

MASKING/COVID-19

We know from existing data that wearing a mask in public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community (Lyu & Wehby, 2020; CDC, 2020; Johns Hopkins Medicine, 2020). In accordance with public health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, University Park currently does not require masking in campus buildings. Further information may be found [here](#). **Please note that the status of masking or other requirements can change with the weekly updates on Thursdays**, or at other times, so check [Penn State's Coronavirus Information website](#) for the latest University information. The course will be following [Penn State COVID-19 guidance for faculty and instructors](#). Continue to follow CDC-recommended health/safety precautions, contact your healthcare provider if you have questions or feel ill, and review information from [state and national health](#) authorities. Please be respectful of everyone's masking preference and adhere to all university policies as described in the [Code of Conduct](#). The format of this class is exclusively **in person**; **class sessions are not offered via Zoom or virtually in any other manner, with the exception of a few guest speaker lessons.**

In the event that the instructor of this class is unable to teach in person, due to illness or need to quarantine, classes will be met by a temporary instructor, delivered remotely and synchronously (via Zoom), or addressed through asynchronous assignments and activities. If classes are remote and synchronous, students can bring their own devices to the classroom during the scheduled class time to connect to class from that location.

Italian 140

Italian Language & Culture for Study Abroad

Pennsylvania State University

Fall 2022

Prof. Michele Rossi

Course Description

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 and desire to 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.

The course is organized as a trip to Italy, with all the different steps: the preparation, the travel, the time in Italy, the return to the United States. Ultimately, its goal is to send students abroad better prepared to confront challenges, enriching their experience abroad. Are you ready? *Buon viaggio!*

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

Contacts and Information

Michele Rossi, Ph.D.

Email: mur38@psu.edu

Office: 44 Burrowes Bldg.

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:00pm-3:00pm, and by appointment

Class Schedule: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:15am-12:05pm (Electric Engineering West 101)



Required Text (you need to buy this book and bring a physical copy in class for each lesson)

- Francesca Logi, *15-Minute Italian. Learn in Just 12 Weekes*, DK, 2018 ([available at the Penn State Bookstore](#))

Other Required Texts (all the following readings will be available on Canvas)

- Articles, Handouts, Worksheets and other material provided on Canvas
- Hooper, John. *The Italians*. New York: Penguin Books. 2015 (selections)
- Severgnini, Beppe. *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*. New York: Broadway Books. 2007 (selections)
- Whittaker, Andrew, Ed. *Speak the Culture – Italy: be fluent in Italian life and culture*. London: Thorogood. 2010 (selections)

You must read the assigned texts before class.

Recommended texts

- *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. *Italianissimo: The Quintessential Guide to What Italians do Best*. New York: The Little Bookroom. 2008.
- An Italian dictionary or familiarity with www.garzantilinguistica.it or www.wordreference.com
- John Colaneri, Vincent Luciani, *501 Italian Verbs, Barron's Educational Series, Incorporated* 2001 or familiarity with www.italianverbs.com
- Berlitz, *All in One Italian* or Similar audio program

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. In addition, Penn State has licensed two online resources which offer numerous Italian film titles in streaming: [Kanopy](#) & [Swank Motion Pictures](#). For additional information on Italian Resources at Penn State, please refer to the Canvas page for this course.

For current information on library hours and services please visit libraries.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.

Course Requirements

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 mur38@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](#)). 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](#)). [University Health Services may provide verification for significant prolonged illnesses or injuries lasting at least a week resulting in absence from classes.](#)

Participation & Preparation (25%) – *Active participation* (graded weekly) 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 reading the course materials **before class**, in order to be ready to discuss them during the lessons; 2) regularly submitting discussion questions **before class**, in order to facilitate class conversations; 3) paying attention and regularly answering questions in class; 4) forwarding relevant (to course material) articles to the instructor; and 5) effectively contributing to group discussions and activities (for example: dialogues and common situations in Italian)

Quizzes (25%) – 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 four (4) quizzes over the course of the semester. Make-up quizzes will not be granted.

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. There will be three (3) dialogues over the course of the semester and you will perform them in pairs or small groups.

Short Presentation (10%) – There will be one short presentation (about 5 minutes) over the course of the semester. Detailed guidelines will be provided.

