

Elementary Italian II (ITAL 0102)

Syllabus

Summer in Rome 2018 | University of Pittsburgh

Instructor Information

Melissa Demos

Course days/time

MTWH 9.15 - 11.00

Email

MND21@pitt.edu

Office Location & Hours

@Italiaidea - by appointment

<http://courseweb.pitt.edu>

Benvenuti a Roma!

Welcome back to the Italian Program in the Department of French and Italian! We are glad that you have chosen to continue to study Italian with us. Please refer to this syllabus for explanations of our department's policies and resources.

General Information

Description

Our goal in the French and Italian language programs is to guide you in the **development of speaking and literacy skills in Italian through the communicative acts of reading, writing, listening, and creating discourse around texts of all types**. We want you to develop to the greatest possible extent a competency in comprehending and producing both spoken and written Italian, as well as sociocultural competency in communicating with people who speak it.

Expectations and Goals

The main focus of class-time is on communication, and we strive for **maximum use of Italian in the classroom**. Because you might have limited opportunities to speak or hear Italian outside of class, classroom time is devoted to help develop your competency in these areas. This means that **your instructor will speak only Italian to you during class, and you will be expected to do the same with your instructor and classmates**. Should you need additional explanations or wish to discuss matters not directly related to course content, your instructor will be happy to speak to you in English before or after class and during office hours.

The goals of this course are:

- Speak Italian well enough to **describe, narrate, and ask/answer questions** in the present, past, and future tenses about a variety of topics related to your daily activities and pastimes.
- **Comprehend Italian with sufficient ability** to grasp the main idea and some supporting details in short conversations (spontaneous or recorded) that pertain to the topics mentioned above.
- **Read and understand the main idea and some details** of materials (both literary and non-literary) about a variety of topics.
- **Write sentences and short paragraphs** on familiar topics relating to personal interests and practical needs.
- Continue to develop an **awareness of Italian culture**.
- Continue to **understand how on a basic level Italian functions** as a language

Much of the responsibility of learning a language falls on you, the student. A large part of your grade is based on **attendance and participation**. Because it is not realistic to expect to communicate in a new language if you are not physically present to practice it, it is essential that you attend class regularly, even if you do not feel prepared for that day's activities. In general, I expect students to:

- Come to every class or communicate regarding absences in a timely manner (before class)
- Turn in homework and other assignments on time
- Come to class prepared, having read all required texts and completed all assignments
- Communicate any difficulties that you are having in class with me

Students should expect me to:

- Provide a dynamic and engaging classroom environment
- Grade all homework and assignments in a timely manner
- Respond to emails within 24 hours
- Communicate expectations and provide rubrics for major assessments before their due date

Finally, a note about digital media. Because there is no required textbook for this class, it is up to you, the student, to check Courseweb regularly to find your homework for the week. If you have any questions about any assignment, please contact me as soon as possible at MND21@pitt.edu.

Course Materials

Required Materials

There is no required textbook for this class. All grammar explanations, some vocabulary, and practice (ungraded) homework assignments can be found at www.pittitalian0002.squarespace.com. This site is divided by weeks in our academic year. I expect that you will read/watch all materials for any given week on this site **before coming to class**. Courseweb will be used to post materials, keep track of your grades and will be used to communicate with students via email. You will also find the syllabus on Courseweb.

Progetti: Each *progetto* is a task- and content-based assignment that demonstrates your knowledge on a particular subject. Each *progetto* will also have a grammatical focal point. Pitt in Italy *progetti* consist of a written component as well as an oral presentation in class. A description of the *progetti* can be found on Courseweb, along with their accompanying grading rubrics.

Diario & Glossario: In a notebook your instructor will provide you'll keep a *diario*, a weekly diary. There will be **five entries in all, due every Monday** at the beginning of class; all entries must be in Italian and may be handwritten or typed. Please see Courseweb for a detailed description of the *diario* assignments. In the same notebook, you'll keep a *glossario* where you can record new vocabulary that you pick up during your daily life in Italy and/or come across in your leisure or in reading assignments. When you see or hear an unfamiliar word, write it down so that you may later look up its meaning or ask your favorite Roman ☺. The *glossario* will be collected at the beginning of each week together with the *diario*, must contain **at least 25 new words and their definitions** (in Italian).

Optional Materials

If you would really like to have a more traditional book to study on your own time, we recommend the book *Using Italian* (Kinder & Savini, 2004). There are also many excellent online dictionaries that you should explore. A full list with links will be posted on Courseweb and on the Pitt Italian 0001 site.

