

IT 105: BEGINNING ITALIAN I
Fondazione IES Abroad Italy: Rome

DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to meet the needs of beginner students participating in a study abroad program. The course will introduce the students to the most frequent everyday situations to facilitate their ability to communicate and function in a new environment. Grammar and vocabulary will always be presented, analyzed and practiced 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:

This course is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of Italian.

By the end of the course, students 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 Italian culture as described in the learning outcomes below.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: Italian

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

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.

Starting from the first week and throughout the rest of the course students will be assigned various "on site" interactive activities, to encourage them to use the language in practical situations, to interact with locals and with their Italian student companions in order to find out about Italian lifestyle and culture.

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.

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.

- Class participation, engagement and homework (including field studies and use of the online Moodle page) – 30%
- 1 Quiz - 5%
- Oral competence, including two oral tests - 30%

- Midterm exam - 15%
- Final exam - 20%.

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including field studies. If a student misses more than one classes in this course, 2 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical emergencies or family emergencies. IES will only consider extreme emergency cases and will strictly adhere to this policy.

CONTENT:

WEEKS	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENT	CORRESPONDING LEARNING OUTCOME(S)
1	(Unit 01: "Bella festa, vero?")	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: 	I.A, I.C, II.A, III.A,

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Greetings (formal/informal), introducing yourself, asking for information about someone. 2. Grammatical: <i>Essere, avere</i> and <i>chiamarsi</i>, alphabet, phonetic, personal pronouns, adjectives of nationality, question words. 3. Vocabulary: Useful class language, greetings, numbers and euro. 4. Culture: Getting to know the Italians. 	<p>My Identity card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor activity: Treasure hunt around IES 	IV. B, V.A
2	<p>(Unit 02: "Vorrei un'informazione")</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Making a polite request, asking for information 2. Grammatical: regular verbs, nouns and adjectives, articles. 3. Vocabulary: The city. 4. Culture: Moving in Rome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video assignment: Amici • QUIZ 1 	
3	<p>(Unit 03: "Che cosa fai oggi?")</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Talking about daily activities, talking about leisure time. 2. Grammatical: adverbs of frequency, some irregular verbs. 3. Vocabulary: free time activities and days of the week. 4. Culture: Italians and leisure time. 	MIDTERM EXAM Oral presentation 1	
4	<p>(Unit 4: Tu che cosa prendi?)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Communicating in a restaurant, expressing likes and dislikes. 2. Grammatical: modal verbs, the verb <i>piacere</i>. 3. Vocabulary: food and course. 5. Culture: The biggest mistakes about Italian food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Field Study Eatery</i> 	I.A, I.C, I.D, II.A, II.B, III.B, IV.A
5	<p>(Unit 5: "Scusi, dov'è la fermata dell'autobus?")</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functional: Talking about past events and experiences. 2. Grammatical: <i>Passato prossimo</i>, adverbs of time. 3. Vocabulary: travelling, geography 4. Culture: Traveling through Italy and Europe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition: My study abroad experience 	I.A, I.B, I.C, II.A, II.B, III.A, III.B, IV.B, V.B
6	FINAL EXAM	Oral presentation 2	

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Nuovo Contatto A1. Corso di lingua e civiltà italiana per stranieri, by Bozzone Costa, Ghezzi, Piantoni – Loescher 2014.
- Supplementary materials (handouts, pictures, readings, videos and films scenes, song lyrics, games, etc.) will be provided by the teacher or available on the Moodle course page.