



SYLLABUS

ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Contact Hrs: 80

MACERATA, ITALY

The Italian Language courses include three courses corresponding to the different levels: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

Duration of courses: the twelve weeks Italian Language courses consist of 80 hours of lessons, while the fourteen weeks Italian Language courses meets for 90 hours. Classes are held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9.15 to 12.00, leaving Wednesday morning free because the Macerata weekly market takes place and students have the extraordinary opportunity of using their language skills in an “authentic language laboratory”.

Objectives: the courses include the development of the four linguistic skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in a balanced way, as well as the study and practice of functional grammar, that is, grammatical structures needed to fulfill specific functions of language: naming, asking questions, giving directions, describing, defending opinions, etc.

Method: from the beginning the student is immersed in a truly Italian atmosphere. From the very beginning the students are asked to use common expressions related to everyday life. Both grammar structures and idiomatic expressions will be gradually introduced during classes. The teacher will try to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing as harmoniously as possible.

Placement test: a test will be administered to each student on the first course day in order to place him in the appropriate level. Students with absolute no knowledge of Italian Language will begin immediately with the first lesson of Beginning Italian.

Requirements and exams: there will be, besides the daily assignments, a mid-term exam and a final exam both in the form of oral and written. The student is allowed to a maximum of three absences.

Evaluation: the final grade will be based on the following ratio:

- 30% attendance, assignments and in-class participation;
- 25% mid-term exam;
- 45% final exam (written and oral)

Course Descriptions: as professors will have the best appreciation of the Italian level of each particular group, variations on the following descriptions might occur in a given semester. Course content is complemented and enriched by student’s personal experience of the Italian culture and every day life outside the classroom. For students who do their work conscientiously, improvement is significant.

1) BEGINNER LEVEL

Designed for students with little or no knowledge of Italian.

Basic oral expression, listening comprehension, and elementary reading and writing.

Foundations of grammar:

Nouns (sing. and plural forms; gender).

Indefinite/definite article; adjectives; subject pronouns; demonstrative adjectives/pronouns; possessive adjectives/pronouns; relative pronouns; interrogative words; direct/indirect object pronouns; double object pronouns; prepositions; preposition + article; partitive; uses of "ci, vi, ne"; uses of "mentre, durante".

Verbs: "essere" and "avere"; the three conjugations; verbs of motion ("andare, venire" etc...); modal verbs; irregular verbs ("stare, fare, dare" etc...); transitive/intransitive verbs; auxiliary verbs; reflexive verbs; present tense; present perfect (past participle); agreement of the past participle in the "passato prossimo"; imperfect indicative; simple future; future perfect; the imperative (familiar form "tu, noi, voi"); present and past conditional.

Textbook: G. Favaro, G. Bettinelli, E. Piccardi, *Insieme, Corso di Italiano per Stranieri*, La Nuova Italia, Firenze, 1997.
Supplementary material (provided by the instructor)

2) INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Designed for students with basic knowledge of Italian.

Intermediate oral expression, listening comprehension, and intermediate reading and writing.

General review of foundations of grammar.

Introduction of new notions: relative pronouns; comparative/superlative forms; indefinite adjectives/pronouns; negatives; interrogative words; noun, adjective, and adverb suffixes; "ci, vi, ne" particles; idiomatic expressions related to the body.

Verbs: indicative (simple past, past perfect); conditional. (present, perfect); subjunctive (present, past. imperfect, pluperfect); "lei / loro" forms of the imperative; sequence of tenses and moods; impersonal constructions; hypothetical sentences; the passive voice; the "si" construction replacing the passive; gerund/infinite/participle verb forms; direct./indirect speech.

Textbook: A. Mazzetti, P. Manili, M.R. Bagianti, *Qui Italia Più, Corso di Lingua Italiana per Stranieri, Livello Medio*, Le Monnier, Firenze, 1998.
Supplementary material (provided by the instructor)

3) ADVANCED LEVEL

General review of the basic linguistic structures of Italian.

Consolidation of linguistic and communication skills. Consolidation of the ability to produce written texts from dictation and one's own.

Textbook: C. Bettoni, G. Vicentini, *Imparare dal Vivo*, Bonacci Editori, Perugia, 1997.
Supplementary material (provided by the instructor)