

Beginning Italian I

UNH Course Code: ITA103

Subject Area: Italian Language & Literature

Level: 100

Prerequisites: None. This course is designed for students who have little or no prior knowledge of Italian.

Language of Instruction: Italian

Contact Hours: 60

Recommended Credits: 4

Description:

This course is designed for students who have little or no prior knowledge of Italian. The primary aim of the course is to develop the four basic skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through a communicative, collaborative and cultural approach. In order to develop these skills the primary language of instruction in this course is Italian.

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 bars will give you a unique chance to rapidly implement your linguistic development in real-life.

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, organized 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.

By the end of the course, you are expected to have mastered basic grammar and lexical structures, so that you'll be able to conduct a simple conversation and to write short and basic texts with some degree of competency. You will be able to speak about yourself and your family, to introduce people, to interact with the host community and to follow short and simple conversations.

Learning Objectives:

- to use the basic structures of Italian language
- to read and understand simple texts
- to introduce oneself and engage in simple conversation
- to competently ask and answer simple questions on personal information
- to understand and use a range of daily expressions (asking for information, shopping, ordering in a bar or restaurant, etc.)
- to demonstrate a basic grasp of Italian intonation and pronunciation
- to write short compositions
- to become familiar with some aspects of Italian culture and society

Instructional Format:

Class meets four times per week, for 55 minutes each time. Class time is devoted predominantly to speaking and practicing Italian, and reading and discussing real-life Italian material such as song lyrics and advertising slogans. In order to develop these skills the primary language of instruction in this course is Italian. 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.

Form of Assessment:

Your instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course (see the table below). The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class. However, you must complete all grading assessment categories to receive a grade for this course. 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.

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%
Team Project	10%
Quizzes	10%
Independent Presentations	20%
Midterm oral exam	10%
Mid-term exam	10%
Final oral exam	10%
Final written exam	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+ (8.40–8.99)

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 (10%): Assignments and workbook exercises (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

Quizzes (10%): The quizzes are mandatory and will give you the opportunity during the semester to review and test the progress you are making in using Italian grammar and syntax.

Independent Presentations (20%): These are four short independent written pieces, worth 5% each, that you will read to the class, and that will form the basis of discussion. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class.

Team Project (10%): Students will work in teams of three or four to perform a basic oral presentation for their classmates. Each team will write down the presentation script and present it in advance to the teacher for a final correction. The text will include acquired vocabulary and demonstrate as far as possible your command of the Italian language. This is a very important exercise and it should be taken very seriously since it will count towards the 10% of the total grade. As this is a course for absolute beginners the presentation ought to be a rudimentary presentation of basic statements about a chosen topic, and each member of the group should take responsibility for a separate aspect of that information (historical, statistical, cultural, etc).

Students are free to choose their own topic but it should be linked to the host city or Italy in some way – possible topics will be discussed with the class teacher 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. Suggested team project titles include “The city of Florence”, “Italian food”, “Italian fashion” and “Italian life”.

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 Team Projects.

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:

The required course textbook must be acquired at Paperback Exchange bookstore, located on Via delle Oche. Each student must have their own personal copy. The cost is approximately 40 euro.

Dimmi. Manuale per la comunicazione. Primo Livello, di Antonella Battaglia e Loredana Tarini Guerra Edizioni, 2008.
Praticamente dimmi. Esercizi e attività, di Antonella Battaglia e Loredana Tarini, Guerra Edizioni, 2008.

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.

Recommended readings:

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

Di Francesco, A. and C. M. Naddeo, *Bar Italia*, Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2002.
Gruppo Meta, *Uno*, Bonacci editore, Roma, 1992.
Mazzetti, A. and M. Falcinelli, B. Servadio, *Qui Italia*, Primo livello, Le Monnier, Firenze, 1993.
Mazzetti, A. and M. Falcinelli, B. Servadio, *Qui Italia*, Le Monnier, Firenze, 2002.
Mezzadri, M., *Essential Italian Grammar in Practice*, Guerra Edizioni, Perugia, 2000.
Naddeo, C. M. and G. Trama, *Canta che ti passa*, Alma Edizioni, Firenze, 2000.
Santi, C. and C. Ermini, S. Valdisserrri, *Idea Uno*, Progetto Lingua, Firenze, 2004.
Tartaglione, R. and S. Nocchi, *Grammatica avanzata della lingua italiana*, Alma Edizioni, Firenze 2006.

In addition to recommended readings, you will find information about the many libraries, documentation centers, research institutes and archival materials located here in the city and accessible to CEA students in a folder found in the Resource Center. 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 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

www.italianfoodforever.com

www.florenceforfun.org

www.educational.rai.it

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

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/Handsigsgb.asp>

Renowned writer Beppe Severgnini's columns in the Italian national *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.

Io non ho paura, Gabriele Salvatores 2003

I Cento Passi, Tullio Marco Giordana, 2000

L'uomo perfetto, Luca Lucini, 2005

Beginning Italian I
Course Content

Session	Topic	Activity	Assignment
1	Introduction Alphabet & Pronunciation Useful sentences in classroom Greeting people Numbers 0-20	Ciao! Introduce yourself to the class	Memorize all the new words and buy the book!! Complete the exercises assigned in class on alphabet, greetings and basic sentences
2	<i>Essere and Avere</i> Adjectives of Nationality Nouns Definite and Indefinite articles Verbs ending in <i>-are -ere-ire</i> Introducing someone	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Prepare your presentation and memorize it! (minimum 10 sentences!) Complete the exercises assigned in class on avere, essere and adjectives
3	Consolidation <i>Formal and Informal</i>	Individual presentations 1: Mi chiamo...vengo da...sono a Firenze per...studio....mi piace...	Memorize the list of words Complete the exercises on Nouns, and Definite and Indefinite articles
4	Ordering in a bar Asking for prices Useful Expressions Consolidation	Quiz 1: Basic Vocabulary and sentences	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
5	Consolidation Verbs: <i>fare, andare, stare</i> <i>Adverbs of frequency</i> <i>Numbers from 30 onwards</i>	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary related to song Complete the exercises assigned in class on <i>fare, andare, stare</i>
6	Idiomatic expressions with <i>fare</i> