

ADVANCED COURSE IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

BCSP – Fall 2022

Prof. Clara Piovaccari

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HOURS:

1° preliminary period (from September 5 to 16)
Monday - Friday 10am-12.30pm

2° period (from September 26 – December 12)
Mondays 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:

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: - demonstrate interest in the content - interact constantly with the teacher - ask questions when material is not clear - contribute to discussions)</p> <p>Homework, compositions / summaries / analysis/summary of articles: 20% (To obtain a high grade the student must: - punctually turn in carefully written, well-prepared assignments - turn in assignments having clearly paid attention to spelling, grammar, structure</p> <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, OCTOBER 7
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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:

Course packet designed by instructor (TBA)

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 5	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 6	Bologna: history and culture of the city. Activity based on authentic material on Bologna. Revision of the past tenses.
3	Wednesday, September 7	Studying at the university: organization, history and comparisons with the U.S. academic system. Express an opinion: present and past subjunctive.
**	Wednesday, September 7	<i>First cultural lesson: Introduction to Bologna and its history, followed by walking tour of the city center. (Prof. Benevolo)</i>
4	Thursday, September 8	Studying at the university: strategies for taking oral exams. Review of direct and indirect objects.
5	Friday, September 9	Studying at the university: writing an email to a professor. Review of combined pronouns.
**	Friday, September 9	<i>Introductory lesson on Ravenna- Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	Saturday, September 10	<i>Excursion to Ravenna</i>
6	Monday, September 12	Hanging out in Bologna. Review of the combined pronouns.
7	Tuesday, September 13	First group's project presentation. Expectations for your semester in Italy: imperfect and past perfect subjunctive.
8	Wednesday, September 14	Second group's project presentation. Correct use of subjunctive tenses.
**	Wednesday, September 14	<i>Introductory lesson on the Medieval period – Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
9	Thursday, September 15	Third group's project presentation. Correct use of verb modes and tenses.
10	Friday, September 16	Fourth group's project presentation. Review of the grammatical topics of the course. Preparation for the test.
**	Friday, September 16	<i>Excursion to the Bologna Medieval museum</i>
#	Monday, September 19	Final preliminary period exam

**	Friday, September 23	<i>Introductory lesson on the Renaissance – Prof. G. Benevolo</i>
**	Saturday, September 24	<i>Excursion to Urbino</i>
1	Monday, September 26	Presentation of the course. Introductions, getting to know each other: interviews in pairs. Text: writing reviews. Grammar topic: the order within a phrase
2	Thursday, September 29	The newspaper article; reporting and commenting news and data. Grammar topic: past conditional.
3	Monday, October 3	Analysis of a scientific text. Discussion. Grammar topic: nominalization.
4	Thursday, October 6	Vocabulary building and content analysis of an interview. Discussion. Grammar topic: the uses of future tenses (simple and composed) to express doubts and uncertainties
**	Friday, October 7	FINAL EXAM - CULTURE (Prof. Benevolo)

5	Monday, October 10	Vocabulary building and content analysis of an article. Discussion. Grammar topic: pronouns “ci” and “ne” and idiomatic phrases.
6	Thursday, October 13	Communication and media: the argumentative article. Discussion. Grammar topic: the concessive phrase and the subjunctive in subordinate clauses.
7	Monday, October 17	Expressing an opinion, sustaining a thesis. Grammar topic: connectors and verbs that are necessary for expressing an opinion
8	Thursday, October 20	Observation and analysis of current newspaper articles. Discussion. Grammar topic: use of the gerund with causal, instrumental, concessive value.
9	Monday, October 24	Vocabulary building and content analysis of a biography. Discussion. General grammar review.
10	Thursday, October 27	MID-TERM (WRITTEN)
Monday, November 1 – All Saints’ Day – No class		
11	Monday, November 7	From north to south, the review of a trip. Discussion. Grammar topic: altered suffixes for nouns and adjectives. The verbal nouns.
12	Thursday, November 10	Vocabulary building and content analysis of a newspaper article. Discussion. Grammar topic: conjunctions, the subjunctive in dependent and independent clauses.
13	Monday, November 14	Vocabulary building and content analysis of a video interview. Discussion. Grammar topic: the conditional clause.
14	Thursday, November 17	Vocabulary building and content analysis of a biography. Activity to reinforce and expand vocabulary and review of grammar rules. Discussion. Grammar topic: modes and tenses consistency.
15	Monday, November 21	Vocabulary building and content analysis of radio broadcasts on a specific aspect of cultural communication. Discussion. Grammar topic: direct and indirect discourse, part I
16	Thursday, November 24	Vocabulary building and content analysis of an autobiography. Discussion. Grammar topic: direct and indirect discourse, part II
17	Monday, November 28	Vocabulary building and content analysis of a recent piece of news. Discussion. Review of grammar topics and vocabulary.
18	Thursday, December 1	ORAL PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL PROJECTS (first group). Written assignment due.
19	Monday, December 5	ORAL PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL PROJECTS (second group). Written assignment due.
20	Monday, December 12	FINAL EXAM (WRITTEN)