



IT 102 ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE IN CONTEXT: NOVICE ABROAD II

IES Abroad Milan

DESCRIPTION:

It 102 reviews and expands the very basic structures of the language. This course is focused for the main part on speaking and listening skills, and its pace is quick and lively. It is based on a communicative and direct approach to the language, which makes it challenging and highly participatory.

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 are available in your native language in the textbooks at the IES library, and may always be asked the instructor outside of class during her office hours. In class, concentrate on learning Italian in Italian. Your learning process will be faster.

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*. They should be able to express themselves on a variety of concrete, everyday topics and meet their basic needs in the language. 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. 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.

CREDITS: 6

CONTACT HOURS: 90

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: Italian

Pledge for Italian Only: Students in this class formally commit themselves to the use of only the Italian language when speaking or writing to the instructor and/or classmates, especially after the first 2 weeks of the intensive course. The instructor may at times use English or allow students to use their mother tongue only 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.

Attempted target language use will be considered very positively, while the consistent use of English will have a negative impact on the participation grade (see rubric). Please note that mistakes made in the target language during class activities will not affect the grade. The effort to use Italian in class will always be rewarded in terms of credit.

Please note: mobile phones and/or laptops can be used in class only for consulting online dictionaries. The use of these devices for personal reasons is not allowed in class.

PREREQUISITES:

Completion of Italian 100 or IES Abroad 101 – outcomes determined by placement test and to be confirmed by the teacher during the first week of the intensive course. Students that have some knowledge of basic Italian structures are welcome even though they have not taken a specific college course.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

Students may be required to spend approximately 10 – 15€ for the purchase of Theater/Exhibition tickets



METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

The approach to learning is communicative and direct, designed for an immediate use of the Italian language. In class, students are asked to repeat and reuse new language expressions in different situations so that at the end of the lesson they can observe the way the language works and then find out the basic grammar rule on their own. This way, the learning process is stimulating for students who are never considered as passive recipients, but as active users of the language for their immediate needs. The instructor will always help during the process and will give you time to find the right answer. During class activities, students will often work in pairs or in 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 toward learning the language while reducing anxiety; students can help each other to succeed before surrendering and asking the teacher for assistance.

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to achieve some of the outcomes for the Novice Abroad II 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 simple everyday needs using verbal and nonverbal communication and they will be able to use compensatory strategies when they do not know the work or expression (repetition, talking around the point, body language, etc.).
 - B) Students can recognize some 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 are differences between cultural stereotypes and generalizations between the home culture and the culture of the host country
 - E) Students will start to make informed comparisons between the host culture and the home culture
- II. Listening
 - A) Students will be able to understand basic statements, requests, descriptions, and questions in specific cultural context relevant to them (interactions with hosts, Center interactions, studying, shopping, transportation, meals).
 - B) Students will be able to sue context to understand the gist of some simple spoken language they overhear, including the media, conversations between others, and announcements.
- III. Speaking
 - A) Students will be able to use simple phrases appropriately in everyday situations (home, the IES Abroad Center, the community).
 - B) Students will be able to express many simple needs by asking questions and get what they need in uncomplicated, everyday situations
- IV. Reading
 - A) Students will be able to identify and understand many simple sentences and deduce some meaning from context if it is relevant to their studies
 - B) Students will be able to interpret main ideas in short passages and in news headlines if they are relevant to them
- V. Writing
 - A) Students will be able to write short texts about simple and concrete topics they have studied, such as themselves, their families, their friends, their likes and dislikes, their plans, experiences, and their daily routines.
 - B) Students will be able to send simple emails, text messages, online posts, and postcards and fill out simple forms.



REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Students are required to enter the Moodle course page daily in order to access activities to be completed and any other material and/or information on the course.

- A) Intensive Course
 - Test – 5%
 - Final Exam – 15%
- B) General Course
 - Class participation, preparation, and assignments – 20%
 - 3 Intercultural Oral Presentations/Projects – 15%
 - Quiz + Oral Skits – 10%
 - Midterm Exam – 15%
 - Final Exam – 20%

This course rewards students that work consistently. In order to reach very good/excellent results in this course, after every class or, at the latest, the day before class, students are required to:

- 1) Review, memorize, and repeat aloud the material presented in class (for ex. Dialogues, vocab, etc.)
- 2) Write down/reorganize/learn new vocab and/or grammar rule
- 3) Thoroughly and carefully complete all assignments posted on Moodle by the professor

Written and oral assignments play a significant part in your learning process. Practice in and out of the class represents a guarantee of success in the course. Furthermore, uncompleted homework would hinder group work with your classmates and slow the pace of the entire class. Homework is not graded, unless otherwise specified. Its completion will be considered positively as a part of the participation grade. Homework will be corrected and monitored by the teacher in class. If it is unsatisfactory or denotes inaccuracy, sloppiness, lack of academic rigor or seriousness, students may be required to revise it and hand it in again. Uncompleted or unsatisfactory homework will result in the loss of 5 points per assignment out of the grade referring to Participation. Workload at home: 1 hour on average.

