

## Advanced Italian

**UNH Course Code:** ITA303

**Subject Area:** Italian Language and Literature

**Level:** 300

**Prerequisites:** Intermediate Italian II or the equivalent of at least four semesters of college level Italian

**Language of Instruction:** Italian

**Contact Hours:** 60

**Recommended Credits:** 4

### Description:

This course is designed for students who have mastered the grammatical structure of the language and are ready to expand and enlarge their language skills thus achieving a high degree in mastery in the four basic skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing). A particular emphasis will be put on oral and written production: various kinds of text and genres (reports, movies, historical and literary texts, plots, expositions and data analyses) will be analysed and practiced, with a particular attention to the textual type that they represent (narrativo, descrittivo, argomentativo). Various types of texts will be read and analysed during class time. You will be asked to write plot summaries or reports, short essays and reaction papers on movies.

The course combines several integrated approaches aimed at developing your skills. Most in-class time, driven by the structure of the textbook and accompanying workbook, is devoted to speaking and practicing Italian through a combination of group-based and individual activities, focusing on grammatical structures, language functions and vocabulary. Lessons also focus on a wide range of contemporary cultural themes through the use varied materials such as newspaper articles, advertising material and short film clips. Onsite activities such as visits to markets and to the National Library in Florence, and regular conversation exchanges with Italian students, will give you a unique chance to rapidly implement your linguistic development in real-life. In addition, you will be encouraged to read a great variety of real-life materials such as newspaper articles, advertising material and literary texts to foster your comprehension of written sources and to enrich your vocabulary.

To give you further opportunities to develop your linguistic and intercultural skills in real local-community situations, your professor will assist in arranging conversation exchanges with Italians, either as part of in-class cultural exchanges with local Italians as guests, or during on-site study excursions.

Special extra-curricular activities, such as the Public Lectures Series on Italian cultural themes at the British Institute of Florence, or Film Nights organised by various local institutions, will be announced at the start of the semester and your instructor will help you identify which activities would be most useful for you. These, and other cultural components of the course, will also promote your knowledge of Italy and Italians, as you learn about Italian society, and thus learning Italian gives you a privileged opportunity to develop sensitivity towards cultural differences and to understand the ways in which culture and language interlock. In this sense you will be encouraged to exploit the value of these lessons not just as a useful aid to your progress in other courses, but as a set of tools for unlocking a wide range of intercultural discoveries whilst living and studying abroad.

### Learning Objectives:

- to manage the grammar and lexical structures of the language
- to comprehend long speeches and television shows or movies
- to read and understand various kind of texts
- to express ideas and opinions accurately and confidently
- to interact with the host-community with a marked degree of fluency
- to write reports and essays in the style appropriate to a given context

### **Instructional Format:**

Class meets four times a week for 55 minutes each time. Class time is devoted predominantly to speaking and practicing Italian. Classroom activities are devoted to speaking Italian, and reading and discussing real-life Italian material such as song lyrics and advertising slogans. As particular emphasis is placed on your foreign surroundings, you will learn about the language through assignments and on-site activities, such as visiting the market or asking for directions in the streets. You are expected to commit at least 4 – 6 hours a week to self study and homework for the duration of the semester.

*If you require any special accommodations, please contact your instructor.*

### **Forms of Assessment:**

The instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course. For the record, these are listed and weighted below. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class. Whether you plan to transfer letter grades back to your home institution or not, CEA expects that you will complete all graded assessment categories in each course in which you are enrolled. In addition, your work and behavior in this course must fully conform to the regulations of the [CEA Academic Integrity Policy](#) to which you are subject. Finally, all formal written work you carry out in this course (research papers, projects, studies, etc.) must be submitted in electronic format. Your instructor may also require that you hand in a hard copy of such work.

### **Appealing a Grade:**

Any grade dispute you have during the course must immediately be addressed with the instructor and definitively resolved before the last week of class. Only end-of-term assignments graded after the end of your program can be formally appealed.

Students wishing to appeal the grade of an end-of-term assignment must do so within the 30 day period following the official release of grades by submitting the “Grade Appeal Form” to the Academic Dean. The appeal procedure and the grade re-evaluation it requires does not guarantee a change in grade, and could result in an increase or decrease in the final grade given. Any change is subject to a ruling by the course instructor, in consultation with the Academic Dean, and must be based on the academic evidence provided to support the appeal. The instructor’s ruling on this matter is final.

Upon receiving the results of the review and decision by the instructor, the Academic Dean will inform the student of the result of the appeal. The grade received by the student as a result of the Grade Appeal is final and may not be appealed further.

