

ADVANCED COURSE IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

BCSP – Spring 2024

Prof. Christine Dodd (with Clara Piovaccari)

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HOURS:

1° preliminary period (January 15 - 26)
Monday – Friday 10am-12:30pm

2° period (February 15 – May 9)
Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm – 5pm

Cultural part
See calendar
BCSP classroom

DESCRIPTION: Through readings of Italian newspaper articles, students will build their vocabulary and analyze syntax and language structure. Students will discuss current events in class, thereby deepening their knowledge of Italian culture.

The course's preliminary period includes a general review of grammatical rules and activities designed to help discover of the city of Bologna, its history and culture, with a special focus on student life: the university and preparation for oral and written exams.

ACTIVITIES: The activities performed during the course include: reading/analyzing/summarizing newspapers articles, grammar exercises, conversation, oral presentations, writing assignments. Homework is regularly assigned, and students are required to correct and revise their compositions.

INSTRUCTORS: Christine Dodd is Italian Language Expert Collaborator at the CLA (Centro Linguistico di Ateneo) of the University of Bologna. She has taught Italian L2 in several Language Centers (University of Siena – Arezzo, University of Ferrara) and for American universities with campuses in Italy (Johns Hopkins University, Brown University in Bologna). At University of Bologna, she is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Italian in the Foreign Languages and Literature Department. Her interests deal with the inclusion of foreign students entering the Italian school system. Clara Piovaccari teaches Italian as a foreign language at the language center of the University of Bologna, Bolzano and Ferrara. Prof. Piovaccari couples her teaching activity with the role of Chief of the Italian Language Certification panel.

CONTENT:

Past tenses (Passato prossimo, Imperfetto; Trapassato prossimo, Passato remoto); Pronouns “ci” and “ne”; Future tense; future in the past; Relative and possessive pronouns; Combined pronouns; Past simple (*passato remoto*); Passive form; Conditional; Pronominal verbs; Conjunctions; Impersonal and passive use of “si”; Subjunctive in dependent and independent clauses; Conditional/hypothetical sentences; Correct use of verb tense; Adverbs and adjectives; Prepositions; Direct/indirect discourse.

FINAL GRADE:

<p>LANGUAGE (by completion of both course periods) 80% Factors that determine final grade: Class participation: 20%</p> <p>(To obtain a high grade in class participation, the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - demonstrate interest in the content - interact constantly with the teacher - ask questions when material is not clear - contribute to discussions) <p>Homework, compositions / summaries / analysis/summary of articles: 20% (To obtain a high grade the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - punctually turn in carefully written, well-prepared assignments - turn in assignments having clearly paid attention to spelling, grammar, structure <p>Failure to observe these requirements for class participation and homework/written assignments will gradually contribute to lowering the grade and risk not passing the course.</p> <p>Oral presentation: 20%</p> <p>In-class grammar test: 40% (10% preliminary period test, 10% mid-term and 20% final exam)</p>	<p>CULTURE (by completion of both course periods) 20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding of the main concepts in Italian history and art history from late antiquity to the Renaissance and beyond - visit important locations for their historical and artistic relevance - Final exam: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16
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ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Only one absence will be tolerated. Additional absences due to illness must be justified by a doctor's note. **1/2 point will be reduced from the final grade** for every other absence.

If you cannot attend class, you will be expected to get information from your classmates about readings and assignments and to be prepared for the next class. Unjustified lateness will negatively affect your grade in class participation.

TEXTS:

Preliminary period:

Course packet available at photocopy store (TBA).

Second period:

Christine Dodd, *ITALIANO QUOTIDIANO: Percorso di lingua e cultura italiana attraverso la stampa*. Bononia University Press, 2013.

