

ADVANCED COURSE IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

BCSP – Fall 2023

Prof. Clara Piovaccari

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HOURS:

1° preliminary period (from September 4 to 15)

Monday - Friday 10 - 12.30

2° period (from September 26 – November 30)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am – 1pm

Cultural part, Professor Giancarlo Benevolo

See calendar
BCSP classroom

DESCRIPTION: Students will approach complex grammar structures and syntax through the linguistic analysis of texts and audio and visual materials. Students will learn about famous historical figures and contemporary cultural events that have influenced Italian history, art, politics, and society. While deepening their understanding of Italian culture, students enrich their vocabulary with each discussion topic and practice conversation.

The course's preliminary period includes a general review of grammatical rules and activities designed to help discover 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 of articles and biographies, grammar exercises, conversation, oral presentations, writing assignments. Homework, including composition writing and project preparation, is regularly assigned. All written work will be corrected and each student asked to revise it.

INSTRUCTOR: 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.

GRAMMAR CONTENT:

This syllabus is based on the B2 level guidelines for Italian learning and it agrees with the European Common Guidelines related to the personal profile of each university student. Please see for details: <https://rm.coe.int/quadro-comune-europeo-di-riferimento-per-le-lingue-appendimento-inseg/1680a52d52>

FINAL GRADE:

<p>LANGUAGE (by completion of both course periods) 80%</p> <p>Factors that determine final grade:</p> <p>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%</p> <p>(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, SEPTEMBER 29
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WRITING PORTFOLIO: During the second period of the course, compositions will be assigned in different formats: biography, autobiography, research, opinion, commentary, interview, essay.

WRITTEN MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS: An examination of reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary and grammar ability based on the linguistic and grammar topics covered in class.

FINAL ORAL EXAM: For the final test, students will have to present, with the help of a PowerPoint presentation, the result of personal research dedicated to one of the topics treated during the semester.

TEXTS

Preliminary period:

Course packet designed by instructor (TBA)

Second period:

Text book:

Dieci B2 – Ciro Massimo Naddeo, Euridice Orlandino – Alma Edizioni

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. Only one absence will be tolerated. Additional absences due to illness must be justified by a doctor's note. **½ point will be reduced from the final grade** for every other absence.

If you cannot attend class, you are 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.

CALENDAR:

1	Monday, September 4	Course <i>presentation</i> . Instructions for completing final project. Introductions, getting to know each other: present yourself in past tense. Review of past tenses.
2	Tuesday, September 5	Bologna: history and culture of the city. Activity based on authentic material on Bologna. Revision of the past tenses.
3	Wednesday, September 6	Studying at the university: organization, history and comparisons with the U.S. academic system. Express an opinion: present and past subjunctive.
**	Wednesday, September 6	<i>First cultural lesson: Introduction to Bologna and its history, followed by walking tour of the city center. (Prof. Benevolo)</i>
4	Thursday, September 7	Studying at the university: strategies for taking oral exams. Review of direct and indirect objects.
5	Friday, September 8	Studying at the university: writing an email to a professor. Review of combined pronouns.
**	Friday, September 8	<i>Introductory lesson on Ravenna- Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	Saturday, September 9	<i>Excursion to Ravenna</i>
6	Monday, September 11	Hanging out in Bologna. Review of the combined pronouns.
7	Tuesday, September 12	First group's project presentation. Expectations for your semester in Italy: imperfect and past perfect subjunctive.
8	Wednesday, September 13	Second group's project presentation. Correct use of subjunctive tenses.
**	Wednesday, September 13	<i>Introductory lesson on the Medieval period – Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
9	Thursday, September 14	Third group's project presentation. Correct use of verb modes and tenses.
10	Friday, September 15	Fourth group's project presentation. Review of the grammatical topics of the course. Preparation for the test.
**	Friday, September 15	<i>Excursion to the Bologna Medieval museum</i>
#	Monday, September 18	Final preliminary period exam

**	Wednesday, September 20	<i>Introductory lesson on the Renaissance – Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	Friday, September 22	<i>Excursion to Urbino</i>
1	Tuesday, September 26	Presentation of the course. Introductions: reciprocal interview. Getting to know each other. Book Unit 1: A Trip to Italy (section A) – The Grand Tour - Grammar review
2	Thursday, September 28	Unit 1: A Trip to Italy (section C) – The two Italy – Grammar topic: <i>the Conditional phrases</i>
	Friday, September 29	FINAL EXAM – CULTURAL PART (Prof. Benevolo)
3	Tuesday, October 3	Unit 2: Sciences today and tomorrow – Section A – Prophecies – <i>The Past Subjunctive</i>
4	Thursday, October 5	Unit 2: Sciences today and tomorrow – Section B – The Food of the Future – <i>The Hypothetical Clause</i>

5	Tuesday, October 10	Unit 3: Rights and Duties – Section A – The Italian Political System – <i>Agreement of tenses in the Indicative mode</i>
6	Thursday, October 12	Unit 3: Rights and Duties – Section A – The Italian Political System – <i>Agreement of tenses in the Indicative mode</i>
7	Tuesday, October 17	Unit 3: Rights and Duties – Section B – Youth Power – <i>Lexicon and argumentation</i>
8	Thursday, October 19	Unit 4: Obsessions, vices and virtues – Section A – Mirroring ourselves – <i>Agreement with the main clause in the past</i>
9	Tuesday, October 24	Unit 4: Obsessions, vices and virtues – Section B/C – National sports/Domestic animals – <i>Verbs with the double auxiliary</i>
10	Thursday, October 26	MID-TERM (WRITTEN)
11	Tuesday, October 31	Unit 5: Italian history – Section A/B – History course: where were you? – <i>Indirect discourse</i>
Wednesday, November 1 – All Saints' Day – No class		
12	Thursday, November 2	Unit 5: Italian history – Section C – Controversial characters – <i>Indirect interrogative clauses</i>
13	Tuesday, November 7	Unit 6: - Mens sana in corpore sano – Section A/C – Sports, well-being and technology – <i>Uses of the subjunctive</i>
14	Thursday, November 9	Unit 7: Migrations – Section A/C – A country of migrants/Immigration in Italy – <i>The gerund</i>
15	Tuesday, November 14	Unit 8: Feeling at home – Section A/B – The ideal neighborhood/living together – <i>The phrases with "far fare"</i>
16	Thursday, November 16	Unit 9: For all tastes – Section A/B – An unlucky dinner/Taste experience – <i>Agreement of tenses in conditional clauses</i>
17	Tuesday, November 21	Unit 10: The Italian language yesterday and today – Section A/B – Regional languages/debates on language – <i>The passive form with "andare" and the split phrase</i>
18	Thursday, November 23	ORAL PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL PROJECTS (first group). Written assignment due.
19	Tuesday, November 28	ORAL PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL PROJECTS (second group). Written assignment due.
20	Thursday, November 30	FINAL EXAM (WRITTEN)