Class Participation	10%
Homework Assignments	10%
Individual presentations	20%
Written essays	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm exam oral	10%
Midterm exam written	10%
Final exam oral	10%
Final exam written	10%

Class Participation (10%): When determining your class participation grade, traditional criteria such as material preparation, completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are all evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Whereas attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively towards the grade, laxity in these areas will have a negative effect on your grade. The instructor will use the following specific criteria when calculating your class participation grade:

Criteria for Assessing Class Participation	Grade
You make major and original contributions that spark discussion, offering both critical and analytical comments clearly based on readings and research and displaying a working knowledge of theoretical issues.	A+ (9.70–10.00)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings and independent research.	A-/A (9.00–9.69)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B/B+ (8.40–89.90)
You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	C+/B- (7.70–8.39)
You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	C (7.00–7.69)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject, attending class having manifestly done little if any preparation.	D (6.00–6.69)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion, a result of frequent absence and complete un-preparedness.	F (0–5.90)

### Cell phones:

During class time, all mobile phones must be switched off. In case of family emergency, students can keep their phones on (silent mode) after asking for permission before class starts.

### Laptops:

Responsible use of laptop computers during class is encouraged, and so when required by your professor you must be prepared to turn them off and/or close them during certain activities.

Homework Assignments (20%): Homework assignments (set out in the Assignment column of the course content) will be corrected at the beginning of each class. You are responsible for all assigned work and you should be aware that absence from the preceding class is not an excuse for non-preparation. All assignments are subject to change based on class progress, and you will be normally told in the preceding class of such changes. You can e-mail your instructor to find out about the assigned homework. At any point, you may be called upon to respond to questions dealing with material previously assigned by the instructor. If you wish to have your homework further explained by the instructor, please bring it to her attention at the end of the class period. Your instructor will ask to see your workbook at regular intervals during the course in order to monitor your performance and your progress

Individual Presentations (20%): You will prepare at least 4 individual presentations which have a high weight on assessment. The topics for the Individual presentations will be discussed with the teacher at the beginning of semester. Comprehensive guidelines and suggestions will be distributed at the start of the course.

You must provide a handout for your classmates, comprising an outline or summary of your presentation and a specialized vocabulary list. If your presentation is dependent upon images you are strongly encouraged to use software such as PowerPoint and other visual aids for your discussion. Just bring your presentation on a USB and load it onto the classroom PC a few minutes before the class starts.

Finally, you should be prepared to try and answer any questions fielded by your classmates about the meaning of any of the words used in your presentations. It will be important for everyone in the class to understand the meaning and usage of these vocabulary items since they will be incorporated by your instructor into the ongoing curriculum and included on the midterm and final examinations.

Written essays (20%): You will write at least 4 essays. Possible topics for these essays will be discussed at the beginning of semester. Comprehensive guidelines and suggestions will be distributed at the start of the course.

Mid-term (oral portion 10% and written portion 10%) and Final Exam (oral portion 10% and written portion 10%): The midterm and final exams are designed to establish and communicate to you the progress you are making towards meeting the course learning objectives listed above. They are comprised of questions and

exercises that test your abilities in important areas of competency outlined in the learning objectives above. These tests will also incorporate idioms and vocabulary items introduced by you and your classmates during your Independent Presentations.

CEA Grading Scale				
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade Low Range	Numerical Grade High Range	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70	10.00	97.0 - 100%	4.00
A	9.40	9.69	94.0 - 96.9%	4.00
A-	9.00	9.39	90.0 - 93.9%	3.70
B+	8.70	8.99	87.0 - 89.9%	3.30
B	8.40	8.69	84.0 - 86.9%	3.00
B-	8.00	8.39	80.0 - 83.9%	2.70
C+	7.70	7.99	77.0 - 79.9%	2.30
C	7.00	7.69	70.0 - 76.9%	2.00
D	6.00	6.99	60.0 - 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00	5.99	0 - 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal			0.00
INC	Incomplete			0.00

### Monitoring Progress:

Your progress will be constantly monitored during the semester, and feedback will be offered throughout. Furthermore your instructor is available to meet you after class by appointment when necessary.

### CEA Attendance Policy:

Every student is expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be thoroughly prepared for the day's class activities. In compliance with NEASC and UNH accreditation requirements, CEA instructors compile regular attendance records for every course and take these records into account when evaluating student participation and performance.

