



## IT 401 - ITALIAN LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT: EMERGING COMPETENT ABROAD

IES Abroad Siena

### DESCRIPTION:

this course is designed to provide students with a general knowledge of Italian language. They will be able to express themselves in a simple and clear manner, other than write on familiar topics and daily life, expressing their own opinions. Students will also understand the essential points of clear messages spoken in standard language and will describe experiences, events, hopes and ambitions.

### CREDITS: 4

### CONTACT HOURS: 60

### LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Italian

### INSTRUCTOR:

**PREREQUISITES:** students who enter this course will have mastered most of the outcomes of the Independent Abroad level as defined by the IES Abroad *MAP for Language and Intercultural Communication*. Students have to know the following grammar topics:

1. regular verbs
2. main irregular verbs
3. personal pronouns
4. comparisons
5. singular and plural of irregular nouns
6. basic uses of subjunctive
7. conditional clause

A review activity of some of those and other grammar topics will be promoted in class during the course.

### ADDITIONAL COST: None

### METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The teaching method is based on a communicative approach. This involves: accent on communication, with the objective to enable the student, from the beginning, to speak and interact in Italian. Each lesson is structured with an activity to build vocabulary and an oral or written text. The text guides the student to recognize and analyze grammatical structures. Those structures are used in oral and written exercises that the students tackle in pairs or in small groups. Free oral and/or written production exercises give students the opportunity to communicate between themselves in Italian in realistic situations.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:** ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, CLASS DISCUSSION AND MOODLE (10%); WEEKLY HOMEWORK, ASSIGNMENTS (10%); 2 QUIZZES (20%); MID-TERM WRITTEN EXAM AND ORAL PRESENTATION (25%); FINAL WRITTEN EXAM AND ORAL PRESENTATION (35%).

**GRADING SCALE:** A 100-93; A- 92-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D+ 69-67; D 66-63; F 62 and below

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

### Intercultural Communication

- A. Students will begin to recognize and describe key host cultures, subcultures, habits, norms, and behaviors in a variety of settings, and they will be aware of the risk that generalizations can lead to stereotypes.
- B. Students will be able to reflect on and discuss the validity of their own cultural beliefs, behaviors, and values by contrasting and comparing them with those of the host cultures.
- X. Students will demonstrate openness toward different beliefs and styles even when they do not agree with them.
- Δ. Students will accept responsibility for their own learning by defining their linguistic goals and demonstrating independence in their exploration of the culture.

### Listening

- A. Students will be able to identify a range of social and cultural accents and some regional differences of the spoken language.
- B. Students will be able to understand a variety of native speakers and non-native experts and comprehend an array of moderately complex interactions.

### Speaking

- A. Students will participate reasonably well in most academic and social interactions using, when appropriate, complex language including slang, colloquial expressions, double meaning, and humor with increasing confidence.
- B. Students will be able to communicate with certain effectiveness in phone conversations and other non face-to-face interactions.
- C. Students will be able to make arguments and form opinions on almost any topic of their interest.

### Reading

- A. Students will be able to read and understand textbooks, literary works, and academic articles for classes taught in the host language as well as some popular texts for enjoyment.
- B. Students will be able to read and understand authentic materials including newspapers, advertisements, brochures, instruction manuals, etc. on abstract topics with some assistance at times.

### Writing

- A. Students will be able to write for certain native audiences and express themselves somewhat clearly and effectively.
- B. Students will be able to write essays for classes incorporating aspects of appropriate academic style with some assistance at times.

### GLOBAL LEARNING OUTCOMES (G.L.):

- A. **Global self-awareness:** students will identify some connections between an individual's personal decision-making and certain local and global issues.
- B. **Cultural diversity:** students will deal with the experiences of others historically or in contemporary contexts primarily through one cultural perspective, demonstrating some openness to varied cultures and worldviews.

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Successful progress of the program depends on the full cooperation of both students and faculty members: regular attendance and active participation in class are essential parts of the learning process. Attendance at and participation in all class meetings and field-studies are required. IES Abroad Siena allows a maximum of THREE excused absences per semester. Each further absence will automatically result in a penalty of two points off (2/100) on the final grade. SEVEN absences per course (including 3 excused absences) will result in a failing grade for that course. Furthermore, an absence on the date of scheduled tests, presentations or quizzes does not

entitle you to recover/reschedule such tests. Failure to attend your midterm and/or final exam will result in an F grade on that paper/exam.