Final presentation (15%) – The two final weeks of class students will make individual presentations about their projected experience abroad. More details will be given later in the semester.

Academic Integrity – We support active collaboration with classmates, more proficient speakers, and tutors in completing and correcting homework, in practicing dialogues or other activities, or discussing the material of compositions. 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://undergrad.psu.edu/aappm/G-9-academic-integrity.html> for further information. For other general university policies regarding Academic Code of Conduct, please read <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/codeofconduct/>.

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

Laptops/Tablet Computers – Your instructor will provide information on the use of these tools specific to his/her classroom. Any use of laptops or tablet computers unrelated to coursework is prohibited and professors reserve 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. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact [Student Disability Resources](#), located at 116 Boucke Building (814-863-1807), participate in an intake interview, and provide [documentation](#). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, SDR will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early as possible. 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. ***Please note that you must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.*** For detailed information, please visit [Student Disability Resources](#) website.

Counseling and Psychological services – Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation. For further information regarding CAPS please visit their web site at <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>

Educational Equity/Report Bias – Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the [Report Bias webpage](#).

N.B.: **Re-gendered and Non-Binary Italian:** Italian, like the other Romance languages, is grammatically gendered, requiring the use of either the feminine or masculine form. Every noun possesses gender (masculine or feminine) as do articles, adjectives, verb forms and other parts of speech. There have been some efforts in written Italian to offer linguistic solutions to problems of gender hierarchy and binarism. You can replace the ending (of a noun or adjective) with an * or @. For example, signori (the word for “ladies and gentlemen”) - which privileges the masculine plural ending - becomes signor*. In spoken Italian, you can use the method of including both masculine and feminine versions of each noun: e.g. signori e signore. This method does not challenge the binary, but it is more inclusive and does not privilege one gender over the other. You are encouraged to share your pronouns (in English) with the class and your professor can make efforts to explore an appropriate reference to your gender identity in Italian.

University Important Dates:

Drop deadline: Saturday, August 27th at 11:59 p.m. (ET)

Add deadline: Sunday, August 28th at 11:59 p.m. (ET)

Late-drop deadline: Friday, November 11th at 11:59 p.m. (ET)

Withdrawal deadline: Friday, December 9th at 5:00 p.m. (ET)

For other dates, see the [university’s academic calendar for 2022-2023](#).

Grading Scale (based on departmental guidelines).

There is no curving or rounding 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	

There is no extra-credit in this course.

The topics, dates, and assignments/readings 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Pre-Departure: Italian Language and Culture

WEEK 1

Monday, August 22

Course Introduction

Wednesday, August 24

Pronunciation & alphabet

Presentazioni: formal vs informal

Benefits of study abroad

Reading: *15-Minute Italian: Buongiorno – Hello* (pp. 8-9)

Friday, August 26

Italian Language & Culture

Readings: 1) *Speak the Culture, Language in Italy*
2) Hooper, *Dialects in Italy*

WEEK 2

Monday, August 29

Subject Pronouns /Verb forms

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Essere e avere – To be and to have* (pp. 14-15)
2) *15-Minute Italian: Ripassa e ripeti – Review and repeat* (pp. 16-17)

Wednesday, August 31

Days & Months

Time & Numbers

La bella figura

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: I giorni e i mesi – Days and months* (pp. 28-29)
2) *15-Minute Italian: L'ora e i numeri – Time and numbers* (pp. 30-31)
3) Hooper, *Fare una bella figura*

Friday, September 2

QUIZ 1

La bella figura

Complete *Conosciamoci! Info Exchange* on Canvas (will impact your weekly participation grade)

'In viaggio' (Traveling)

WEEK 3

Monday, September 5

Labor Day – No Classes

Wednesday, September 7

Before leaving: documentation

At the airport

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: All'aeroporto – At the airport* (pp. 54-55)
2) Severgnini, *The Airport*

Friday, September 9

At the airport

Reading: Severgnini, *The Airport*

WEEK 4

Monday, September 12

Guest Speaker: Kristin Franco, Education Abroad Adviser at Penn State

Wednesday, September 14

Traveling in Italy: the train

Trenitalia

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Alla biglietteria – At the ticket office* (pp. 38-39)
2) Severgnini, *The Train*

Friday, September 16

QUIZ 2

Traveling in Italy: means of transport and directions

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Taxi, autobus e metro – Taxi, bus, and metro* (pp. 42-43)
2) *15-Minute Italian: Le indicazioni – Finding your way* (pp. 50-51)

Discovering Italy: Food, History, Geography

WEEK 5

Monday, September 19

Preparation for Dialogue #1 (*presentazioni*, airport, train, directions...)

Wednesday, September 21

Dialogue #1

Friday, September 23

Il cibo italiano (Italian Food)

- Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Le pietanze – Dishes* (pp. 24-25)
 2) *Speak the Culture, Food Rituals*

WEEK 6

Monday, September 26

Fare la spesa (Food shopping): *supermercati e mercati all'aperto*

- Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Al mercato – At the market* (pp. 70-71)
 2) *15-Minute Italian: Al supermercato – At the supermarket* (pp. 72-73)

Wednesday, September 28

Al ristorante

- Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Al ristorante – In the restaurant* (pp. 20-21)
 2) Severgnini, *The Restaurant*

Friday, September 30

Al bar

Italian *aperitivo*: the *spritz*

Italian wine culture

- Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Al bar – In the café* (pp. 18-19)
 2) *15-Minute Italian: Volere – To want (Polite requests)* (pp. 22-23)
 3) *Speak the Culture, The Culture of Italian Wine*

WEEK 7

Monday, October 3

Preparation for Dialogue #2 (restaurant, bar, food shopping...)

Wednesday, October 5

Dialogue #2

Friday, October 7

History and Geography of Italy

WEEK 8

Monday, October 10

Central Italy

Wednesday, October 12

Northern Italy: *Vicenza*, *Padova*, and *Venezia*

Friday, October 14

Southern Italy

WEEK 9

Monday, October 17

Short Presentations

Wednesday, October 19

Short Presentations

Friday, October 21

Short Presentations

Safety in Italy

WEEK 10

Monday, October 24

Women traveling in Italy. Guest Speaker: Nicole Kruse

Wednesday, October 26

LGBTQ Italy

Friday, October 28

Italian Family

Reading: Hooper, *Family Matters*

WEEK 11

Monday, October 31

La farmacia & Dal medico

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: In farmacia – At the pharmacy* (pp. 88-89)

2) *15-Minute Italian: Dal medico – At the doctor* (pp. 92-93)

Wednesday, November 2

QUIZ 3

La farmacia & Dal medico

Italian Health Insurance System

Reading: *15-Minute Italian: All'ospedale – At the hospital* (pp. 94-95)

Friday, November 4

Safety in Italy. Discovering the Italian Healthcare System. Guest Speaker: Dr. Giovanna Rossi (Italian Oncologist Physician). [Zoom Class](#).

Multicultural Italy

WEEK 12

Monday, November 7

QUIZ 4

Multicultural Italy: *ius soli/ius culturae* law and racism

Readings: 1) Hooper, *Immigration and Racism in Italy*
2) Article *Ius soli / ius culturae* law

Wednesday, November 9

Multicultural Italy: *ius soli/ius culturae* law and racism

Readings: 1) Hooper, *Immigration and Racism in Italy*
2) Article *Ius soli / ius culturae* law

Friday, November 11

Persons of color travelling in Italy. Guest Speaker: Aria Williams. [Zoom Class](#).

WEEK 13

Monday, November 14

Preparation for Dialogue #3: Traveling in Italy

Wednesday, November 16

Dialogue #3

Friday, November 18

Italian Sport

Readings: 1) *15-Minute Italian: Lo sport e gli hobby – Sports and hobbies* (pp. 120-121)

2) Severgnini, *The Stadium*

THANKSGIVING BREAK: no classes on November 21-25

Bringing It All Back Home: Conclusions

WEEK 14

Monday, November 28

Course Conclusions. Guest Speaker: Prof. Jason Laine (Penn State University)

Wednesday, November 30

Course Conclusions

Friday, December 2

Final Oral Presentations

WEEK 15

Monday, December 5

Final Oral Presentations

Wednesday, December 7

Final Oral Presentations

Friday, December 9

Final Oral Presentations