- In this course, a maximum of seven days of accumulated absences due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transport delay and other related impediments will be tolerated.
- Your final course grade will drop one full letter grade (e.g. A+ to B+) for missing eight days of class, regardless of the reason for your absence.
- Your final course grade will drop another full letter grade (e.g. B+ to C+) for missing nine days of class, regardless of the reason for your absence.
- Your final course grade will drop a another full letter grade (e.g. C+ to D) for missing ten days of class, regardless of the reason for your absence.
- If your absences exceed ten (10) days of class, you will automatically fail this course (e.g., D to F; miss ten (11 or more days to receive an "F").

Furthermore, to comply with immigration and financial regulations, you must maintain full-time student status and attend at least 12 hours of class every week. Consequently, the Dean and Program Director will dismiss from all CEA courses, programs, activities and housing any student who fails to maintain full-time status.

### Arriving Late for Class:

A student consistently arriving late for class displays an unacceptably deficient degree of participation, and an unacceptable lack of respect for his instructor and his fellow students. Instructors will reflect students' persistent lateness by deducting percentage points from the total 10% earmarked for Participation as indicated on the syllabus. Please note that missing a significant portion of one of your classes can be

considered a full absence at the discretion of the professor. Always communicate to your teacher if you need to leave early due to illness, or if you are late due to serious, unforeseen circumstances.

### **Missing Examinations:**

Students who miss mid-term or final examination at the assigned hours will not be permitted to sit a make-up examination without written permission from the Academic Dean. Permission will rarely be granted. It might be granted in the case of instances of serious, documented illness (see the attendance policy for more details), but never for travel. *Examinations will not be rescheduled under any circumstances, except in cases of genuine emergencies. Such cases should be taken to the Academic Dean in writing. Missing an examination for whatever reason is effectively an absence from class.*

### **Required Readings:**

Required readings will come from the following course textbook. Please note that it is mandatory to acquire the course text book, which you can purchase at the Paperback Exchange bookstore located at Via delle Oche, 4. The price is approximately 20 euro.

Bali M, Ziglio L., *Espresso 3*, Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2008

Nocchi, S., *Italian Grammar in Practice: Exercises, Tests, Games*, Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2002.

Ammaniti N., *Io non ho paura*, Einaudi Edizioni, Torino 2001

Depending on the progress and interests of the class, your teacher will occasionally hand out copied extracts from the texts cited in the Recommended Readings list below. In addition, you are highly recommended to purchase a Italian/English-English/Italian dictionary, and to bring it with you to all lessons. Consult your instructor for recommendations.

Italian literature: A glance at the Italian contemporary literature through the reading of excerpts from *Bagheria* by Dacia Maraini, *Seta* by Alessandro Baricco, *Papà va in tv* from *L'ultima lacrima* by Stefano Benni, *Se una notte un viaggiatore d'inverno* by Italo Calvino, *La testa degli Italiani* by Beppe Severgnini. Each reading will be followed by an assignment.

Novel: *Io non ho paura* by Niccolò Ammaniti, Einaudi Edizioni Tascabili.

### **Recommended Readings:**

The following books are available in the Language Section of the Resource Center.

S. Benni, *Il bar sotto il mare*, Feltrinelli Editore, Milano, 1987.

R. Bozzone Costa, *Viaggio nell'italiano*, Loescher Editore, Torino, 2004.

M. Arnaudo, *La pagina breve: Racconti italiani del novecento*, Cideb Editrice, Genova, 2005.

A. Sabatini, *Chiaroscuro 3: Livello Intermedio*, Vignanuova Edizioni, Firenze, 2004.

P. Bultrini, F. Graziani, N. Magnani, C. Marino, C. Sandri, *Italian Espresso II*, Gruppo Italiaidea Alma Edizioni, Firenze.

A folder of information about the many libraries, documentation centers, and research institutes here in the city is available in the Resource Center, and direct access to additional resources and databanks are available to you through the online library of the University of New Haven.

### **Self Study:**

While we emphasize collaborative and communicative methodology in the classroom, we also highly encourage you to pursue several self study hours each week, exploiting the range of Italian books, articles and DVD films available in the Resource Center,

### **Quaderno Personale:**

You are encouraged to keep a personal notebook of new vocabulary and idiomatic expressions as you come across them, including those introduced by your classmates during the presentations of the Team Projects. Feel free to share this with your instructor if at any point during the semester you want to check the meaning or usage of any new words that you spot during your travels or in your studies.

### **Online Reference & Research Tools:**

You will find links to all of these sites and many more on desktop of all of the PCs at the CEA Florence Center.