#### CONTENT:

| Week                  | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Assignments                                         | Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)                                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1<br>(intensive) | <p>Presentation of the course, syllabus, classes, books and expectations</p> <p>1.Functional:<br/>- making comparisons; expressing opinions, doubts, agreement/disagreement, surprise</p> <p>2.Grammatical:<br/>- <i>trapassato prossimo</i> (use and form)<br/>- <i>prima di</i> + infinito<br/>- <i>pronomi combinati</i></p> <p>3.Vocabulary: linguistic and cultural diversity</p> | <i>Unità 1: Do you speak Italian?</i><br>(pp. 5-18) | <p>III.A, III.C</p> <p>V.A</p>                                         |
| Week 2<br>(extensive) | <p>1.Functional:<br/>- asking for help; complaining; expressing preferences; motivating; insisting; planning</p> <p>2.Grammatical:<br/>- <i>condizionale passato</i><br/>- <i>verbi pronominali</i><br/>- <i>pronomi possessivi</i><br/>- <i>ci</i> and <i>ne</i></p> <p>3.Vocabulary: Italian cities</p> <p>4. Assignment: interview with Italians about life in Siena</p>            | <i>Unità 2: Vivere in città</i> (pp. 19- 32)        | <p>I.B<br/>I. A</p> <p>II.B</p> <p>III.A<br/>I.D, III.A<br/>G.L. B</p> |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                     |                       |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Week 3<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- describing objects and products; apologizing                                                                                                        | <i>Unità 3: Made in Italy</i> (pp. 33-48)           | I.A                   |
|                       | 2.Grammatical:<br>- Review: <i>congiuntivo</i><br>- <i>congiuntivo passato</i><br>- Tense agreement: <i>congiuntivo</i><br>- adverbs in <i>-mente</i>                  |                                                     | V.B                   |
|                       | 3.Vocabulary: made in Italy                                                                                                                                            |                                                     | IV.B<br>I.B           |
|                       | <b>QUIZ 1</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>             | <b>G.L. A</b>         |
| Week 4<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- talking on the telephone; offering help; referring someone else's speech                                                                            | <i>Unità 4: Parole parole parole...</i> (pp. 49-62) | II.A                  |
|                       | 2.Grammatical:<br>- <i>congiuntivo imperfetto</i><br>- <i>come se + congiuntivo</i><br>- indirect speech                                                               |                                                     | III.A<br>III.C<br>I.C |
|                       | 3.Vocabulary: lifestyle, habits                                                                                                                                        |                                                     |                       |
|                       | 4. Assignment: telephone call to a local institution to get information                                                                                                |                                                     |                       |
| Week 5<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- telling the plot of a book; expressing interest and explaining choices and judgments                                                                | <i>Unità 5: Invito alla lettura</i> (pp. 63-76)     | II.A                  |
|                       | 2.Grammatical:<br>- Tense agreement: <i>congiuntivo</i><br>- passive form with <i>essere</i> and <i>venire</i><br>- <i>passato remoto</i><br>- <i>presente storico</i> |                                                     | III.A<br>III.C<br>I.C |
|                       | 3.Vocabulary: books, literature                                                                                                                                        |                                                     |                       |
|                       |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                     | <b>G.L. A</b>         |

|                       |                                                                                                                             |                                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Week 6<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- talking about literature; presenting the characters and the plot of a novel; analyzing an author's style | III.C                                 |
|                       | 2.Grammatical:<br>- general review                                                                                          |                                       |
|                       | 3.Vocabulary: books, literature                                                                                             |                                       |
|                       | 4. Assignment: every student chooses the reading a part of a book from the school library                                   |                                       |
| Week 7<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- general review                                                                                           | III.C                                 |
|                       | 2.Grammatical:<br>- general review                                                                                          | IV.A                                  |
|                       | 3. Documentary: <u>"Palio"</u> by Cosima Spender, 2014                                                                      |                                       |
|                       | 4. Assignment:<br>Group activity around Siena                                                                               |                                       |
| Week 8<br>(extensive) | MIDTERM EXAM                                                                                                                |                                       |
|                       |                                                                                                                             | <b>WRITTEN EXAM:</b>                  |
|                       |                                                                                                                             | <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>  |
|                       |                                                                                                                             | <b>ORAL EXAM:</b>                     |
|                       |                                                                                                                             | <b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b> |

