

## ITALIAN 301

### PATHWAYS TO FLUENCY

The Pennsylvania State University  
Fall 2018

**Prof. Michele Rossi**



#### **Contacts and Information**

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30pm-3:30pm, and by appointment

#### **Course Description**

IT301 is designed to bridge the gap between the basic Italian language program and literature and culture courses taught in Italian at the 300 and 400 level. You will continue to develop your language and communication skills but you will also be exposed to new aspects of Italian culture through authentic readings. These readings will introduce a range of social, cultural and historical issues that will be further explored through film, music, art images, and online resources. In this class we will deal with a variety of topics (stereotypes associated to Italians, art, music, cinema, contemporary current events and issues in Italy: immigration, racism, integration, feminism, new kinds of families, etc.) and authentic materials (newspaper articles, current events essays, songs, movies...). Your linguistic skills will continue to improve and you will be propelled forward, drawn ever deeper into Italian language and culture. Buon viaggio!

**The class will be taught in Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 3.**

### Required texts:

- Handouts, Worksheets and other material provided on ANGEL
- A good dictionary (italiano-inglese, inglese-italiano), for example, Webster's New World Italian Dictionary (Concise edition), ed. C. E. Love (New York: Wiley, 1992)

**All the readings will be posted on Canvas. You must read the assigned texts before class.**

### Recommended texts:

- Adorni, S., Primorac, K., et al., English Grammar for Students of Italian (Olivia & Hill Press, 2nd edition, 1994)
- Danesi, M., Complete Italian Grammar Review (New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2006)
- Danesi, M., Italian Vocabulary (New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2012)
- Duggan, Christopher. A Concise History of Italy (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994, 2013)
- A good elementary/intermediate Italian textbook

### Course Movie:

- *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* (Pif, 2014)

## Course Requirements

- **Attendance (5%).** Class participation constitutes a substantial part of your final grade (see below), and you cannot participate in class unless you are present. **You are not permitted to miss class** with the exception of absences due to officially documented, university-approved curricular and extracurricular activities. 4 late arrivals (or two late arrivals of 15 minutes or more) are equivalent to one absence. **You are responsible for all material covered in class, regardless of whether you are present.** If you do miss class, you should get in touch with your instructor or a classmate as soon as possible to find out what assignments you missed. Absence from class is NOT an excuse for the late submission of work; it should be recognized that not all work can be "made-up" and that absences can affect student performance in a class. **If an evaluative event will be missed due to an unavoidable absence, you must contact your instructor as soon as the unavoidable absence is known to discuss ways to make up the work. An instructor might not consider an unavoidable absence legitimate if you do not contact the instructor beforehand.** Students will be held responsible for using only *legitimate, unavoidable reasons* for requesting a make-up in the event of a missed class or evaluative event ([Policy 42-27](#)). Requests for missing class or an evaluative event due to reasons that are based on false claims may be considered violations of the policy on Academic Integrity ([Policy 49-20](#)). **You are required to provide verification from University Health Services or outside clinicians for significant prolonged illnesses or injuries resulting in absences from classes.**

Extended Absences: During your enrollment at Penn State, unforeseen challenges may arise. If you ever need to miss an extended amount of class in such a circumstance, please notify your professor so you can determine the best course of action to make up missed work. If your situation rises to a level of difficulty you cannot manage on your own with faculty

support, reach out to the Student Care & Advocacy office by phone at (814-863-2020) or email them at [StudentCare@psu.edu](mailto:StudentCare@psu.edu). Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Preparation & In-class Participation (25%).** Class participation is vital in order to complete successfully this course, and you will be graded weekly. Highest grades are earned by students who come to class regularly (see the Attendance Policy above), participate actively, and are well prepared every time, having read the materials and completed the assigned homework for each class. In class you will also work in pairs / small groups: it is essential that you provide an effective contribution and collaborate in a positive way with your classmates. The language spoken in this class is Italian: speaking in English will lower your participation grade. Your spoken Italian is not supposed to be perfect, but you need to try to communicate in Italian in every class.
- **Short Oral Presentations (18%).** During the semester you will deliver 2 short in-class presentations (about 5' minutes) on different topics. Highest grades are earned by students that prepare creative and engaging presentations, and are able to stimulate the discussion. More details will be provided in class.
- **In-class Compositions (20%):** There are two in-class writing assignments required for this course. Each includes subsequent revisions; additional details will be provided in class.
- **Exams (20%):** There will be two in-class exams composed of grammatical exercises and cultural questions.
- **Final Oral Presentation (12%):** During weeks 14 and 15 you will deliver a class presentation as the culmination of your efforts in this course. Additional details will be provided in class.

**\*\*Note: This course does not have an exam during 'Finals Week'\*\***

**Grading Scale (based on departmental guidelines)**

There is **no curving or rounding** of the grades in this course

A: 95.0-100.0    A-: 90.0-94.9    B+: 87.7-89.9    B: 83.3-87.6    B-: 80.0-83.2

C+: 75.0-79.9    C: 70.0-74.9    D: 60.0-69.9    F: 0.0-59.9

**There is no extra credit in this course**

**Late Work:** Work that is handed in late automatically receives a lower grade.

**Academic Integrity** - We support active collaboration with classmates. You may share notes and ideas with other students, however, you may not ask tutors, more proficient speakers or classmates to complete your own work, and **you may not use electronic translation programs**. In accordance with *PSU Senate Policy 49-20*, plagiarism, cheating, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor may lead to lowered course grades, a failing in the course, or more severe measures, depending on the gravity of the individual case according to the judgment of the Academic Integrity Committee. Visit <http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html> for further information. For other general university policies regarding Academic Code of Conduct, please read <http://www.sa.psu.edu/ja/conduct.shtml>.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones are to be turned off and stored before class begins. The professor reserves the right to penalize a student's final grade for continued cell phone interruptions (including sending and receiving text messages).