Miscellaneous:

[www.allaboutitaly.com](http://www.allaboutitaly.com)

[www.italianfoodforever.com](http://www.italianfoodforever.com)

[www.florenceforfun.org](http://www.florenceforfun.org)

[www.educational.rai.it](http://www.educational.rai.it)

Help with Italian pronunciation online, with the help of clever drawings:

[www.cyberitalian.com](http://www.cyberitalian.com)

A site for researching travel and events throughout Italy:

<http://www.giraitalia.it>

Italian dialects, with a description and a map to show what is spoken and where:

<http://www.evolpub.com/Italiandialects/ITALhome.html>

Over 60 RealVideo clips with notes (in Italian) about regional differences, how to make the gesture, appropriate usage, and type (i.e., colloquial, vulgar, or trivial):

<http://www.eurocosm.com/Eurocosm/AppEC/Pdcd/Handsignals/HandsignsGB.asp>

The renowned writer Beppe Severgnini's columns in the Italian national daily *Corriere della Sera*:

<http://www.corriere.it/solferino/severgnini>

#### **Films:**

The following films, highly recommended for the insights into contemporary Italian culture as well as language exercises, are available at the Resource Center. They can be viewed at your leisure at the multi-media station in the Resource Center.

*I Cento Passi*, Tullio Marco Giordana, 2000

*Io non ho paura*, Gabriele Salvatores 2003

*L'uomo perfetto*, Luca Lucini, 2005

**Advanced Conversation & Composition  
Course Content:**

Session	Topic	Activity	Student Assignment
1	Introduction Review of present form of regular and irregular verbs. Reflexive verbs Modal verbs (volere, potere, dovere)	Ciao! Mi presento Introduce and talk about yourself.	Workbook: Exercises on present tense, reflexive and modal verbs. Readings.
2	Review of nouns, articles and adjectives Discover a bookstore in the centre of Florence	<b>On-site visit:</b> Andiamo insieme in libreria	Workbook: exercises on nouns, articles and adjectives
3	Prepositions Addressing people formally	Un giorno a Firenze: le prime impressioni sulla città. Introduction of the novel "Io non ho paura"	Workbook: exercises on prepositions . Prepare a "lista della spesa"
4	Conversation practice at the market: asking for goods and prices	<b>On-site visit:</b> Una visita al mercato di S. Ambrogio	Written essay # 1. Readings.
	Review of passato prossimo	Il mio libro preferito. Talking about your favourite books	Workbook: exercises on passato prossimo .
5	Past time expressions and imperfect. Describing people and landscape	Write a postcard to a friend: <i>what you did last weekend.</i>	Workbook: exercises on imperfect.
6	Imperfect and passato prossimo.	Scene from a film: tell a story	Workbook: exercises on imperfect and passato prossimo
7	Trapassato prossimo	<b>QUIZ#1</b> Musica: italian songs- listening and discussion.	Workbook: exercise on trapassato prossimo. Prepare Independent Presentation #1: "my childhood"
8	Use of trapassato prossimo. Sequences of tenses in the indicative	Discussion topic: learning a foreign language. Difficulties and challenges. <b>Independent presentation#1</b>	Workbook: exercises on trapassato prossimo Readings.
9	Possessive adjectives and pronouns.	Discussion of first chapter of novel "Io non ho paura"	Workbook: exercises on possessive adjectives and pronouns
10	Family nouns	Discussion topic: <i>la famiglia</i> . Italian family and american family: difference and similarities	Workbook: exercises on family nouns.
11	Present conditional	Conditional for polite requests and giving advices.	Written essay #2 Readings.
12	Past Conditional Complaining	Un Consiglio... Ask for and offer advice to a friend and then to a person you don't know.	Workbook: exercises on present and past conditional.
13	Prepositions - Present continuous (the verb stare +the gerund)	<b>QUIZ #2</b>	Workbook: exercises on prepositions and present continuous. Readings.
14	Consolidation	Discuss the chapters of the novel "Io non ho paura" read	Workbook: exercises on prepositions.

