

IT205 INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN I

IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

The course is designed to meet the needs of intermediate students participating in a study abroad program. In this course the student will be able to express self in a broad array of scenarios talking about self or others with precision and with a large degree of understanding. The student will be able to correct own utterances to ensure a correct understanding. Grammar and vocabulary will always be presented and practice in a context which is meaningful to the students.

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. Increasingly, they will appreciate the value of these language and intercultural skills.

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

PREREQUISITES: Students typically will have completed 1 semester of Italian, determined by placement test.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 22

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 some of 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:

1. Intercultural Communication
 1. Students will be able to solve some daily troublesome situations and meet needs with limited help.
 2. Students will be able to make some informed comparisons between the host culture and the students' home cultures.
 3. Students will be able to distinguish between verbal and nonverbal communication that reflects politeness, formality, or informality.
 4. Students will be able to recognize simple patterns of intonation and their meaning.
2. Listening
 1. 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.
 2. Students will be able to understand direct requests, questions, and simple conversations on familiar and concrete topics.
3. Speaking
 1. 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.
 2. Students will be able to address moderately complicated situations involving familiar subjects.



4. Reading

1. 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.
2. 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.

5. Writing

1. Students will be able to communicate with some effectiveness through notes, emails, and simple online discussions and chats.
2. 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.

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. Students are expected to use only Italian during the class. 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.

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION:

"Pledge for Italian-only in class". Students are absolutely required not to speak any English in class. English could sometimes come into play (the teacher might use it) when necessary, in order to point out a contrastive analysis between Italian and English structures.

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 (presentation)	30%
Final exam	40%
Class engagement and homework	30%

Oral exam: students will be asked to present a relevant event happened during their internship in Milan.

Final exam: written exam which include sections dedicated to listening comprehension, dictation, multiple choice, fill in the blanks, logically ordering dialogues, reading comprehension, and writing.

Class engagement: 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.

Homework: Quizzes are due every Monday by 9:00 AM. Two attempts per quiz allowed, best attempt counts.

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	60-65.9	
F	0-59.9	Failing grade

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to be responsible for their own class attendance and to prioritize their academic responsibilities over other activities. Regular class attendance is mandatory.

IES Abroad Milan's policy allows a maximum of:

- **one (1) absence** in IT205, IT305 (Intermediate and Advanced Italian)

This margin is intended to be used for physical and mental health reasons. Every absence beyond this allowance will result in an automatic deduction of 5 percentage points from the final grade.

If a student accumulates:

- **four (4) absences** in IT205, IT305

An administrative review will be triggered, which may result in a failing grade, removal from the internship placement, and/or dismissal from the program.

CONTENT:

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.

Students will be required to **enter the Moodle course page on regular basis** 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.

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1 May 27th 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: nice to meet you! • Introducing yourself and your country • Order at an Italian bar • Using Italian out of class: colazione al bar	Quiz 1: Review pronunciation, greetings, introductory questions and answers, present tense of regular and irregular verbs Writing: introducing yourself
Session 2 June 3rd 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: past experiences • Listening: small talk about past events • Reading: blog posts about vacations • Speaking: describing a vacation • Writing: postcard	Quiz 2: Review Passato Prossimo: choice of the auxiliary, regular and irregular past participles Writing: Describing a vacation
Session 3 June 10th 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: explaining past habits • Reading: what IES students used to eat in Milano • Speaking: eating habits in my home country vs Italy • Writing: short paragraph about a relevant experience • Using Italian out of class: al supermercato	Quiz 3: Practice the forms and use of Imperfetto, time indicators, choosing between Passato Prossimo and Imperfetto Writing: questionnaire at the supermarket
Session 4 June 17th 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: talking about future projects • Listening: small talk about future projects • Speaking: foreseeing someone's future • Reading: future trends/ how people will dress in the future	Quiz 4: Practice regular and irregular forms of future tense and time indicators Oral production: interviewing an Italian colleague

Session 5 June 24th 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: giving advice and asking for help • Speaking: making polite requests / giving advice to future IES students • Reading: blog posts about things to do in Italy • Writing: short paragraph about things to do in Milan	Quiz 5: Practice regular and irregular forms of present conditional tense Writing: imagining a dream life in Milano
Session 6 July 1st 9:00-11:30am	Intercultural communication: speaking about what you liked and making comparisons • Listening: students comparing their countries • Writing: short paragraph about differences Italy/USA • Using Italian out of class: al mercato	Quiz 6: Practice indirect pronouns and piacere, practice minority, majority, and equality comparatives Writing: comparing a semester in Milano and in the US
Session 7 July 8th 9:00-11:30am	ORAL EXAM: PRESENTATIONS Revision • Using Italian out of class: in gelateria	Practicing for the Final exam
Final Exam July 15th 9:00am	FINAL EXAM	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Class material will be provided by the teacher or available on the Moodle course page. This may include articles, book extracts, grammar exercises, songs' lyrics, Italian movies, etc.

INSTRUCTOR'S BIO: Emanuela Tronconi studied Language and Cultural Mediation and she has a Master degree in Teaching Italian Language and Culture to Foreigners. She works as an Italian language teacher for international students, refugees, and private students.

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