The teacher may at times use English or allow students to use their mother-tongue to point out a contrastive analysis between Italian and English structures. Those who feel the need for further explanations in English can attend office hours after class.

PREREQUISITES: Satisfactory completion of IES Abroad 101/102 outcomes, determined by placement test, and to be confirmed by the teacher during the first 3 days of the intensive course. Please refer to the paragraph “Italian Level Change” at the bottom of the syllabus.

ADDITIONAL COSTS: 30.00 € for the course workbook *Il nuovo utile e dilettevole*, billed through your MyIESAbroad account.

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 and language expressions 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 and enthusiasm, while reducing anxiety; students can help each other to succeed before surrendering and asking the teacher for assistance.

Course-related trips will be an integral part of the course. During the semester students will also be asked to visit places of interest on their own, and complete assignments in pairs/groups. Course-related trips are based on the interaction with native Italian speakers whenever possible. Tentative schedule of trips: Italian High School, Farmers’ market, Supermarket, State University, San Bernardino or San Maurizio Churches, Cinema, Art Exhibitions.

Web resources, songs, movies, and clips from Italian TV programs will be part of the material used in class.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

This course rewards students that **work consistently and practice in and out of class**. To reach very good/excellent results, after every class or, at the latest, the day before class, students are required to:

- review, memorize, repeat aloud the material presented in class (for ex. Dialogues, Vocab.)
- write down, reorganize, learn new vocab and/or grammar rules
- complete thoroughly and carefully all the assignments posted by the teacher on Moodle
- prepare questions for clarification, if the case.

Homework is not graded, except in exceptional cases specified by the instructor. Its satisfactory completion is the **key to success in the class** and contributes to the assessment of students’ Class Engagement grade (see Rubric). HW will be monitored by the teacher in class, and sometimes it will be handed in. If it is unsatisfactory or denotes inaccuracy, sloppiness, lack of academic rigor or seriousness, students may be required to revise it and turn it in again. Please consider that uncompleted or sloppy HW will hinder your ability to contribute to group work in class, and risks slowing the pace of the whole class. This is why your comments and elaboration of HW in class will be considered positively and will contribute to your Class Engagement grade (See Rubric).

In general, students’ performance regarding **Class Engagement** will be assessed based on the following: use of Italian language in class with the teacher and classmates, active participation in/contribution to all activities, homework and research regularly completed as indicated by the instructor, oral and written tests and exams, attendance, punctuality and commitment.

Students are always required to be up to date with class work. They must 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 information about the material covered when they were absent. Unless agreed upon with the instructor in advance, assignments must be submitted on the date originally assigned even if students are absent from class.

Breakdown

- Final Exam Intensive: 15%
- 2 Intercultural Activities/Projects: 10%
- Oral exam 1: skits: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Oral exam 2: Presentation in pairs: 15%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Class Engagement (HW and participation): 10%

Final Intensive Exam, Midterm Exam, Final Exam (55%): written exams which include sections dedicated to listening comprehension, dictation, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, logically ordering dialogue, reading comprehension, and writing.

Intercultural presentations (10%): have you seen something weird for you in your apartment? Or fancy behavior? Have you been to the popular San Siro Stadium for an Inter–Milan match? Were you invited to an Italian wedding or to a graduation session? Present your experience and make the whole class participate! Intercultural competence is one of the most relevant skills when learning a foreign language. Intercultural activities are unique opportunities to improve your language and intercultural competence using your direct experiences from real life in Italy. Hints will be provided in class or posted on the class Moodle site. Your presentation must include max 2 photos/1 video, at least 5 new words translated in English. No written text is allowed apart from this. You will present to the whole class or a small group of classmates for 1-2 minutes.

Presentations will not be graded. They will be evaluated on a **Fail/Pass basis (10%)**. If they are unsatisfactory or denote sloppiness, lack of academic rigor or seriousness, the teacher may ask the student to organize another presentation or write an essay. More details in class. Excellent presentations may gain extra points.

Oral Exam 1 (10%): skits performed in groups (which involve writing, memorizing, and performing a scene suggested by the instructor)

Oral Exam 2 (15%): individual presentations on a less-known Italian city/town. Please consider that it must be a city/town you have visited during the semester. A selfie is required, made at least in the surrounding area close to the chosen town/city. Detailed instructions on Moodle.

Class Engagement (10%): (See Rubric on Moodle for details): To receive an excellent grade in *Class Engagement*, students are required to:

- speak/try to speak Italian during **all** activities, unless differently specified by the teacher
- attend regularly
- be on time for class, 3 times significantly late (more than 10 min.) will affect your Class Engagement grade
- participate lively and proactively in all activities
- help other students whenever possible
- be attentive, proactive and well-prepared with homework fully completed for each class
- show consistent effort and commitment to improve and use the language
- ask questions for clarification
- come to class with enthusiasm. If you smile, you'll adjust to the new culture and language faster!

