

Portland State University

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

First year Italian

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Introduction: Welcome! We are glad that you have chosen to study Italian with us. Italian is spoken in Italy and also in Switzerland, parts of Africa, the Balkans, and the island of Malta. It is also the fourth foreign language most spoken in U.S. homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Knowledge of Italian is important for people in business, the arts, technology and many professions. It is useful for college students planning careers in art history, music, linguistics, education and international relations. .

Required Materials:

- Prego! An invitation to Italian. Sixth Edition. This is the newest edition and is available at the PSU bookstore. The package includes the Textbook, Workbook Manual, Lab Manual and an access number to enter the publisher's website. Here you will find the Audio material as well as several resources and activities. The listening material is also available at the **foreign languages computer lab** (across the Foreign Language Office, NH 393) where they will also provide you with a copy of the listening files on a CD upon request.. A small dictionary is also included in the package.
- Packet available at Smart Copy, 1915 SW 6th Ave. It contains the Answer Keys for the workbook.

Optional Materials: Adorni e Primorak, English Grammar for students of Italian

Online dictionary : www.garzantilinguistica.it

A good medium sized English-Italian dictionary.

Final Grade Scale:

A 100-94	B 86-84	C 76-74	D66-64
A-93-90	B-83-80	C-73-70	D63-60
B+89-87	C+79-77	D+69-67	F 59-0

Grading:

Attendance and Participation and Preparation	30%
Exams	30%
Homework	10%
Writing activities (2)	10%
Poster session	10%
Oral Exam (during the final exam period indicated in the Schedule of Classes0	10%

Evaluation and grading criteria:

Attendance: Attendance is very important for the continuity of class activities and it is mandatory. Absences are recorded each day. The following scale will be used to calculate your attendance grade:

0-2 absences > A 3-4 absences> B 5-6 > absences C 7 absences D 8 absences F

[This syllabus is representative of the course content and is subject to change.]

If you miss more than seven days you will fail the class.

Exceptions to this scale may be made for extreme, unforeseen circumstances only at the instructor's discretion. Consistently late arrival or early departure may affect your attendance grade, at your instructor's discretion. Arriving late is impolite and disruptive. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

Participation: Active and willing participation in classroom activities is essential to your success in this course. The participation grade is based on the quantity and quality of your participation, where quality is determined by active, on task participation in group activities, by coming to class with homework prepared, by volunteering, by being prepared when called on, etc. Feel free to discuss your participation grade with your instructor at any time during the term.

A Volunteers regularly, always prepared with homework, demonstrates familiarity with the vocabulary, tries to express him/herself as accurately as possible, is on task with group activities. Never uses English in discussion, responds fully, elaborates on answers, elicit discussion from partners by asking pertinent questions., is respectful and attentive to others.
B Sometimes volunteers, usually prepared when called on, usually on task with group activities, is familiar with part of the vocabulary, pays some attention to accuracy. Communicates insufficiently in some discussion contexts, frequently uses English with and without instructor permission. Gives short answers, has difficulty elaborating when requested, is respectful.
C Almost never volunteers, sometimes prepared when called on, seldom on task with group activities, is familiar with only a few vocabulary terms, rarely pays attention to accuracy. The student communicates insufficiently in most or all discussion contexts, responds to contextual questions with isolated words or silence; is tardy, speaks mostly English in class, makes mostly errors with regard to material covered; is disrespectful to others or inattentive.
D Never volunteers, seldom prepares homework, does not stay on task in group activities, is not familiar with vocabulary, pays little attention to accuracy. The student is unable to communicate in most or all discussion contexts, is often absent and disrespectful to others.

Exams: There will be 2 in class exams plus a final exam. Make ups exams are strongly discouraged and are available only by prior arrangement and/or with a note from the doctor.

Preparation: Classroom activities and exams are based on the assumption that you are doing the assignments in the text, workbook and in any additional material provided during the course. Students should assign themselves a participation grade using the Self Evaluation of Participation form provided and leave it with the instructor every 3 weeks. The instructor will confirm the grades. This will help the students understand their instructor's expectations.

Course and Program Goals: Learning a foreign language is one of the most enriching experiences in anybody's education. It entails exploring a way of life, a different culture and the traditions of another country. The goal of First Year Italian is to help you become proficient in communicating with native speakers of Italian and help you interact with the Italian speaking communities of the world. Special focus is given to communicating about yourself and others, places, interests and activities and to speaking. The goal of first term Italian include learning the Italian alphabet and to pronounce the language correctly. By the end of the term you will be able to greet Italians properly, ask and answer personal

questions regarding you and your family, where you come from, your daily activities and the weather. You will also read about the Italian regions.

Expectations:

We will cover the preliminary unit and the first 4 chapters (formally up to pg. 102) . Following each chapter there will be an exam (the last one being the last day of regular classes). This means that there are 23 class periods to cover 102 pages, an average of 4.5 pages per class period. Do not wait for me to assign homework: it is a given that we will cover the next 4 pages unless otherwise announced. Study the textbook first then do the exercises in the **workbook and lab manual** regarding those pages. Correct them by using the **answer keys** purchased at Smart Copy. Make corrections as you go along. **Mark the mistakes with a pen of a different color** so when reviewing you will immediately notice your mistakes. The workbooks will be checked periodically and on exam days.

Writing Activities: Compositions and writing activities will be assigned during the term. Two of them will be graded both on content and form. The part called "Un po' di scrittura" in the workbook will be utilized as writing activities. Evaluation criteria used are available upon request.

Final Project/Final Group Project: The format is that of a poster session (like a trade show or science fair) in which groups prepare visual or audio ads and texts, arrange them on a poster board and presents simultaneously. One or two person staff the board, discussing the project with other students while the remaining group members view the posters of other group. Grades are assigned by the instructor using the Participation criteria listed above. Attendance of the entire class is required. Topics are open to student interest but in 101 students are expected to be able to discuss weather, seasons, dates, places, anatomy, physical characteristics, nationality, family, school, sports, schedule, interests and ask a lot of questions.

Oral Exam: An oral exam will take place during the final exam period indicated in the Schedule of Classes. The topics will be similar to the ones discussed in class and will be given in advance. You might be required to do the exam individually or in pairs. The exam is graded for extension, content, vocabulary, accuracy, grammar, pronunciation and fluidity.

Written Final Exam: It will be given on the LAST DAY of class.