



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 demanding, highly participatory course that rewards daily efforts by students. The pace is quick and lively: those who commit seriously to this adventure will be surprised with the outcomes 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 PRESENTATION:

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 in trying to use Italian only.

PREREQUISITES: 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve some 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.

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 emailed by the teacher after each class. Homework is not graded, unless differently specified, but it contributes to determine the participation grade.

Students are always required to be up-to-date with class work. They must read about homework and material assigned or covered in class by linking 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 all of the information about the material covered. In the case of an absence, assignments due must be submitted on the date assigned via email.

- Final Test Intensive – 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%

On request, after completion of the Midterm exam, students will receive information on their grade breakdown, and they'll discuss it with the teacher.



A 100-93: excellent performance

B+ 89-88: good performance

B- 82-80: more than adequate performance

C 77-73: adequate performance

D 69-60: inadequate performance

A- 92-90: very good performance

B 87-83: nearly good performance

C+ 79-78: adequate performance

C- 72-70: not completely adequate performance

F 59 and below: really unsatisfactory performance

CONTENT:

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

Week	Content	Assignments	Corresponding Learning Outcome(s)
Intensive Course			
Week 1	1. 1. Functional: asking questions, introducing yourself 2. 2. Grammatical: alphabet, numbers, to be, to have, pronunciation, definite and indefinite articles, gender and number of nouns and adjectives 3. 3. Vocabulary: basic everyday vocabulary, and most famous Italian words and expressions 4. 4. Culture: Al bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 1, 2, 3 Exercises to practice on formulating first questions, and basic structures useful for elementary conversations in everyday situations. 	la, lc, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
Week 2	1. Functional: talking about yourself and your free time 2. Grammatical: present tense 3. Vocabulary: free time and hobbies 4. Culture: Italian cuisine COOKING CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 2, 3, 4 Exercises to practice on verbs and different actions, and to describe people, things and places. 	la, Id, IIb, IIIa, IVa, Va
Week 3	1. Functional: describing actions, expressing tastes 2. Grammatical: irregular verbs and verb piacere present tense 3. Vocabulary: times and parts of the day 4. Culture: I gesti – WORKSHOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 2, 3, 4, 8 Describing actions and preferences. Talking about your daily routine. Final Test Intensive 	la, lb, Id, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
General Course			
Week 4	1. Functional: talking about past events 2. Grammatical: introduction to present perfect 3. Vocabulary: weather, time expressions 4. Culture: geography of Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 7 Exercises to reinforce the description of past events. Oral Exam INTERVIEW 	la, IIb, IIIa, IVa, IVb, Va
Week 5	1. Functional: talking about past events 2. Grammatical: present perfect 3. Vocabulary: holidays 4. Culture: Italian facts and figures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 7 Exercises to reinforce the description of past events. 	la, IIb, IIIa, IVa, IVb, Va
Week 6	1. Functional: planning vacations 2. Grammatical: prepositions 3. Vocabulary: at the hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 5 	la, Id, Ila, IIIa, IVa, Va

	4. Culture: planning an holiday in Italy / tourists in Milan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercises on useful vocabulary for going on holiday. 	
Week 7	1. MIDTERM REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIDTERM 	
Week 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: asking and giving directions Grammatical: use of prepositions Vocabulary: the city Culture: Italian Movie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 6 Exercises to become familiar with the vocabulary for getting around the city. 	la, Id, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, Va
Week 9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: going grocery shopping Grammatical: direct pronouns. Vocabulary: food Culture: the Italian supermarket. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 10 Exercises on useful vocabulary for going to the supermarket. 	la, Ic, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb
Week 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: talking about family Grammatical: possessive adjectives Vocabulary: the family Culture: Italian festivities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 9 Describing your family. 	la, Ib, Id, Ila, IIIa, IVa, IVb, Va
Week 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: comparing things, people and situations Grammatical: comparatives and superlatives Vocabulary: more adjectives Culture: Italians vs Americans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 13 Reinforcing the ability to describe and practice short conversations. 	la, Ib, Id, Ila, IIIa, IVa, Va
Week 12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: talking about yourself, tastes and preferences in present and past tense Grammatical: verb piacere Vocabulary: verb piacere and related vocabulary Culture: Italian stereotypes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 10 Activities to reinforce writing skills. Oral Exam SKITS 	la, Ib, Id, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb
Week 13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Functional: using pronouns Grammatical: indirect pronouns Vocabulary: clothing Culture: Milanese fashion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N.E. Lezione 11 Reinforcing the ability to describe and practice short conversations. Video Assignment 	la, Ic, Ila, IIIa, IIIb, IVa, IVb, Vb
Week 14	1. Final Review		

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend classes each day, including course-related excursions. IES ABROAD MILANO allows a maximum of TWO 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 the two excused absences) will result in a failing grade for that course. Furthermore, 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. It is your responsibility to manage your absences during the term. If you are sick, you will need to apply your absence to the two excused absences allowed for the term. If you use up your two excused absences for personal travel and then are sick at the end of the semester, those sick days will not be excused. Please plan wisely!

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- L. Ziglio – G. Rizzo, New Italian Espresso 1, Alma edizioni + workbook (handed out in class by the teacher).



- Supplementary material will be provided by the teacher or available on the Moodle course page. This may include: games, readings, songs' lyrics, Italian movies, extra exercises, etc.