



# Italian 1

## Course Details

**Course Designator & Number: FLOR 1001**

**Number of Credits: 3**

**Language of Instruction: Italian**

**Contact Hours: 45**

**Instructor: Marcella Delitala**

## Course Description

This beginner course of Italian uses a communicative approach to help you develop the ability to communicate in Italian in everyday practical situations as well as to acquire the skills necessary to read effectively in Italian. Students will learn elementary grammar structures and vocabulary pertinent to daily life situations. From the beginning students will be expected to produce some basic sentences in Italian while actively engaging in communicative activities that have real world relevance. Role-plays, pair and group work will provide learners with numerous opportunities to interact with other learners in Italian as well as with locals. Listening, reading, speaking, and writing are integrated into all activities, tests and exams.

## Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand basic Italian spelling and pronunciation
2. Participate in simple conversations on topics found in everyday situations, including sharing personal information about oneself, family, food, past times, etc. as well as simple transactional language, such as telling time, expressing and inquiring about likes/dislikes
3. Master a body of basic socio-cultural information, including an introduction to the idea of formal and informal register within Italian culture
4. Understand, recognize and use rudimentary Italian grammar and syntax structures

5. Read and comprehend simple texts on daily life, descriptions of people and places and events in the present
6. Write short and simple texts and essays on daily life in the U.S.A. as opposed to their life in Italy, descriptions of people and places, present experiences and personal plans
7. Talk about daily life, their family, their environment, present experiences and basic notions of Italian culture, geography, history.

## Methodology

Through the integration of the different language skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing as well as the introduction of important cultural concepts, students will learn to communicate in the target language in progressively more involved daily life situations.

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.

Grammatical theory will always be connected with the practical use of the language. All of the didactic materials used throughout the course, such as textbooks and multimedia sources, are in Italian.

Students will work in groups and will be asked to take part in role-plays, write papers, dialogue with other students and the teacher. Constant interaction in Italian is the core of the learning process.

The city of Florence will become a cultural laboratory where language will be studied in context: with its world famous fashion traditions, museums and lively markets and its characteristic stores and artisans' workshops, the city represents a composite of contemporary Italian culture that students will discover through out-of-class activities, projects, and visits.

## Required Reading / Materials

- Dimmi... Manuale per la comunicazione (Primo livello)
- PRATICAMENTE dimmi... Esercizi ed attività (Primo livello)

Authors: Antonella Battaglia, Loredana Tarini  
Publisher: Edizioni Guerra

Found at Feltrinelli Librerie, Via de' Cerretani, 40 – Firenze (on the way to the train station)  
15% discount for Accent Students

# Grading

## Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Quiz	10%
Mid-term test	20%
Presentation	15%
Written final exam	20%
Oral final exam	15%
Participation and homework assignments	20%
Overall grade	100%

## Assessment Details

### Tests and final exam

Throughout the semester, you will be given 1 quiz, 1 mid-term exam and 1 final exam (written and oral). The quiz and test will focus on specific grammatical and cultural elements but will also include review material, so anything already taught may appear.

### Oral presentations

During the semester, you will complete one oral presentation. Presentations will take place during class time.

The information you will learn during the in-class presentation will provide some of the content for the face-to-face oral exam you will have with your instructor at the end of the semester. Therefore, it is in your best interest to take notes and ask questions during the presentations, to better keep track of the content for future reference. Your instructor will provide further details during the semester.

### Participation

Participation includes but is not limited to the following:

- Your use of Italian and willingness to ask / answer questions in class.
- Your cooperation and willingness to participate actively in all class activities, including pair and small group work.
- Your respect and attitude toward the class and your peers.

- The use of all electronic equipment (cell phones, pagers, iPods or mp3 players, etc.) during class is prohibited. All equipment must be turned off and stored in the classroom. Any evidence of cell phones (use, ringing, buzzing, etc.) and similar equipment use will result in an automatic ZERO in attendance/participation for that day.
- Your promptness and daily preparation for each class, including assigned homework and other course related materials. Since language is used for communication, the ultimate goal of the language student is to be able to communicate information in the foreign language.

### **Homework (Compiti)**

Your teacher will assign homework assignments on a daily basis. These exercises are due before the beginning of the following in-class lesson, late homework will not be accepted. Homework should be done completely and as correctly as possible. If you do not understand an assignment, contact your instructor. Do your best to make sure that you understand everything.

### **Out of class activities**

Out of class activities are designed to take full advantage of the city of Florence and will provide opportunities for interaction and enhancement of language skills, as well as immersion in Italian culture.

Students will be asked to work in groups to observe and discover typical Italian traditions and habits. As the language learning progresses, students will directly interact with native speakers, especially in the Oltrarno neighborhood where the Study Center is located, or with Italian students, to learn more about Italian culture and test their progress in Italian. They will visit cafés and restaurants, Italian markets and shops, and other city landmarks. During a special conversation class, they will have the opportunity to meet with Italian students and talk about young people's life in Italy.