Students are always required to be up-to-date with classwork. They must read about homework and material assigned or covered in class by accessing the class web page (Moodle) on a daily basis and/or by asking a classmate/the professor – especially if they miss a class. In this case, it is their precise responsibility to obtain all the information about the material covered. In the case of an absence, assignments must be submitted the following class or sent via e-mail for correction. Exams will cover all the material explained/discussed in class, including vocab and homework.

Students will watch two Italian movies: 1 at the theater/cinema, 1 on DVD among the titles recommended by the professor. Home assignments will follow.

In order to receive an excellent grade in Participation, students are required to:

- Attend class regularly
- Be on time
- Participate lively in all activities (if you are shy, do not worry, you can always express yourself during activities in pairs)
- Help other students whenever possible (excluding exams and quizzes)
- Be attentive, proactive, and well-prepared (come to class with homework fully completed)
- Speak Italian during all activities, unless otherwise specified by the instructor
- Show consistent effort and commitment to improve and use the language
- Ask questions for clarification
- Suggest activities, especially during intercultural projects
- Come to class with enthusiasm

Grades will not be curved and will be determined according to the following scale:

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| A 100 – 93: Excellent Performance | C+ 79 – 78: Adequate Performance |
| A- 92 – 90: Very Good Performance | C 77 – 73: Adequate Performance |

B+ 89 – 88: Good Performance

B 87 – 83: Nearly Good Performance

B- 82 – 80: More than adequate performance

C- 72 – 70: Not completely adequate performance

D 69 – 60: Inadequate performance

F 59 and below: Really Unsatisfactory performance

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
INTENSIVE COURSE		
Week 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Communication in class, formal and informal greetings, asking basic questions, introducing oneself, ordering at a bar 2. Grammatical: Alphabet, to be, to have (+ expressions), definite and indefinite articles, gender and number of nouns and adjectives, basic use of prepositions, dates, interrogative pronouns, present tense. Pronunciation. 3. Vocabulary: Basic everyday vocabulary, number (1-30), colors, fruit and vegetables, nationalities, bar, days of the week 4. Culture: Formality, food, stores, bar, restaurant, Milan and the surrounding areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercises and activities from <i>Contatto</i> (Textbook 1), Unit 1 (+ pg. 76 – 82, if possible) • Oral practice: <i>Facilissimo</i> (Textbook 2) • Online material and Moodle page • Visit to the Open Market • Course-related Trip to an Italian High School. Class-time.
Week 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Making hotel reservations, asking the time, asking simple information for traveling/public services 2. Grammatical: Present tense (main irregular verbs + reflexive forms), there is/are. Pronunciation. 3. Vocabulary: Numbers (30 – 100), stores, months, time, parts of the day, professions 4. Culture: Overview of Italian school system, main Italian cities. Traveling by train 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercises and activities from Unit 2 (+ Unit 3 pg. 59 -65, 85 – 86, if time allows) • Oral practice • Online material on Moodle page • Oral Interview/Listening/ Mock test for practice
Week 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Talking about habitual daily actions and free time, making a simple request, expressing likes and dislikes 2. Grammatical: Irregular verbs, reflexive verbs, possessive adjectives and pronouns. Pronunciation. 3. Vocabulary: Family, adverbs or frequency 4. Culture: Italians during their free time. Sport. Workshop on gestures held by a theater actress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook A1, Unit 2 - 3 • Oral practice • Handouts • Course-related trip to Eataly (Cooking class) • Workshop on gestures • Final Exam for Intensive
GENERAL COURSE		
Week 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Correction of the exam. 	