Course Schedule

See our course website at www.pittitalian0002.squarespace.com for full descriptions of weekly objectives. Here, "Online" means that there are online practice (ungraded) exercises linked on the Pitt Italian 0002 site. Quizzes are posted on Courseweb and are to be completed by Friday of the week indicated below (these may also be given in class). "Progetti" (projects) are longer homework assignments and concrete due dates will be given in class. All other assessments are regular homework assignments given in class. See Courseweb for complete information on all assignments including detailed directions, grading rubrics, and due dates.

| Week | Topic | Reading | Text / Assessments |
|------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Review Irregular nouns & adjectives Comparing and contrasting | Week 1/2/3 on the site | Online, Quiz 1 |
| 2 | Family, holidays, traditions | Week 4/5 on the site | Online, Progetto 1 |
| 3 | Traveling around Italy | Week 6/7 on the site | Online, Quiz 2 |
| 4 | Stories and storytellers | Week 9/10 | Online, Progetto 2 |
| 5 | Technology and mass media | Week 11/12 on the site | Online, Quiz 3 |
| 6 | Review for the final exam | | Online, Final June 21, 2018 |

Evaluation breakdown

Grades

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm | 20% |
| Final | 20% |
| Quizzes (6) | 15% |
| Speaking Assessments (Extempore) | 15% |
| Homework/Participation | 15% |
| Progetti (Projects) | 15% |

Grading Scale

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A+ 98% | B+ 88% | C+ 78% | D+ 68% |
| A 93% | B 83% | C 73% | D 63% |
| A- 90% | B- 80% | C- 70% | D- 60% |

F 59% or lower

How to Succeed in this Class

1. Come to class every day.

There is no substitute for coming to class. This is why attendance and participate are so heavily weighted in this course. We have three hours, three days a week, to work on your Italian skills face-to-face. Make the most of this time by coming to class prepared, participating as much as possible, and being a helpful classmate to your fellow students. Decades of research has shown that this is the most effective way to learn a second language in the classroom.

2. Keep up with your homework.

This course is designed to make maximum use of the Italian language in the classroom. You will be doing most of the work in the classroom, and your instructor will be there to help and guide you. To do well in this course, you must come to class prepared. Using the tools on the site will help you do better in class and on exams.

3. Ask questions.

Learning a new language is difficult and sometimes confusing. Along the way, you will find yourself asking questions like, "Why did they use this word and not that word?" or "How do I pronounce this?" or "Why is that verb ending like that?" These are all great questions, and we encourage you to ask as many questions as it takes for you to understand what is going on (in and out of the classroom) and how you are doing. There are no stupid questions when learning a language. Sometimes a question like "What does that mean?" makes all the difference in a conversation.

4. Practice, practice, practice.

You will practice Italian in class, but we encourage you to practice outside of class as well. Listen to music (a playlist is posted on the Italian 0001 site), watch TV (www.rai.it is a good place to start), change your Facebook/Instagram/Animal Crossing Pocket Camp settings to Italian, set your browser's homepage to an Italian newspaper, go on Pinterest and search "Italian vocabulary". You will find a wealth of information out there. The more exposure to the language, the better!

5. Get messy.

There is a great deal of research that shows that making mistakes is an essential part of the language learning process. Don't be afraid to make mistakes (we all do). Use your mistakes (and the mistakes of others) as "learning moments". To do this, note what went wrong and how the mistake was fixed. The more you practice, the more mistakes you make, the more you notice correct usage, the better your Italian gets. Despite what you might think, your instructor is not constantly evaluating you in class. We will not throw chalk at you if you make a mistake. We know that mistakes are part of the language learning process, and in our assessments of your work, we will take this into consideration.

6. Trust the process.

Sometimes you may find yourself frustrated. The material is going too quickly, you are learning the material too slowly, you don't understand why you need to do this certain homework assignment, you hate group work. You will enjoy many parts of this class (after all, we teach Italian because we love the language, deeply appreciate Italian culture, and want to share our enthusiasm with you), but other parts may not be so enjoyable. We ask you to trust the process of learning a second language. We hate pointless busy work, so please know that every assignment, quiz, and project are designed to help you practice or hone a particular skill. Often these objectives are stated in the directions or on the grading rubric, but if you want to know more about any particular assignment, please just ask!

Additional Information and Resources

Cell phone/laptop policy

Cell phones should be switched off at the beginning of class, unless your instructor asks you to use them. **You are not permitted to make or take calls, text, or otherwise use your phone during class time.** Your participation grade may be negatively affected should you choose to do so. Laptops may only be used to take notes, at the permission of your instructor.

