IT 140 – Fall 2018

ITALIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE FOR STUDY ABROAD

Department of Spanish Italian & Portuguese

Pennsylvania State University

[http://sip.la.psu.edu](http://sip.la.psu.edu/)

 

**General Education Learning Objectives**:

**KEY LITERACIES** – the ability to identify, interpret, create, communicate and compute using materials in a variety of media and contexts. Literacy acquired in multiple areas, such as textual, quantitative, information/technology, health, intercultural, historical, aesthetic, linguistic (world languages), and scientific, enables individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, to lead healthy and productive lives, and to participate fully in their community and wider society.

**CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL THINKING** – the habit of mind characterized by comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating a conclusion. It is the intellectually disciplined process of conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

**Class materials – All required readings are available on Canvas**

Hooper, John. *The Italians*. New York: Penguin Books. 2015;

Severgnini, Beppe. *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*. New York: Broadway Books. 2007;

Whittaker, Andrew, Ed. *Italy: be fluent in Italian life and culture*. London: Thorogood. 2010;

Additional materials distributed online

Recommended:

*National Geographic Traveler, Italy;*

Broad Travel Guide (e.g. Let’s Go Italy, The Rough Guide to Italy, Lonely Planet Italy) & Regional Guide (e.g. previous series or Time Out, Rick Steves or Eyewitness);

D’Epiro, Peter & Pinkowish, Mary Desmond. *Sprezzatura: 50 ways Italian genius shaped the world*. New York: Anchor Books. 2001;

Duggan, Christopher. *A Concise History of Italy*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2013;

Fili, Louise & Apatoff, Lise. Italianissmo: *The Quintessential Guide to What Italians do Best*. New York: The Little Bookroom. 2008.

An Italian dictionary or familiarity with [www.garzantilinguistica.it](http://www.garzantilinguistica.it) or [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com);

John Colaneri, Vincent Luciani*, 501 Italian Verbs*, *Barron's Educational Series, Incorporated* 2001 or familiarity with [www.italianverbs.com](http://www.italianverbs.com);

*Berlitz, All in One Italian* or Similar audio program

**Instructor: Jason Laine** (jcl20@psu.edu)

Office: 131 Burrowes

Office hours: M/F afternoons – check Canvas calendar for specifics

**Canvas MATERIALS –** On a regular basis, course materials and assignments will be posted on Canvas and/or emailed to you. It is your responsibility to keep up with announcements made in class and updates to the Canvas page, including all posted materials and assignments.

**Course Description and Objective –** IT 140 (3 credits) is designed for students who have little or no knowledge of Italy’s language and culture. This course is ideal for students who plan to travel to Italy or expand their knowledge of Italy’s language and customs.

Students will be introduced to Italian culture, key social issues, pragmatic information, essential vocabulary terms & phrases, pronunciation and basic grammar. The course will explore themes of cultural intelligence and proper behavior abroad, such as the *bella figura*. Students will be evaluated through class participation, in-class quizzes and simulated dialogues, assignments and presentations.

This course intends to mitigate cultural shock, make students more capable abroad and help Penn State students to become better ambassadors of their university and country. Ultimately, its goal is to send students abroad better prepared to confront challenges, enriching their experience abroad.

Prerequisite: none. This course will be conducted in English.

**Attendance (5%) –** Your active attendance and participation in every class session are expected. In the event you are unable to attend a class (due to official University excused absence with documentation), please contact the instructor **prior to the conclusion of the day’s class** by e-mail at jcl20@psu.edu. Please note that class participation is not the same as attendance and 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.** 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](http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/42-00-acquisition-of-credit/#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](http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/47-00-48-00-and-49-00-grades/#49-20)). **You are required to provide verification from** [**University Health Services**](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/welcome/illnessVerification/)**or outside clinicians for significant prolonged illnesses or injuries resulting in absences from classes.**

**Participation & Preparation (25%) *–*** *Active**participation* (graded daily)in class is vital to your success in this course. Your contribution to a cooperative classroom atmosphere and the quality and quantity of your participation in class discussions and group activities will be evaluated. Highest participation marks are earned by: 1) regularly answering questions in class; 2) forwarding relevant (to course material) articles to the instructor; 3) presenting assigned material in class; and 4) leading group discussions of key concepts. See participation rubric in Canvas for additional details.

**Homework(10%) –** Weekly written homework will be assigned based on the class readings. Homework may be collected and graded, or checked in class. **Anytime homework is due, be prepared to submit it on paper in class or via email, no later than the start of the class period (11:15am)**. Assignments will be graded based on completion (i.e. responding to all questions) and accuracy. Late homework assignments are not accepted.

**Quizzes (20%) –** You will be quizzed on cultural issues related to Italy and study abroad (from the readings, materials online, presented in class, etc.), as well as on Italian pronunciation, phrases and vocabulary. There will be six quizzes over the course of the semester. Some quizzes on Italian language and its pronunciation could be based aural or oral capabilities acquired in class. Make-up quizzes will not be granted. However, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Dialogues (20%)** – Your ability to correctly pronounce Italian and employ spoken language in the conversational scenarios emphasized in this course are essential to your ability to thrive in Italy. This portion of your grade will test your spoken Italian based on the pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, attention to formality (when appropriate) and communication skills you have learned in class.

**Written assignments(10%) –** There will be written assignments, including the ethnography project, throughout the semester. You may be asked to share and discuss your findings with your classmates. More details will be given in class.

**Final presentation (10%)** **–** The final week of class students will make individual or group presentations. More details will be given later in the semester.

