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:
- 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. 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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95.0-100.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.7-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.3-87.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75.0-79.9</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0-59.9</td>
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</tbody>
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**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](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](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: THANKSAGIVING 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