|                        |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                    |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Week 9<br>(extensive)  | 1.Functional:<br>-expressing advantages/ disadvantages; confirming facts and opinions; commenting statistics                                           | <i>Unità 6: La famiglia cambia faccia</i><br>(pp. 77-88) | II.A                               |
|                        | 2.Grammatical:<br>- <i>congiuntivo</i> : words and phrases<br>- special forms of <i>comparativi</i> and <i>superlativi</i><br>- <i>fare + infinito</i> |                                                          | II.A<br><br>III.A                  |
|                        | 3.Vocabulary: family, relationships                                                                                                                    |                                                          | III.C                              |
|                        | 4. Assignment: interview with Italians about their family                                                                                              |                                                          | I.C<br><b>G. L. A</b>              |
| Week 10<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- sense of humor; giving advice; making suppositions; talking about human behaviors                                                   | <i>Unità 7: Feste e regali</i><br>(pp. 89-100)           | III.A<br><br>III.C                 |
|                        | 2.Grammatical:<br>- <i>mica</i><br>- <i>condizionale passato</i><br>- <i>periodo ipotetico II (possibilità)</i>                                        |                                                          | I.C<br><b>G. L. A</b>              |
|                        | 3.Vocabulary: events, holidays                                                                                                                         |                                                          |                                    |
|                        | 4. Assignment: photos of Italian holidays                                                                                                              |                                                          |                                    |
| Week 11<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- telling the story of a historical character; telling travels                                                                        | <i>Unità 8: Italiani nella storia</i><br>(pp. 101-112)   | III.A                              |
|                        | 2.Grammatical:<br>- <i>gerundio</i><br>- <i>gerundio</i> with <i>pronouns</i><br>- adjectives in <i>-bile</i><br>- impersonal use of the third person  |                                                          | IV.B<br><br>IV.B<br><br>II.A, II.B |
|                        | 3.Vocabulary: history                                                                                                                                  |                                                          |                                    |
|                        |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |                                    |

## QUIZ 2

TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> April

|                        |                                                                                                                             |                                                                       |              |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Week 12<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- talking about literature; presenting the characters and the plot of a novel; analyzing an author's style | Discussion in class about the first part of the book assigned         | III.C        |
|                        | 2.Grammatical:<br>- general review                                                                                          | Reading at home of the second half of the book<br>Writing assignments | V.A          |
|                        | 3.Vocabulary: literature, books                                                                                             |                                                                       |              |
| Week 13<br>(extensive) | 1.Functional:<br>- getting information about places; asking for explanations and information                                | <i>Unità 9: Italia da scoprire</i><br>(pp. 113-128)                   | III.A        |
|                        | 2.Grammatical:<br>- indirect questions<br>- indirect speech in the past form<br>- <i>prima che – prima di</i>               |                                                                       | IV.B         |
|                        | 3.Vocabulary: tourism, travels                                                                                              |                                                                       | IV.B         |
|                        | 4. Assignment: travel agency                                                                                                |                                                                       | II.A, II.B   |
|                        |                                                                                                                             |                                                                       | III.A        |
| Week 15<br>(extensive) | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>                                                                                                           | <b>WRITTEN EXAM:</b>                                                  | III.A, III C |
|                        |                                                                                                                             | <b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                     |              |
|                        |                                                                                                                             | <b>ORAL EXAM:</b>                                                     |              |
|                        |                                                                                                                             | <b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                    |              |



#### **COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

- Outside activities at the local market, city orientation.

#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

1. Textbook: Maria Balì, Luciana Ziglio, Nuovo Espresso 3, Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2015
2. Reading book: the professor will choose a different reading book with each student, according to the student's level, competences, interests and preferences.
3. The teacher will provide supplementary material during the course: games, readings, songs, exercises, etc.
4. A good pocket dictionary Italian/Italian is strongly recommended

#### **RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Baricco Alessandro, "Novecento", Feltrinelli, Milano, 1994
- Benni Stefano, "Di tutte le ricchezze", Feltrinelli, Milano, 2012
- D'Avenia Alessandro, "L'arte di essere fragili", Feltrinelli, Milano, 2016
- Andrea De Carlo, "Due di due", La nave di Teseo, Milano, 2019
- De Luca Erri, "Le regole dello Shanghai", Feltrinelli, Milano, 2023
- Ilaria Tuti, "Fiore di roccia", Longanesi, Milano, 2020