Placement Exam

If you have not previously taken Italian courses at the University of Pittsburgh *and* have some knowledge of Italian, you are required to take a placement exam before registering in this course. If you have taken a placement exam recently and were placed into this course, please contact your instructor to confirm that this level is appropriate for you. Please contact your instructor if you have any questions regarding this information.

Participation

Since participation is a large component of your final grade in this course (20%), your daily efforts to arrive punctually, come to class prepared, and participate in all class activities are essential. **Outstanding participation** is defined as habitually arriving for class on time, always listening attentively when others speak, asking pertinent questions, volunteering in all activities, participating in all activities with enthusiasm, and responding to questions from others. **Average participation** is defined as occasionally arriving late to class, sometimes listening to others when they speak, sometimes asking questions, participating in some activities, occasionally contributing to group activities, and occasionally responding to questions. **Unacceptable participation** is defined as often arriving late to class, not listening when others speak, seldom asking questions, not contributing much to group work, and seldom responding to questions. Your instructor will keep track of your participation and will keep you informed of your progress in this area. The grading rubric will be posted on Courseweb.

Cultural Assignment

As part of your participation grade, you will be required to complete one or more cultural activities that are relevant to your Italian course. Your instructor will provide you with a list of activities that may fulfill this requirement. These activities may be a lecture, film viewing.

Extra Credit

We do not offer extra credit in any of our Italian 0002 classes.

Assignments and Quizzes

All homework must be handed in on time. Quizzes will be given in class or on Courseweb on a regular basis to check your progress. Your instructor will not accept late work unless there are extenuating, documented circumstances. Always communicate such circumstances as soon as possible to your instructor.

Attendance

Because of the communicative nature of this course, its brevity and its intensive nature, your daily attendance is expected. In case of illness, contact your professor immediately.

Tests

Students are expected to complete all quizzes and exams in class on the days they are given. All students must take the final exam during the on the last day of class.

Classroom Recording Policy

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Email Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address.

Your instructor will do his/her best to respond to your emails within 24 hours of receiving them.

Student Evaluations of this Course (OMET)

The Department of French and Italian greatly values student feedback. The OMET online evaluations are the primary tool we use to assess instructors and evaluate courses. These evaluations are used to develop and improve curricular design and instructional efficacy. In addition, OMETs are shared with upper level administration when deciding on contract renewal, promotion, awards, tenure, etc. We thank you for taking the time to provide thoughtful and constructive feedback. Whether in the Language Media Center or in the regular classroom, OMETs will be conducted during class time towards the end of the semester; however, students may opt to complete the OMET online after the link becomes live on my.pitt.edu. There is no penalty for students who opt not to take the OMET.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious ethical matter and an infraction of University Policy. Students should familiarize themselves with both the University Policy on Academic Integrity (available at <http://www.as.pitt.edu/fac/policies/academic-integrity>) and the Department of French and Italian Plagiarism Policy (<http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/undergraduate/plagiarism.php>). Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Use of human or online translators (i.e. Google Translate)
2. Unauthorized editorial help (asking a friend in an upper level course for help)
3. Unattributed use of an author's ideas (theft of intellectual property)
4. Unattributed use of an author's words (lack of proper citation)

Any student who plagiarizes will be immediately reported to the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies charged with matters of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for first-time violations typically result in a '0' or an 'F' grade for the assignment. Second violations may result in a failing grade for the course and expulsion from the University. Please do not hesitate to contact your instructor or the Language Program Coordinator, Lorraine Denman (denman@pitt.edu), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources Services (DRS; www.drs.pitt.edu), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as soon as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

If you are having trouble in class

If, for any reason, you are having trouble in this class, please **first talk to your instructor**. Remember that your instructor is here to facilitate your learning, and that they want to help you. Your instructor can talk to you during office hours and/or via email to give you tips on how to do better, how to study Italian more effectively, and answer any questions that you may have about class. Remember that you can always visit any of our instructors' office hours, and these are always posted on the door of 1317 G CL for your referral. Alternatively, you can contact the Italian Language Program Coordinator, Lorraine Denman at denman@pitt.edu or come to her office hours.

If you are having problems with anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, or other mental wellness issues, you can visit or call the [University Counseling Center](#) for a free and confidential appointment. They also offer group therapy and support groups for students dealing with grief, social anxiety, trauma, and a variety of other issues. Call them at 412-648-7930 for an appointment or stop by their office in Nordenberg Hall. Other ways to deal with stress and anxiety on campus include the [Stress Free Zone](#), located on the 3rd floor of the William Pitt Union. They offer a variety of classes, one-on-one appointments, and space where you can meditate, practice yoga, etc. They, too, can provide you with strategies to better cope with the stresses of college life.