

## ITALIAN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

### ITAL 101: The Florence Experience I: Beginning Italian I

Credits: 4

Instructor: Italian Staff

Schedule: TBA; there are multiple sections of this course at various times.

Prerequisite: None

Site visit fee: \$ 35.00

#### Course Description and Objectives:

The Florence Experience I is an interdisciplinary course which focuses on achieving a basic level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences (speaking, writing, reading and understanding) regarding familiar contexts, everyday life's activities and simple interaction with native speakers, while introducing the students to various, relevant aspects of contemporary Florentine life and Italian culture. The course offers students an interdisciplinary experience in language learning made possible only by direct immersion in the target culture. Since language and culture are deeply connected (language IS culture and culture IS language), each class will introduce students to linguistic skills such as communicative structures, grammar structures, vocabulary and pronunciation, but will, at the same time, provide them with a deeper knowledge of Italian culture. The city of Florence becomes a cultural laboratory: with its world-famous fashion concerns, its beautiful theaters and lively markets, its young writers and actors, and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, it is a composite of contemporary Italian culture to be explored by the student. In addition to classroom work based on the standard content of the first semester of language study, the course includes a series of on-site encounters, which will range from interviews with various exponents of Florentine society, to encounters with artisans in the botteghe of the characteristic neighborhood of Oltrarno, field-trips and treasure hunts at the most vivacious markets in town, and encounters with students of the University of Florence.

Course descriptions may be subject to occasional minor modifications at the discretion of the instructor.

- a) Textbook: Gruppo Italiaidea, Italian Espresso 1. Italian Course for English Speakers. Textbook, Alma Edizioni – Firenze 2006
- b) Workbook: Gruppo Italiaidea, Italian Espresso 1. Workbook, Alma Edizioni – Firenze 2006
- c) Supplementary Text: selected exercises and readings excerpted from other language texts and workbooks, in addition to activities and handouts created by instructors.

During orientation at the Institute, students will receive a list of textbooks they are required to purchase. Students should not purchase any texts before orientation.