Syllabus
ITA 2952 Beginning Italian (4 Credits)
Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature
GS 212 777 Glades Road - P. O. Box 3091 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Professor:
E-mail:
Phone number:
Class meeting time and place: Palazzina Briati, B3. M-R 8:30-10:20

Sito WEB del programma di Studi italiani: http://www.fau.edu/italian/
Knowledge of a foreign language makes you more marketable! Therefore, you might want to consider a MINOR or a MAJOR in Italian. Contact our Italian Studies faculty Emanuele Pettener, Myriam S. Ruthenberg, or Ilaria Serra for preliminary information (epettene@fau.edu, iserra1@fau.edu, ruthenbe@fau.edu).

Course Objectives: This is a first/second semester course for beginners (i.e. those with no previous knowledge of Italian) aimed at the simultaneous development of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing Italian, with emphasis on basic communication skills while making you cross-culturally competent.
Due to the peculiar nature of this study abroad class, some students may be absolute beginners, while others may have already completed the first semester on campus. The course will provide further instructions for the more advanced students. They will be prepared on second-semester material. The level of their conversations, assignments and presentations will be higher. The two groups will be separate for grammar reviews and particular exercises, but will mingle for general conversations. Mixed levels will be an asset for the class by providing occasions for stimulating conversations and eventual peer explanations of the material.

Course Description: In this course you will learn to speak and write about yourself and others, and you will be taught how to articulate everyday habits and circumstances in the present tense (past and future tenses for advanced students), all this while acquiring cultural knowledge of Italy. Throughout the semester you will also be sharpening your writing skills through the writing of short compositions (ca. 75 words) that are an integral part of each written exam, and through keeping a diary. In addition, you will read and understand cultural material designed for your level. Through a combination of presentations, group work, and guided interaction, you will improve your Italian proficiency and gain cultural awareness. At the end of the semester, you should also be able to function in an authentic environment, i.e. understand and participate in everyday conversations in the present and past and ask others’ opinions on topics ranging from leisure to life events and from technology to geography. Please note that the language spoken in class is Italian exclusively, and that the pace follows a natural speech pattern, so that you can develop your listening comprehension, speaking, and pronunciation skills. This should not intimidate you, as your instructor uses all of her/his skills to make herself/himself understood. Nota Bene: you are required to keep a diary in which you personalize and apply after every class what you have learned that day.

Required Materials:
- Askì, Janice M. And Diane Musumeci. Avanti! Beginning Italian, 2nd edition. McGraw Hill, 2009. You will buy the book key if you take ITA1121 at FAU. Due to limited Internet access in Venice, only the paper book will be used.

Grading:
3 esami scritti (3 written exams = 3 x 20 %, including the final exam) 60%
presentazione orale finale (in-class final oral presentation) 20%
partecipazione 10%
compiti/ composizioni 10%

Grading scale:
92-100 = A
88-89 = B+
82-87 = B
80-81 = B-
78-79 = C+
72-77 = C
70-71 = C-
68-69 = D+
66-67 = D
64-65 = D-
Less than 64 = F
* Note the final exam schedule for your class at the end of your syllabus NOW. All students MUST take the final exam on the pre-established final exam date;
* After two unexcused absences, your final grade will drop (A becomes A- after a third absence; A- becomes B+ after a fourth absence etc.); Arriving late to class or leaving early counts as an absence;
* Please be considerate and turn your cellular phones off completely before entering the classroom. While you may take notes using laptops or Notebooks, texting, web surfing, and other distracting activities are obviously not allowed.

Students with Disabilities
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton -SU 122(561-297-3880), in Davie, MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter -SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast -CO 128 (772-873-3303) and follow all OSD procedures.

Academic Integrity
- Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high values on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see the following link: http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/d.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Buon divertimento e buon lavoro!

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

1st week
May 17-20 From Chapter 1:

- Alphabet & Pronunciation
- Formal versus informal
- Numbers
- Communication practice, vocabulary building
- Gender
- Indefinite articles
- Plurals
- Definite articles
- Place vs place

Italian 2: vocabolario + verbi riflessivi (chapter 6)

Exercise Italian 1: go in a campo and make a list of everything you see, ask people for the names of things if you do not know them. (Exercise Italian 2: Use reflexive verbs to describe people or animals.)

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2nd week
May 23-26 From Chapter 2:

- adjectives
- “molto” and “poco” as adjective and adverb
- adjectives and nouns in -e
- demonstrative adjectives (questo, quello)
- The verbs “avere” and “essere”
- Possessive adjectives

Italian 2: vocabolario + passato prossimo and negative expressions (chapter 7)

EXAM 1

Exercise Italian 1: describe all the students in your class and your roommates (Italian 2; add what they did yesterday.)

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3rd week
May 30–June 2
Chapter 3:

Telling time
Mi piace + verbs in -are, -ere, -ire (infinitive)
Present indicative of regular verbs
Irreg. verbs: andare, bere, fare, uscire, venire

Italian 2: vocabolario + reciproci and passato prossimo (chapter 8)

Exercise: write to your best friend what you do in Venice and what you love or hate here... (Italian 2: use past and reflexive verbs)

4th week
June 6–9
Chapter 4:

Possessive adjectives with nouns denoting family members
Interrogative pronouns and adjectives

Italian 2: vocabolario + imperfetto (chapter 9)

EXAM 2

Exercise: observe, or better, befriend, an Italian family playing in campo San Giacomo. Then describe them, and your conversation.