# Class Schedule

UNIT 1				
UNITÀ 1				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the class</li> <li>• Greeting someone, find out someone's name</li> <li>• Find out where someone is from</li> <li>• Find out someone's age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alphabet</li> <li>• Pronunciation</li> <li>• Verb to be and to have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greetings</li> <li>• Names of cities and countries, nationalities</li> <li>• Numbers</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions</li> <li>• Ask for permission</li> <li>• Order food in a bar/restaurant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question words</li> <li>• Formal vs. informal</li> <li>• Nouns: gender and number</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom objects</li> <li>• Food and beverages</li> <li>• Objects in a bar/restaurant</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order food in a bar/restaurant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indefinite articles</li> <li>• Use of Vorrei</li> </ul>		

UNIT 2
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UNITÀ 1/UNITÀ 2				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about things</li> <li>• Describe objects and people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definite articles</li> <li>• Adjectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colors</li> <li>• High-frequency adjectives</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express feelings or emotions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idioms with <i>avere</i></li> <li>• Verb <i>piacere</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Object in the classroom</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe a place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>C'è / ci sono</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the city: urban environment and street furniture</li> </ul> <p><b>DESCRIVIAMO PIAZZA S. SPIRITO</b></p>	

UNIT 3				
UNITÀ 2				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about daily routine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular verbs in present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily activities</li> <li>• Days of</li> </ul>	

		<p>tense</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency adverbs</li> <li>• Prepositions</li> </ul>	<p>the week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parts of the day</li> <li>• Che ora è? Che ore sono?</li> <li>• High-frequency adverbs</li> <li>• The apartment and furniture</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say things /activities you (don't) like</li> <li>• Different habits in Italy and in the US</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The verb "piacere"</li> <li>• Main irregular verbs in present tense</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting someone to do something</li> <li>• Accepting/ref using an invitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More irregular verbs in present tense</li> <li>• Expressions with fare</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCRIVIAMO:</b> Write a short composition (50 words) about your daily routine in Italy</p>	<p><b>QUIZ</b></p>

UNIT 4				
UNITÀ 2				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express what you can/want to / have to do</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modal verbs in present tense</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common public places</li> <li>• Fruits and vegetables</li> <li>• Groceries</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More</li> </ul>		



	objects and things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicates quantities of food</li> <li>• Markets in Italy</li> </ul>	prepositions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partitive</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shopping at the market</li> </ul>		<b>ANDIAMO AL MERCATO CENTRALE</b>  <b>SCRIVIAMO:</b> Write a short composition (70 words) about food in Italy, markets in Florence and Sicily	

UNIT 5				
UNITÀ 2/3				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about actions in progress</li> <li>• Talk about things/people you know, skills you have</li> <li>• Express a physical problem</li> <li>• Ask and give</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present progressive</li> <li>• Prepositions with time expressions</li> <li>• The verbs sapere and</li> </ul>	Parts of the body Shopping places Directions Expressions used to locate things  <b>VISITIAMO IL QUARTIERE</b>	

	directions	conoscere		
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UNIT 6				
UNITÀ 1-2-3				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make comparisons between things or people</li> <li>• Make contrasts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative adjectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More adjectives and adverbs</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review</li> </ul>		
	Mid-Term Test			

UNIT 7				
UNITÀ 4				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	NO CLASS			
	All Saints Holiday – NO CLASS			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make a reservation</li> <li>• Talk about past actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past tense of regular verbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotel, holidays and venues</li> </ul>	

		with auxiliary essere and avere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time expressions for past actions</li> </ul>	
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UNIT 8				
UNITÀ 4				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travelling in Italy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Past tense of irregular verbs</li> <li>The adverb ci</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Means of transportation</li> </ul> <p><b>SCRIVIAMO:</b> Write a short composition (100 words) about a holiday you went on (Dove? Quando? Con chi?..)</p>	
	<b>NO CLASS</b> <b>Homestay dinner with Italian families</b>			
	<b>ORAL PRESENTATION</b>			

UNIT 9				
UNITÀ 5				

Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask people about past experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct pronouns</li> <li>Adverbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monuments, buildings</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about family relationships</li> <li>Italian and American families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possessive adjectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family members</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Differences between American and Italian lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflexive verbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daily activities</li> </ul> <p><b>SCRIVIAMO:</b> Write a short composition (100 words) about your family and your experience with Italian families</p>	

UNIT 10				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<b>PIZZA MAKING CLASS</b>			
	<b>NO CLASS</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonst</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art</li> </ul>	

	work of art	rative adjective s	expressio ns in Florence	
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UNIT 11				
UNITÀ 5				
Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe what people are wearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More about "piacere"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clothing items</li> <li>Accessories</li> <li>Fabrics</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Express your size</li> <li>Fashion in Italy and the US</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indefinite</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Going shopping</li> </ul>		<b>ITALIAN FASHION AT SAN LORENZO</b>  <b>SCRIVIAMO:</b> Write a short composition (100 words) about fashion in Italy and the US	

UNIT 12				
UNITÀ 1-2-3-4-5				

Date	Communicative goals Cultural contents	Grammar structures	Vocabulary Out of class activities	Exams
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about your experience in Italy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review for Oral final</li> </ul>	<b>CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN STUDENTS</b>		

UNIT 14	
Date	Exams
	ORAL FINAL
	Review for Written Final
	WRITTEN FINAL

## Policies

### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

### University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

## **Scholastic Dishonesty**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

## **Student Conduct**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).