CALENDAR:

1	Monday, January 15	Course presentation. Instructions for completing final project. Introductions, getting to know each other: present yourself in past tense. Review of past tenses.
2	Tuesday, January 16	Bologna: history and culture of the city. Contexts in past tense.
*	<i>Tuesday, January 16</i>	Cultural component (1): <i>Food and Wine in the Italian culinary heritage</i> – Lecture by prof. Massimo Montanari and visit to Enoteca Italiana
3	Wednesday, January 17	Studying at the university: organization, history and comparisons with the U.S. academic system. Express an opinion: present and past subjunctive.
*	<i>Wednesday, January 17</i>	Cultural component (2): <i>Presentation on Bologna and guided tour</i> – Prof. Benevolo
4	Thursday, January 18	Studying at the university: strategies for taking oral exams. Review of direct and indirect objects.
5	Friday, January 19	Studying at the university: writing an email to a professor. Review of formal pronouns.
6	Monday, January 22	Bologna and leisure time. Review of combined pronouns
7	Tuesday, January 23	First group's project presentation. Expectations for your semester in Italy: imperfect and past perfect subjunctive.
*	<i>Tuesday, January 23</i>	Cultural component (3): - <i>Lecture by Prof. Massimo Montanari</i>
8	Wednesday, January 24	Second group's project presentation. Correct use of subjunctive tenses.
9	Thursday, January 25	Third group's project presentation. Correct use of verb tenses.
10	Friday, January 26	Fourth group's project presentation. Review of all grammar points covered in the course. Preparation for the final test
#	Monday, January 29	Final preliminary period exam
*	<i>Tuesday, January 30</i>	Cultural component (4): - <i>Lecture by Prof. Massimo Montanari</i>
*	<i>Friday, February 2</i>	Cultural component (5): <i>Excursion to Castello di Torrechiara and lunch with Prosciutto di Parma</i>
*	<i>Friday, February 9</i>	Cultural component (6): <i>Excursion to Casa Artusi, Forlimpopoli – Piadina romagnola – Visit to Rimini</i>
1	Thursday, February 15	Course presentation. Introduction to the Italian press. Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Discussion. Activity to reinforce and expand vocabulary. Idiomatic expressions.
*	<i>Friday, February 16</i>	CULTURAL COMPONENT - FINAL EXAM
2	Tuesday, February 20	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Activity to reinforce and expand vocabulary. Discussion. Grammar topic: pronouns "ci" and "ne."
3	Thursday, February 22	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Activity to reinforce and expand vocabulary. Discussion. Grammar topic: relative pronouns. Possessive pronouns.

4	Tuesday, February 27	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Activity to reinforce and expand vocabulary. Discussion. Grammar topic: future tense. Future in the past.
5	Thursday, February 29	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary. Discussion. Grammar topic: impersonal and passive use of "si"
6	Tuesday, March 5	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Discussion of articles turned in by students. Grammar topic: passive form. The conditional used in hypothetical, unconfirmed news story. First written summary due.
7	Thursday, March 7	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Journalistic writing and stylistics. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. In groups: oral presentation of a news article. Grammar topic: nominalization. Summary of two articles due.
8	Tuesday, March 12	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Journalistic writing and stylistics. Instructions for drafting and writing a news story. Linguistic analysis of song. Discussion. Grammar topic: subjunctive verb tenses.
9	Thursday, March 14	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar review: conjunctions and subjunctive
10	Tuesday, March 19	MID-TERM (WRITTEN)
11	Thursday, March 21	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: conditional clause I
Easter		
12	Tuesday, April 9	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: conditional clause II.
13	Thursday, April 11	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: combined pronouns. Pronominal verbs.
14	Tuesday, April 16	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: altered forms.
15	Thursday, April 18	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: direct and indirect discourse I.
16	Tuesday, April 23	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Grammar topic: direct and indirect discourse II.
17	Tuesday, April 30	Article analysis: content and vocabulary. Reinforce and expand vocabulary and grammar knowledge. Discussion. Review of grammar topics and vocabulary.
18	Thursday, May 2	ORAL PRESENTATION OF AN ARTICLE (first group). Written assignments due.
19	Tuesday, May 7	ORAL PRESENTATION OF AN ARTICLE (second group). Written assignments due.
20	Thursday, May 9	FINAL EXAM (WRITTEN)