Extra credit opportunity: Have you completed all assignments, attended office hours but are still struggling and need to improve your grade? You can go the cinema, watch a film in Italian (the ticket and a selfie at the movie theater must be turned in) and complete the extra credit activity. Please discuss this opportunity with your teacher after the Midterm Exam.

Please note: mobile phones and/or laptops and/or iPads can be used in class **ONLY** for consulting online dictionaries (www.wordreference.com) or as suggested by the teacher for web search. The use of these devices for personal reasons is **NOT** allowed in class.

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	60-69.9	Failing grade
F	0-59.9	

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

I. Intercultural Communication

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

II. Listening

- Students will be able to understand some interactions (media, speeches, music, directives, conversations, etc.), especially if the speaker is used to interacting with non-native speakers.
- Students will be able to understand direct requests, questions, and simple conversations on familiar and concrete topics.

III. Speaking

- Students will be able to talk to a limited extent with and about persons and about things in their immediate environment, and they will be able to discuss their plans, wishes, and experiences.
- Students will be able to address moderately complicated situations involving familiar subjects.

IV. Reading

- Students will be able to read passages and short texts (notes, lyrics, uncomplicated literary passages, detailed instructions, etc.) on familiar topics and understand the general meaning.

- b. Students will actively support their understanding of texts through the use of context, visual aids, dictionaries, or with the assistance of others in order to facilitate comprehension.

V. Writing

- a. Students will be able to communicate with some 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, with reliance on the communicative patterns of their native language.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be **present and on time every day**. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, the IES Abroad Milan attendance policy allows for the following number of absences, which are intended to be used for physical and mental health reasons:

- THREE (3) absences in each Italian language course,
- TWO (2) absences in each Area Studies course,
- ONE (1) absence in each seminar course or course meeting 1 day a week,
- ZERO (0) absences in each course of individual music instruction.

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 or 1-day-a-week courses. Failure to attend a scheduled exam, test, quiz, or presentation will automatically result in an F grade on that assessment.

Please 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 as per the related Rubric.

Students are expected to abide by the **IES Abroad Code of Academic Integrity**. All work submitted by a student for academic credit should constitute the student's own original work. Any work submitted for academic credit may be subject to review by a textual similarity detection service for the detection of plagiarism and AI usage.

CONTENT:

Students are expected to enter the Moodle course page daily, to be informed about homework, readings, exercises, and specific instructions for class activities. They are also expected to come to class having studied/completed the assignments indicated by the instructor on Moodle.

PLEASE NOTE: for detailed information about the content covered and the assignments, refer to the posts that the teacher writes on Moodle after each lesson. **What follows is a tentative schedule that will be adjusted to the pace and needs of the class.** All the topics will be covered, but dates of class activities may vary.

Class	Content	Assignments
Session 0	Intercultural communication: nice to meet you! • Ice breaker activity • Getting to know each other • Becoming a group • ENGAGE MODULE 1: Obtaining My Goals Abroad	

Session 1	Introducing oneself - Course introduction: some advice and team building activities - Introducing myself: Who I am, Where I come from, How old I am, - Introducing my country, city, university, “Che cosa c’è a ...?” <i>Ciao o buongiorno? Tu o Lei?</i> Every-day expressions - Prepositions: <i>Sono di/ Vengo da + art./Vivo-Abito a /in</i> - Review of nouns, articles, regular and reflexive common verbs in the present (1) - Vocab: The city, nationalities, days of the week. Dates. .	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 2	A standard day at home - Recap of previous lesson. Correction of exercises. Q&A - Review of most common verbs in the present (2) and irregulars. <i>Andare</i> + prepositions + stores/parts of the city. - Prepositions + articles, combined <i>Culture</i>: Different cities, different food. What shall I order in Florence?	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 3	Strawberry fields: grocery shopping - Recap of previous lesson. Correction of the activity at the supermarket. Q&A <i>NE</i> pronoun for expressing quantities; - Expressing what I like/don’t like. <i>PIACERE</i> - Indicating prices. Numbers. - Vocab: Fruit and vegetables. - Buying food at the market: daily expressions. <i>Culture</i>: DOC food products: an Italian excellence	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 4	Not only “Spaghetti” - Recap of previous lesson. Correction of the activity at the supermarket. Q&A - Ordering at the restaurant - Voc: food and drinks at the restaurant. Standard expressions. - Review of regular past tense (1)	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 5	Travelling - Review of regular past tense (2) - Vocab: train and travel contingencies - A new alphabet: spelling using the names of Italian cities for phone calls - Book reading/listening: chapter 1 <i>Culture</i>: <i>agriturismo</i> vs hotel	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book

