

## **ADVANCED COURSE IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

**BCSP – Fall 2025**

Prof. Clara Piovaccari

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### **ORARIO:**

**1° period** (from September 3 to 12)  
10.30am – 1pm

**2° period** (from September 23 to November 27)  
Tuesday and Thursday: 11am – 1pm

**Cultural part** Prof. 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-apprendimento-inseg/1680a52d52>

### **TESTS:**

#### **Preliminary period:**

Packet provided by the instructor

#### **Second period:**

Packet provided by the instructor

## VALUTAZIONE FINALE:

LANGUAGE 80%	CULTURE 20%
<p>Factors that determine final grade:</p> <p><b>Class participation: 20%</b></p> <p>(To obtain a high grade in class participation, the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- demonstrate interest in the content</li> <li>- interact constantly with the teacher</li> <li>- ask questions when material is not clear</li> <li>- contribute to discussions)</li> </ul> <p><b>Homework, compositions / summaries / analysis/summary of articles: 20%</b></p> <p>(To obtain a high grade the student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- punctually turn in carefully written, well-prepared assignments</li> <li>- turn in assignments having clearly paid attention to spelling, grammar, structure</li> </ul> <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><b>Oral presentation: 20%</b></p> <p><b>In-class grammar test: 40%</b> (20% mid-term and 20% final exam)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understanding of the main concepts in Italian history and art history from late antiquity to the Renaissance and beyond</li> <li>- visit important locations for their historical and artistic relevance</li> </ul> <p>- Final exam: <b>WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24</b></p>

## 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 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.

**NO MAKE UP EXAMS.** If you miss the date and exam time you'll receive 17/30 points only (18 is the lowest passing grade).

## CALENDAR:

1	Wednesday, September 3	Course presentation. Instructions for completing final project. Introductions, getting to know each other: present yourself in present and past tense Semantic field of the self-portrait.
2	Thursday, September 4	Bologna: history and culture of the city. Activity with authentic materials about the city. Review of past tenses.
3	Friday, September 5	Studying at the university: organization, history and comparisons with the U.S. academic system. Review of direct and indirect objects.
**	<b>Friday, September 5</b>	<i>Introductory lesson on Ravenna- Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	<b>Saturday, September 6</b>	<i>Excursion to Ravenna</i>
4	Monday, September 8	Studying at the university: strategies for taking oral exams. Express an opinion: present and past subjunctive.
5	Tuesday, September 9	Studying at the university: writing an email to a professor Review of the formal pronouns
6	Wednesday, September 10	Bologna and free time. Review of combined pronouns.
	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 10</b>	<i>Introduction to Bologna, its history and Middle Age, followed by walking tour of the city center. (Prof. Benevolo)</i>
7	Thursday, September 11	<b>First group's project presentation.</b> Expectations for your semester in Italy: imperfect and past perfect subjunctive.
8	Friday, September 12	<b>Second group's project presentation.</b> Revision of the topic discussed.
**	<b>Friday, September 12</b>	<i>Visit to the Medieval Museum</i>

**	<b>Friday, September 19</b>	<i>Introductory lesson on the Renaissance – Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	<b>Saturday, September 20</b>	<i>Excursion to Urbino</i>
1	Tuesday, September 23	Italians: between stereotypes and reality. Aspects of contemporary culture. Exercises and discussion. Grammar: the <i>ci</i> and <i>ne</i> pronouns
**	<b>Wednesday, Sept. 24</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM - CULTURE</b> (Prof. Benevolo)
2	Thursday, September 25	Italians judge themselves: personality traits, customs and behaviors. How to anticipate the result of a survey. Grammar: <i>Subjunctive consistency</i>
3	Wednesday, September 30	Sciences: today and tomorrow. Technology discussed. Exercises and discussion. Grammar: <i>the past perfect subjunctive</i>
4	Thursday, October 2	The food of the future. Pros and cons of technology. Grammar: <i>the hypothetical period</i> .
5	Tuesday, October 7	Is provocation the base of contemporary art? Is anything art? Grammar: <i>uses of the conditional tense</i>
6	Thursday, October 9	The great beauty or Made in Italy. Grammar: <i>Conditional or Subjunctive</i> .
7	Tuesday, October 14	Italy in progress. Content and vocabulary analysis of a newspaper article. Activity of vocabulary reinforcement/expansion. Grammar: <i>pronominal verbs</i>
8	Thursday, October 16	Rights and duties: the Italian political system. Grammar: <i>Verb tenses consistency</i>

9	Tuesday, October 21	The ideal neighborhood: feeling at home. Grammar: <i>The phrase "far fare" in its uses and forms.</i>
10	Thursday, October 23	<b>MID-TERM (WRITTEN)</b>
*	Tuesday, October 28	Language lesson suspended
*	Thursday, October 30	Language lesson suspended
11	Tuesday, November 4	The Italian language yesterday and today: discussions on the language. Grammar: <i>the passive with "andare"</i> . The eternal city. The Romans, ancient but modern. Exercises and discussion. Grammar: <i>the passive form with essere and venire</i>
12	Thursday, November 6	Italians who made history: Italian leaderships. Grammar: the <i>"historic" present</i> .
13	Tuesday, November 11	Brains drain. Content and vocabulary analysis of a newspaper article. Activity of vocabulary and grammatical reinforcement/expansion.
14	Thursday, November 13	Nomen omen. Grammar: <i>the subjunctive after 'voglio che'/'vorrei che'.</i>
15	Tuesday, November 18	The book fair: I read. You? Grammar: <i>the indirect discourse. First part</i>
16	Thursday, November 20	The book fair: I read. You? Grammar: <i>the indirect discourse. Second part</i>
17	Tuesday, November 25	<b>ORAL PRESENTATION OF THE PERSONAL PROJECT. Written assignments due.</b>
18	Thursday, November 27	<b>FINAL EXAM (WRITTEN)</b>

Updated 19/6/25