	Extra practice if the case. Consolidation if necessary.	
Week 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Talking about free time, expressing likes and dislikes. 2. Grammatical: reinforce the use of PIACERE and Past tense (irregular). Introd. to Possessives. 3. Vocabulary: food and religion. Public holidays. 4. Culture: Public and religious holidays in Italy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 7-8+ handouts
Week 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: describing family tree, talking about family habits 2. Grammar: Possessives 3. Vocabulary & Communicative Outcomes: family. 4. Culture: relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 9
Week 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: creating a shopping list, indicating quantities, talking about recipes 2. Grammar: direct pronouns, partitive use of DI. Ne pronoun. 3. Vocabulary & Communicative Outcomes: measurement units, food packaging. 4. Culture: Italian recipes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 10 • Oral skits • Quiz • Course-related trip
Week 8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midterm review 2. Extra activities 3. Midterm Exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam
Week 9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ITALIAN MOVIE 2. Grammar: Introduction to future. 3. Vocabulary: Introduction to clothing, style. 4. Culture: School grading system. Italy vs USA, differences and similarities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts and unit 11
Week 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intercultural presentations. 5-10 min. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written report. 300 handwritten words to be turned in, please use "your" Italian, not "Internet Italian." - Oral report <p>Topic: an EU city you visited during the break or over a weekend. Italian cities are more appreciated. Please: present less known cities like Matera, not Rome, Florence, Venice, Catania, Parma. Presentations in PPT must include information and images about at least 5 of the following topics: history, monuments, geography, cuisine, traditions/celebrations, important/relevant businesses, economics</p> <p>Opportunity for extra credit (0-2 points on the final course grade) if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) you interview an Italian friend on the city and report relevant information to the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 11

	<p>or 2) you give information about more than 5 topics. It is not possible to read the text during presentations. An Eng-Ita glossary is recommended. The glossary can be reported on slides.</p> <p>2. Fashion, clothes, shopping. Future tense. Colors</p>	
Week 11	<p>1. 6 Intercultural presentations</p> <p>2. Functional: Talking about remembrance, describing people, buying clothes.</p> <p>3. Grammar: Imperfetto Mode (1).</p> <p>4. Vocabulary: adjectives to describe the physical aspect. Clothes. Pronunciation.</p> <p>5. Culture: shopping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 11-12
Week 12	<p>1. Functional: Talking about remembrance, describing people, making comparisons.</p> <p>2. Grammar: Imperfetto Mode (2).</p> <p>3. Vocabulary: adjectives to describe the personality.</p> <p>4. Style. Pronunciation.</p> <p>5. Culture: Italian brands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 12-13
Week 13	<p>1. Extra oral activities, review, consolidation</p>	
Week 14	<p>1. Review and Final Exam</p>	

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes, including course-related trips. 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) may 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 or reschedule such tests. Failure to attend your Midterm and/or Final Exam will result in an F grade on that paper/exam. As stated before, scheduled exams cannot be made up or rescheduled. 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:

- Textbook 1: Bozzone C.R., Ghezzi C., Piantoni M., *Nuovo Contatto A1* + material on website, 2014, Ed. Loescher
- Textbook 2: *Facilissimo* (oral practice and conversation), ALMA.
- A binder and/or a folder for organizing handouts
- A pocket medium-size (min. 40,000 words) Italian-English dictionary (Merriam Webster's, Collins)
- A small phone-book to create your own glossaries
- Supplementary material will be provided by the teacher or will be available on the Moodle course page. This may include games, readings, song lyrics, listening exercises, Italian movies, etc.

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

Course-related trips are an integral part of the course. During the semester, students will be asked to visit places of interest on their own and complete assignments in pairs/groups. Field studies are based on the interaction with native Italian speakers. Following field studies, students will be asked to write and/or discuss the activity in class. Possible course-related trips: Open market, supermarket, State University, San Bernardino and San Maurizio Churches, High School, Cooking Class, Movies Theater, Exhibitions.



INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Have you been to the popular San Siro Stadium for an Inter-Milan AC match? Film your experience and make the whole class participate! Intercultural competence is one of the most relevant skills when learning a foreign language and intercultural activities are unique opportunities to improve your language level using direct experiences from real life in Italy. Students are required to participate in, and report on, no less than three extracurricular activities. Hints will be provided in class or posted on the course Moodle page. Activities must be present during a 5-10 minute oral presentation with the support of a self-made video and/or photos and a glossary of new words/expressions. Presentations will not be graded. They will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis and will account for 15% of the grade (see “Required Work and Form of Assessment” above). If the presentations are unsatisfactory or denotes sloppiness, lack of academic rigor or seriousness, the teacher may ask the student to organize another presentation or write an essay in order to receive all the points. A more detailed explanation will be given in class. Excellent presentations may gain extra points.