Session 6	My last week-end - Recap of previous lesson. Correction of exercises. Q&A - Travelling stories. Upload an image and a description of your WE Irregular past tense and adverbs - Activities on the reading book ENGAGE 2 : Everybody belongs here	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 7	The Italian School System - Introducing the <i>Imperfetto</i> tense of ESSERE for descriptions in the past. Introduction of habitual actions using the <i>Imperfetto</i> - Voc: school and university. - Physical description/personality (to be cont.) - Culture: Us High Schools vs Italian High Schools - Video clip from the movie: "Notte prima degli esami"	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 8	Course-related trip at an Italian High School	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 9	Discussion on the filed study. Review. Mock Exam. Correction. Extra practice.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 10	FINAL INTENSIVE EXAM	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 11	Not only Espresso - Recap - Expressions and phrases for the BAR - Culture: "<i>Ti/le offro un caffè</i>". Inviting someone. Different kinds of coffee. - Book reading/listening	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 12	When I was a child - Recap of previous lessons: talking about childhood, habitual actions with the <i>Imperfetto</i> - Silvia's life: presentation.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book

	Vocab: physical description/emotions (second part)	
<i>Session 13</i>	Intercultural presentation on Imperfetto: my life when I was a teen. You are going to present to a small group of classmates. Book reading and related activities	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 14</i>	Going Shopping (1) - Vocab: clothes (1). Colors and style - Direct pronouns and past tense. - Role play in a store	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 15</i>	ORAL EXAM 1: SKITS	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 16</i>	Course-related trip at the Open Market, via Fauché	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 17</i>	Going shopping (2) - Direct pronouns and past tense. - Clothes, idioms ENGAGE MODULE 3: Understanding Cultures Abroad	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 18</i>	Clothes do not make the man - Activities on direct pronouns - Vocab: idioms with clothes - Book reading/listening	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 19</i>	- Extra activities on previous topics. - Use of Imperfetto in music. - History of the State University	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 20</i>	Course-related trip: State University and eerie church	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book

<i>Session 21</i>	Culture: discussion on the course-related trip and in class activities to review. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions in Italian/English on the content covered so far.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 22</i>	Mid Term Mock Exam	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 23</i>	MIDTERM EXAM	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 24</i>	Opinions (1) • Book reading and related activities. • Introduction to Present Conditional. Expressing my opinion. Inform the teacher on the Italian character you are presenting for your Oral Exam	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 25</i>	Opinions (2) • Book reading and related activities. • Introduction to Present Conditional. Expressing my opinion.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 26</i>	Opinions (3) • Activities on present/past conditional. • Work on presentations. Revise grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary. Practice with the teacher.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 27</i>	PRESENTATIONS in pairs Q&A: students in class will answer some questions about the presentation (not graded, part of the Participation) Cultural insights based on presentations (it will be part of the Culture Section of the Final Exam).	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
<i>Session 28</i>	ORAL PRESENTATIONS in pairs Q&A: students in class will answer some questions about the presentation (not graded, part of the Participation) Cultural insights based on presentations (it will be part of the Culture Section of the Final Exam)	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book

Session 29	Describing a vacation/trip - Conversation: What I did during my break. Present your break to a small group of classmates. 2 volunteers will present about their trips to the whole class. - Activities to review - Book reading/listening	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 30	Time and weather - Making/cancelling an appointment. - Describing weather - Book reading/listening	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 31	Course-related trip: famous and little-known frescos in Milan. Art and religion in Italian society today.	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 32	At the hairdresser (1) - Vocab: style and body parts - Expressions to have your haircut - Introduction to informal IMPERATIVO mode and pronouns	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 33	At the hairdresser (2) - Vocab: style and body parts - Expressions to have your haircut - Introduction to informal IMPERATIVO mode and pronouns	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 34	- Book reading/listening final part, conclusion ENGAGE MODULE 4: Telling My Study Abroad Story	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 35	Final review	PDF/PPTX/quiz on Moodle. Handouts. Grammar activities in the book
Session 36	Final Mock Exam Q&A's	
Finals Week Date TBD	FINAL EXAM	

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1) *Nuovo Utile e Dilettevole*, Grammar Book and Exercises, Ed. Loecher; 3) PDFs, PPTXs, activities on Moodle; 4) Handouts

ITALIAN LEVEL CHANGE:

If you feel you have been placed at 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 Faculty Coordinator, Michela Fontana (mfontana@fondazioneies.it), 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 written confirmation. **ALL CHANGES MUST be requested within the first 3 days of class.**