5th week
June 13–16 (Chapter 4)
Irregular verbs: fare, dare, stare sapere, dire, sapere
Comparatives of inequality between subjects

Exercise: describe your Venetian apartment in comparison with your American one

Chapter 5:

Constructions with “Mi piacerebbe”
Superlatives
Modal verbs: dovere volere potere

Italian 2: vocabolario + il futuro (chapter 10)

Exercise: go out to lunch, then describe what you bought, what it looked like, what it tasted like and your conversation with the waiter.

6th week
June 20–23 (Chapter 5)

Direct object pronouns
Partitivi

Review

June 22: PRESENTAZIONI ORALI IN CLASSE: speak about a Venetian friend you’ve made in these days, or about a place that you’ve come to know in these days (a pub, a bakery... You can add historical information). Pictures or relevant objects are always helpful because they provide mnemonic aid and vivid presentations.

June 23: ESAME FINALE (and eventual oral presentations)
Sito WEB del programma di Studi italiani: http://www.fau.edu/italian/

Obiettivi
Gli obiettivi di Italiano Intermedio/Avanzato sono: 1) rivedere le forme grammaticali e perfezionare la conoscenza delle strutture più complicate; 2) rafforzare, attraverso lo studio di testi autentici dal contenuto culturale corrente e rilevante, la competenza linguistica orale e scritta degli studenti; 2) aumentare l’abilità comunicativa dello studente tramite l’immersione nella vita di una città italiana come Venezia.
Il lavoro sul lessico servirà ad ampliare il vocabolario degli studenti, mentre i testi si presteranno facilmente alla discussione, stimolando la produzione orale.

Descrizione del corso:
Ogni settimana si toccheranno rilevanti strutture grammaticali e situazioni di vita vissute dal libro di testo. Le situazioni dovranno essere poi "testate" nella realtà veneziana. Per esempio, parlerete in italiano con il cameriere al ristorante, prenoterete un viaggio, commenterete i vestiti con la commessa di un negozio di abbigliamento, ecc.
Il lavoro scritto consisterà di 5 giorni settimanali in cui racconterete la vostra settimana, facendo particolare attenzione alle situazioni studiate in classe e vissute nella città. Il diario si consegna il giovedì e viene restituito il lunedì.
Le presentazioni orali sono di due tipi: una alla fine del semestre su un argomento veneziano a scelta ed una più breve, a turno, per presentare un articolo interessante che avete trovato su giornale.

Libro:
- PER STUDENTI DEL LIVELLO AVANZATO: Viaggio in Italia (Laura Rubino, Cideb-Black Cat, 2007). Buy from: http://paradigm-educators.enmpublishingllc.com/page/paradigm/ (listen and read before your departure to enter in the mood!).
- Giornali, riviste e quotidiani di Venezia.

Valutazione:
5 giorni settimanali 35%
2 presentazioni orali 20%
3 esami scritti di grammatica avanzata: 30%
Partecipazione orale 15%

Grading Scale
A 92-100  B+  88-89  C+  78-79  D+  68-69  F  0-63
A- 90-91  B  82-87  C  72-77  D  66-67
B- 80-81  C-  70-71  D-  64-65
Americans with Disabilities Act
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) – in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures. Bring a letter to your instructor from the OSD indicating that you need academic accommodations no later than the second week of classes.

In accordance with the OSD’s rules and regulations, students must turn in an Exam Sign-Up Sheet at least one week before the date on which each exam is scheduled. Please contact OSD for more information.

Academic Honor Code & Honors Statement
Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code.

ALL assignments that you turn in to your instructor for a grade must be your own work. This means that the use of translator programs, excessive help from tutors or anyone else on graded assignments constitutes academic dishonesty. If your instructor suspects that an assignment completed outside of class is not entirely your own work, your instructor has the right to ask you to redo that assignment in his or her presence during office hours.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY ON ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS IS GROUNDS FOR FAILURE IN THE COURSE.

Buon divertimento e buon lavoro!

WEEKLY CALENDAR

1st week
May 16-19

IN UN RISTORANTE DEL CENTRO
ALLA STAZIONE FERROVIARIA

Diario settimanale: racconta la tua settimana e descrivi una visita ad un ristorante veneziano come se fossi un giornalista culinario.

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2nd week
May 23-26

COMPLEANNO IN FAMIGLIA
IN UN ALBERGO DI MILANO

EXAM 1

Diario settimanale: racconta la tua settimana e descrivi con particolare attenzione una famiglia veneziana.

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3rd week
May 30-June 2

A FARE LA SPESA
IN UNA BANCA DI FIRENZE

Diario settimanale: descrivi la tua settimana e racconta dettagliatamente una visita in un negozio tipico di Venezia.

4th week
June 6-9

UNA VISITA MEDICA
IN UN NEGozIO DI ABBIGLIAMENTO

EXAM 2

Diario settimanale: racconta la tua settimana e aggiungi delle riflessioni sull'abbigliamento dei Veneziani.

5th week
June 13-16

UNA TELEFONATA
UNA GITA DOMENICALE

Diario settimanale: racconta la tua settimana e descrivi una gita particolarmente interessante che hai avuto occasione di fare quest'estate.

June 14: PRESENTAZIONI ORALI IN CLASSE

6th week
June 20-23

ALL'AGENZIA DI VIAGGI
ALL'UFFICIO POSTALE
IN CERCA DI LAVORO

June 23: ESAME FINALE