**Italian Resources at PSU**– The Pattee Library has an extensive collection of Italian resources. Many good bilingual (English-Italian) and monolingual (Italian-Italian) dictionaries are located in the Reference Room (PC1640.A17 and following), and you can find numerous grammar books and other reference materials in the stacks (PC1412.M26 and following). At the Media and Music Center, on the 2nd floor of West Pattee, you will find many Italian DVDs. Browse the CAT by typing in “Italian Motion Pictures” to find titles of films.

**Academic Integrity** – 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, failing 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>.

**University Policy on Disabilities** – Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications or reasonable accommodations in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services, ODS, located at 116 Boucke Building at 1-814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS please visit their web site at [www.equity.psu.edu/ods](http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods). Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for modification or reasonable accommodations. Many disabilities are not readily noticeable and students are therefore encouraged to identify their needs early in the semester so timely adaptations can be made.

**Cell Phones – Cell phone use is prohibited in this class.** Phones must be turned off or on silent during your time in class. Absolutely no text messaging is permitted during class. Cell phone use lowers your participation grade.

**Grading Scale** (based on departmental guidelines). There is **no curving** of grades in this course.

**A** 100 – 95 **B+** 89.9 – 87.7 **B-** 83.2 – 80 **C** 74.9 –70 **F** below 60

**A-** 94.9 – 90 **B** 87.6 – 83.3 **C+** 79.9 – 75 **D** 69.9 – 60

***Contact your instructor immediately if anything pertaining to the course needs further clarification.***

**The topics and dates on the syllabus may vary slightly depending on the needs and interests of the class, as well as the availability of guest speakers. It is your responsibility to listen for any changes that may be announced in class and check Canvas & your ‘psu.edu’ email regularly for assignments.**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – ITALIAN 140**

JH = *The Italians* STC = *Italy: be fluent in Italian life and culture* BF = *Bella Figura*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** |  | **Day** | **Topic** | **Materials/Assessment** |
| 26-Aug |  | Monday | Course introduction |  |
|  |  |  | Presentazioni |  |
|  |  |  | Student introductions |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 28-Aug |  | Wednesday | Pronunciation; alphabet |  |
|  |  |  | Presentazioni; formal vs informal |
|  |  |  | Benefits of study abroad |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 30-Aug |  | Friday | Pronunciation | **STC 1.3** / **JH 26-30** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2-Sep |  | *Labor Day no class* |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4-Sep |  | Wednesday | Numbers | **Quiz #1** |
|  |  |  | Subject Pronouns / Verb forms |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-Sep |  | Friday | Dates, weeks, months |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 9-Sep |  | Monday | *Fare bella figura* | **JH 85-9, 186-90 / BF 1-3** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 11-Sep |  | Wednesday | Mangiare (Eating)  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 13-Sep |  | Friday | Cibo (Food) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 16-Sep |  | Monday | Bar/ tavola calda | **Reading: Foods of Italy** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-Sep |  | Wednesday | Bar/ tavola calda | **JH 96-103** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 20-Sep |  | Friday | Al ristorante | **Quiz #2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 23-Sep |  | Monday | Al ristorante |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 25-Sep |  | Wednesday | Fare la spesa (Food shopping) | **STC 7.2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 27-Sep |  | Friday | Fare la spesa (Food shopping) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 30-Sep |  | Monday | Ethnography training |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2-Oct |  | Wednesday | Dialogue prep |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4-Oct |  | Friday | Dialogue 1 | **Dialogue 1** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 7-Oct |  | Monday | Safety |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 9-Oct |  | Wednesday | Safety/Indicazioni (Directions) |  |
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| 11-Oct |  | Friday | Indicazioni (Directions) | **JH 197-8** & Due: Ethn. Part 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 14-Oct |  | Monday | La farmacia | **Quiz #3** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 16-Oct |  | Wednesday | Dal medico | **STC 8.4** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 18-Oct |  | Friday | Dialogue prep |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 21-Oct |  | Monday | Dialogue 2 | **Dialogue 2** |
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| 23-Oct |  | Wednesday | Fare acquisti (Shopping) | **STC 5.2** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 25-Oct |  | Friday | Virtual Class | **Assignment Due by midnight, 25 Oct** |
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| 28-Oct |  | Monday | Al mercato all’aperto | **BF 117-124** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 30-Oct |  | Wednesday | Al mercato all’aperto | **Quiz #4** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1-Nov |  | Friday | Geography of Italy | **STC 1.1** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4-Nov |  | Monday | Brief history of Italy | **BF 104-107 / JH 4-11** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-Nov |  | Wednesday | In viaggio | **BF 133-138 / JH 227-36** |
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| 8-Nov |  | Friday | In viaggio | **Quiz #5** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 11-Nov |  | Monday | North v. South | **JH 275-7 / STC 8.3, 8.5** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 13-Nov |  | Wednesday | Dialogue prep |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 15-Nov |  | Friday | Dialogue 3 | **Dialogue 3** |
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| 18-Nov |  | Monday | Guest speaker: Rome |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 20-Nov |  | Wednesday | Guest speaker |  |
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| 22-Nov |  | Friday | Guest speaker: Florence | Ethnography #2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2-Dec |  | Monday | Goal setting | **BF 211-17 / JH 279-82** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4-Dec |  | Wednesday | Goal setting / Being successful abroad |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-Dec |  | Friday | Pre-Departure Information | **Quiz #6** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 9-Dec |  | Monday | What to pack and leave at home |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 11-Dec |  | Wednesday | Student presentations | **Student presentations** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 13-Dec |  | Friday | Student presentations | **Student presentations** |