		so far	
15	Future. Uses of the future.	Discussion topic: <i>il mondo tra cento anni!</i>	Workbook: exercises on the future. Prepare Independent presentation #2 “my life in Firenze and my life in USA: differences and similarities”.
16	If – clauses with future tense	<b>Independent Presentation #2</b>	Workbook: Exercises on If – clauses with future tense. Readings.
17	Discover a library in the centre of Florence	<b>On- site visit</b> Biblioteca delle Oblate	Assignment: write a composition about the visit at the biblioteca
18	Direct object pronouns and particle <i>ne</i> as partitivo	Sapori d'Italia: fare la spesa.	Workbook: exercises on direct objects pronouns and <i>ne partitivo</i> .
19	Direct object pronouns and past participle	Write an email to a friend describing your last weekend	Workbook: exercises on direct object pronouns and past participle.
20	Indirect object pronouns	Musica: italian songs- listening and discussion.	Workbook: Exercises on indirect object pronouns
21	Informal and formal imperative	Express wishes, asking politely and giving advices	Workbook: exercises on imperative and pronouns
22	Imperative and pronouns	Giving instructions and cooking. Italian traditional recipes.	Workbook: exercises on imperative and pronouns Write a recipe using the imperative.
23	Agreement of tenses in the imperfect and present perfect subjunctive	Assignment review <b>Che cosa faresti se.....?</b>	Exercises on agreement of tenses with subjunctive
24	Outdoors: Treasure hunt	Assignment review <b>Treasure hunt!</b>	Review exercises
25	Consolidation	Review for the midterm exam	Review exercises
26	Consolidation	Assignment review.	Readings.
27	Review of grammar structures	Discuss the chapters of novel “Io non ho paura” read so far	Worksheets for review
28	Review of all problematic homework assignments	Review for the midterm exam	Worksheets for review
29	<b>MIDTERM ORAL EXAM</b>		
30	<b>MIDTERM WRITTEN EXAM</b>		
31	Consolidation	The fall break vacations: what did you do? Which places did you visit? Tell your experience.	Prepare Independent Presentation #3 “My fall break vacations”
32	Present and past subjunctive	<b>Independent Presentation #3</b>	Workbook: Exercises on present and past subjunctive

33	Use of the subjunctive. Agreement of tenses in the present and past subjunctive	<i>Il pro e il contro</i> : express your opinion on different topics	Workbook: exercises on subjunctive and agreement of tenses
34	Subjunctive: consolidation	Vocabulary and expression related to cinema and movies	Workbook: exercises on subjunctive
35	Al cinema! Viewing of an Italian movie 1		Worksheets
36	Al cinema! Viewing of an Italian movie 2		Readings
37	Let's talk about the movie	In-class conversation/session debate	Written essay #3 Readings
38	Imperfect subjunctive	Stereotypes and <i>luoghi comuni</i> . Express doubts and surprises	Workbook: exercises on imperfect subjunctive
39	Past Perfect subjunctive	Discussion: opinions about Italy and Italians before arriving in Florence	Workbook: exercises on past perfect subjunctive
40	Agreement of tenses in the imperfect and present perfect subjunctive	<i>Che cosa faresti se.....?</i>	Workbook: exercises on agreement of tenses with subjunctive.
41	Consolidation	<b>QUIZ #3</b>	Workbook: exercises on imperative. Readings.
42	Il periodo ipotetico	Save the planet: what if..... What people can do to protect environment?	Workbook: exercises on periodo ipotetico
43	Il periodo ipotetico	Express opinions and make <i>ipotesi</i> on different topics.	Workbook: exercises on periodo ipotetico.
44	Relative pronouns che/cui	My favorite place in Florence	Workbook: exercises on relative pronouns.
45	Relative pronouns il quale/la quale	Discuss the chapters of novel "Io non ho paura" read so far	Workbook: exercises on relative pronouns. Readings.
46	Historical past	Once upon a time: reading excerpts from short stories or novels	Workbook: exercises on historical past
47	Discover a museum in the centre of Florence	On-site visit Museo Alinari: <i>Firenze com'era</i>	Written essay #4 Readings.
48	Passive voice with verb <i>essere</i>	Technology and change: does technological advance has positive impact on people's life?	Workbook: exercises on passive voice
49	Passive voice with verbs <i>andare</i> and <i>venire</i>	In class conversation / session debate	Workbook: exercises son passive voice
50	Consolidation	<b>QUIZ #4</b>	Readings

51	Indirect speech	Journalism and media: read and report news	Workbook: exercises on indirect speech Assignment: look for news and report to class
52	Indirect speech	Assignment review	Workbook: exercises on indirect speech. Prepare Independent Presentation #4 "My experience as student abroad: expectations and results".
53	OUTDOORS!	<b>TREASURE HUNT!</b>	Readings.
54	Consolidation Review of all problematic homework assignments	Discussion topic: novel "Io non ho paura" Review for the final exam	Assignment: your opinion about the novel read during the semester. Write a composition. Worksheets for the review
55	<b>FINAL ORAL EXAM</b>		
56	<b>FINAL WRITTEN EXAM</b>		