

ITLN 211S: Intermediate Intensive Italian: The Roman Experience

Credits: 6

Schedule: Mon-Thurs (9:45am-12pm and 1:30pm-4:00pm; plus evening co-curricular events)

Instructors: TBA

Course/Lab Fee: 75 Euro

Prerequisites: See below.

Cross-Listing: None

Prerequisite: The equivalent of one year of beginning Italian (level A2plus of the Common European Framework for language proficiency). In addition, all students will take a placement exam on the first day of the semester. This exam is used solely for the purpose of verifying students' linguistic proficiency.

Course Description

This course is specifically designed for students who have completed two semesters of Italian and wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Italian language. The goal is to equip students with the ability to speak the language with a certain degree of confidence, acquaint them with more complex grammatical structures, and introduce them to authentic texts as a way to enhance their lexicon. To achieve this goal, a three-fold approach is adopted: students work with Italian texts and audio-visual material of various types (e.g., narrative and literary excerpts, Italian songs, dialogues, and videos); engage in guided in-class group activities and write brief stories or racconti; and participate in out-of-the-classroom activities that require them to put into practice their in-class learning. Students will be exposed to various cultural aspects such as regionalism, festivals and traditions, social and political cultures, literature, cinema, style and fashion, music, and other characteristics that define Italian culture in a manner that fosters further understanding and practice of the language. By the end of the session, students will have gained the capacity for more complex written and oral expression, learnt to differentiate various social contexts, and built a vocabulary and socio-linguistic competence appropriate to each situation.

Course Structure

ITLN 211 meets four days per week (Mon-Thur) and consists of a morning program of two hours of in-class grammar study, followed by two hours of exercises and conversation in the afternoon. In the evenings and on some Fridays, cultural activities and lectures in Italian are scheduled. For details of these events, please see the accompanying description of the liberal arts cultural component to the program at the end of the syllabus.

Main Grammar Points

The course will begin with a quick review of Beginner Italian grammar and thereafter cover the following grammatical points:

- Uso dell'imperfetto, del passato prossimo e del trapassato prossimo
- Pronomi diretti, indiretti, doppi e relativi
- Particelle NE e CI
- Accordo dei pronomi con il participio
- Gradi dell'aggettivo: comparativo e superlativo
- Il futuro semplice e composto
- Verbi impersonali
- Imperativo diretto, indiretto e con i pronomi
- Verbi riflessivi e particelle pronominali riflessive
- Il condizionale presente e passato
- Il congiuntivo presente e passato e il congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato
- Concordanza dei tempi con il congiuntivo
- Cenni sul periodo ipotetico

Course Outcomes and Objectives

At the end of the session, students should reach the level B1plus of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing. In practice, the student will be able to:

- Interact with a native speaker on familiar, everyday topics and topics of personal interest when clear, standard speech is used.
- Produce relatively simple texts on everyday topics and understand texts containing concrete and relatively simple abstract topics.
- Express opinions on current affairs, familiar topics and topics of personal interest, describe personal experiences, and provide brief explanations.
- Understand the main points of radio and television announcements, advertisements, news items, and talk shows when the speech is relatively slow and clear.
- Build a basic vocabulary of 750-1000 words and start to develop a small, specialized vocabulary tied to one's personal interests and to the specific activities covered in class.
- Write simple texts based on familiar topics, personal experience and on certain aspects of culture and contemporary society (in the form of brief compositions, summaries, and informal and formal letters).
- Develop a more sophisticated understanding of Italian culture and contemporary society.

Course Materials

Required Text: a Course Reader that contains the majority of the reading materials, grammatical units and vocabulary to be covered in the course will be made available.

Supplementary Text: selected exercises and readings from various sources will be handed out periodically.

Dictionary: students are strongly recommended to purchase an English/Italian, Italian/English dictionary.