**Laptops/Tablet Computers:** Any use of laptops or tablet computers unrelated to coursework is prohibited and the professor reserves the right to penalize a student's final grade for disregarding this policy.

**University Policy on Disabilities** – Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807(V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services website at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>. In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (see the documentation guidelines at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines>). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**(note: this is a tentative schedule. You will find updated versions of this syllabus on Canvas)**

### **SETTIMANA 1**

**Cultura:** Italamerica?

**Grammatica:** genere, numero, articoli determinativi e indeterminativi

Lunedì 20 agosto: Introduzione al corso

Mercoledì 22 agosto: Italamerica?

Venerdì 24 agosto: Italamerica?

### **SETTIMANA 2**

**Cultura:** Pizza, calcio e mandolino? Vitelloni e casalinghe? Oltre gli stereotipi. Introduzione

**Grammatica:** preposizioni semplici e articolate

Lunedì 27 agosto: Pizza, calcio e mandolino? Vitelloni e casalinghe? Oltre gli stereotipi

Mercoledì 29 agosto: Pizza, calcio e mandolino? Vitelloni e casalinghe? Oltre gli stereotipi

Venerdì 31 agosto: **SHORT PRESENTATION 1: stereotipi italiani e/o italoamericani**

### **SETTIMANA 3**

**Cultura:** Pizza, calcio e mandolino? Vitelloni e casalinghe? Oltre gli stereotipi

**Grammatica:** preposizioni semplici e articolate

Lunedì 3 settembre: vacanza (*Labor Day*)

Mercoledì 5 settembre: **SHORT PRESENTATION 1: stereotipi italiani e/o italoamericani**

Venerdì 7 settembre: Pizza, calcio e mandolino? Vitelloni e casalinghe? Oltre gli stereotipi. Conclusioni

#### **SETTIMANA 4**

**Cultura:** Arte e architettura italiane

**Grammatica:** passato prossimo e imperfetto

Lunedì 10 settembre: Arte e architettura del Medioevo e del Rinascimento

Mercoledì 12 settembre: Palladio e Vicenza

Venerdì 14 settembre: **EXAM 1**

#### **SETTIMANA 5**

**Cultura:** Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

**Grammatica:** passato prossimo e imperfetto

Lunedì 17 settembre: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

Mercoledì 19 settembre: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

Venerdì 21 settembre: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

#### **SETTIMANA 6**

**Cultura:** La musica italiana

**Grammatica:** il verbo 'piacere'

Lunedì 24 settembre: La musica italiana. Introduzione

Mercoledì 26 settembre: La musica italiana

Venerdì 28 settembre: **SHORT PRESENTATION 2: una canzone italiana**

#### **SETTIMANA 7**

**Cultura:** La musica italiana

**Grammatica:** il verbo 'piacere'

Lunedì 1 ottobre: La musica italiana

Mercoledì 3 ottobre: **SHORT PRESENTATION 2: una canzone italiana**

Venerdì 5 ottobre: La musica italiana: conclusioni

#### **SETTIMANA 8**

**Cultura:** Movie: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*

**Grammatica:** il congiuntivo

Lunedì 8 ottobre: Movie: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione prima parte e discussione

Mercoledì 10 ottobre: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione seconda parte e discussione

Venerdì 12 ottobre: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione terza parte e discussione

#### **SETTIMANA 9**

**Cultura:** Il cinema italiano

**Grammatica:** il congiuntivo

Lunedì 15 ottobre: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. discussione e conclusioni

Mercoledì 17 ottobre: **IN-CLASS COMPOSITION 1 (about the movie)**

Venerdì 19 ottobre: Il cinema italiano

#### **SETTIMANA 10**

**Cultura:** L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

**Grammatica:** il congiuntivo

Lunedì 22 ottobre: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

Mercoledì 24 ottobre: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

Venerdì 26 ottobre: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

### **SETTIMANA 11**

**Cultura:** L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

**Grammatica:** il periodo ipotetico

Lunedì 29 ottobre: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

Mercoledì 31 ottobre: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione

Venerdì 2 novembre: **EXAM 2**

### **SETTIMANA 12**

**Cultura:** L'Italia di oggi: la nuova famiglia italiana

**Grammatica:** il periodo ipotetico

Lunedì 5 novembre: L'Italia di oggi: la nuova famiglia italiana

Mercoledì 7 novembre: L'Italia di oggi: la nuova famiglia italiana

Venerdì 9 novembre: L'Italia di oggi: la nuova famiglia italiana

### **SETTIMANA 13**

**Cultura:** L'Italia di oggi: lo stile di vita italiano

**Grammatica:** il periodo ipotetico

Lunedì 12 novembre: L'Italia di oggi: lo stile di vita italiano

Mercoledì 14 novembre: **IN-CLASS COMPOSITION 2**

Venerdì 16 novembre: L'Italia di oggi: lo stile di vita italiano

**Lunedì 19 novembre – venerdì 23 novembre: THANKSGIVING BREAK  
NO CLASSES**

### **SETTIMANA 14**

Lunedì 26 novembre: Conclusioni del corso

Mercoledì 28 novembre: **FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Venerdì 30 novembre: **FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **SETTIMANA 15**

Lunedì 3 dicembre: **FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mercoledì 5 dicembre: **FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS**

Venerdì 7 dicembre: **FINAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS**