

MASKING/COVID-19

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. This 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.

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 301 – PATHWAYS TO FLUENCY

The Pennsylvania State University – Spring 2023

Prof. Michele Rossi



Contacts and Information

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

Class Schedule

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 12:20pm-1:10pm, 217 Hammond

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, LGBTQ rights, new kinds of families, etc.) and authentic materials (newspaper articles, current events essays, songs, videos...). We will also watch and discuss two Italian movies: *È stata la mano di Dio* (by Paolo Sorrentino, 2021) and *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* (by Pif, 2013). 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 or Italian 20.

Required texts:

- Handouts, Worksheets and other material provided on Canvas
- A good dictionary (italiano-inglese, inglese-italiano)

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)
- A good elementary/intermediate Italian textbook

Course Movies:

- *È stata la mano di Dio* (2021) (Paolo Sorrentino, Director)
- *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* (2013) (Pif, Director)

Course Requirements

- **Attendance (5%).** Class participation – which is not the same as attendance – 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. In the event you are unable to attend a class, contact the instructor prior to the conclusion of the day's class by e-mail 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](#)). [University Health Services may provide verification for significant prolonged illnesses or injuries lasting at least a week resulting in absence from classes.](#)

- **Preparation & In-class Participation (20%).** 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 (15%).** 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.
- **Mini Oral Presentation (5%).** You will deliver one mini oral presentation (about 3' minutes) about an Italian *graffito* of your choice.
- **Quizzes (20%).** There will be 4 in-class quizzes on different topics (culture, vocabulary grammar). Additional details will be provided in class.
- **Exams (16%).** There will be two in-class exams composed of grammatical, vocabulary, and cultural questions.
- **In-class Composition (9%).** There is one in-class writing assignment required for this course. It includes subsequent revisions (revisions are crucial for this assignment; if you don't do them your grade will be lowered). Additional details will be provided in class.
- **Final Oral Presentation (10%).** During week 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.

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](#).

CLASS SCHEDULE

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

Roma-New York: Italamerica

SETTIMANA 1

Cultura: Italamerica?

Vocabolario: stereotipi italiani e italoamericani

Grammatica: preposizioni semplici e articolate

Lunedì 9 gennaio: Introduzione al corso

Mercoledì 11 gennaio: Italamerica?

Venerdì 13 gennaio: *Un italiano in America* (Beppe Severgnini)

SETTIMANA 2

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

Vocabolario: stereotipi italiani e italoamericani

Grammatica: preposizioni semplici e articolate

Lunedì 16 gennaio: *Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class*

Mercoledì 18 gennaio: Vitelloni e casalinghe?

Venerdì 20 gennaio: Vitelloni e casalinghe? **Quiz 1.**

SETTIMANA 3

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

Vocabolario: il cibo

Lunedì 23 gennaio: Il cibo italiano (e non solo). Laila Wadia, *Curry di pollo* (racconto)

Mercoledì 25 gennaio: Il cibo italiano (e non solo). Laila Wadia, *Curry di pollo* (racconto)

Venerdì 27 gennaio: **Short Presentation 1. Topics: Gli stereotipi italiani *or* Il cibo italiano (e/o il cibo italo-americano)**

Firenze, Venezia, Vicenza: arte, architettura, graffiti

SETTIMANA 4

Cultura: Arte e architettura italiane

Vocabolario: arte

Grammatica: passato prossimo e imperfetto

Lunedì 30 gennaio: arte italiana; ripasso passato prossimo e imperfetto

Mercoledì 1 febbraio: Michelangelo Buonarroti

Venerdì 3 febbraio: Palladio e Vicenza. **Quiz 2.**

SETTIMANA 5

Cultura: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

Vocabolario: arte

Grammatica: passato prossimo e imperfetto

Lunedì 6 febbraio: ripasso passato prossimo e imperfetto

Mercoledì 8 febbraio: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia

Venerdì 10 febbraio: Graffiti e *street art* in Italia. **Mini presentation: un graffito italiano**

Sanremo e la musica italiana

SETTIMANA 6

Cultura: La musica italiana

Vocabolario: musica

Grammatica: il verbo *piacere*

Lunedì 13 febbraio: la musica italiana e il verbo *piacere*

Mercoledì 15 febbraio: ripasso per esame 1

Venerdì 17 febbraio: **Esame 1**

SETTIMANA 7

Cultura: La musica italiana

Vocabolario: musica

Grammatica: il verbo *piacere*

Lunedì 20 febbraio: la musica italiana e il verbo *piacere*

Mercoledì 22 febbraio: **Short presentation 2: una canzone italiana**

Venerdì 24 febbraio: Giuseppe Verdi. **Note: before Monday's class you need to watch the movie *È stata la mano di Dio* (available on Netflix)**

Napoli, Palermo e il cinema

SETTIMANA 8

Cultura: Movie: *È stata la mano di Dio* (2021) (Paolo Sorrentino, Director)

Vocabolario: cinema

Grammatica: il congiuntivo presente e il congiuntivo imperfetto

Lunedì 27 febbraio: discussione del film *È stata la mano di Dio*

Mercoledì 1 marzo: **Quiz 3** (sul film); il congiuntivo presente

Venerdì 3 marzo: conclusioni sul film *È stata la mano di Dio*; il congiuntivo imperfetto

Lunedì 6 marzo-Venerdì 10 marzo: Vacanze di primavera – No classes

SETTIMANA 9

Cultura: Movie: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate* (2013) (Pif, Director)

Vocabolario: cinema

Grammatica: il congiuntivo presente e il congiuntivo imperfetto

Lunedì 13 marzo: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione prima parte e discussione

Mercoledì 15 marzo: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione seconda parte e discussione

Venerdì 17 marzo: *La mafia uccide solo d'estate*. Visione terza parte e discussione

SETTIMANA 10

Cultura: Il cinema italiano

Vocabolario: cinema

Grammatica: il congiuntivo presente e il congiuntivo imperfetto

Lunedì 20 marzo: ripasso per esame 2

Mercoledì 22 marzo: **Esame 2**

Venerdì 24 marzo: il cinema italiano

Lampedusa, Ventimiglia, l'immigrazione

SETTIMANA 11

Cultura: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione. La legge sullo *ius soli*

Vocabolario: immigrazione e diritti

Grammatica: il futuro

Lunedì 27 marzo: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione. Il futuro semplice

Mercoledì 29 marzo: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione. La legge sullo *ius soli* (articolo)

Venerdì 31 marzo: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione. La legge sullo *ius soli* (articolo + video *Repubblica*)

SETTIMANA 12

Cultura: L'Italia di oggi: immigrazione, razzismo e integrazione. La legge sullo *ius soli*

Vocabolario: immigrazione e diritti

Grammatica: il condizionale presente

Lunedì 3 aprile: **Quiz 4**; il condizionale presente

Mercoledì 5 aprile: Igiaba Scego, *La mia casa è dove sono*

Venerdì 7 aprile: classe congiunta con Italiano 175 (in inglese): Nord e Sud Italia

SETTIMANA 13

Cultura: La nuova famiglia italiana

Vocabolario: famiglia e diritti LGBTQ

Grammatica: il periodo ipotetico della realtà; il periodo ipotetico della possibilità

Lunedì 10 aprile: La legge sulle unioni civili (articolo). Il periodo ipotetico della realtà

Mercoledì 12 aprile: La legge sulle unioni civili (articolo + video *Repubblica*)

Venerdì 14 aprile: La nuova famiglia italiana: conclusioni. Il periodo ipotetico della possibilità

Bologna, Casarsa, Roma, mondo:

Pier Paolo Pasolini e la cultura italiana, una "stupenda diversità"

SETTIMANA 14

Cultura: Pier Paolo Pasolini

Vocabolario: fumetti, cultura, poesia

Grammatica: il periodo ipotetico della possibilità

Lunedì 17 aprile: **In-class composition. Topic: La nuova famiglia italiana: le unioni civili**

Mercoledì 19 aprile: Davide Toffolo, *Intervista a Pasolini* (fumetto – prima parte)

Venerdì 21 aprile: Davide Toffolo, *Intervista a Pasolini* (fumetto – seconda parte)

SETTIMANA 15

Cultura: Pier Paolo Pasolini

Vocabolario: fumetti, cultura, poesia

Grammatica: il periodo ipotetico della possibilità

Lunedì 24 aprile: Davide Toffolo, *Intervista a Pasolini* (fumetto – terza parte)

Mercoledì 26 aprile: **Final Oral Presentations** (+ conclusioni Pasolini)

Venerdì 28 aprile: **Final Oral Presentations** (+ conclusioni Pasolini)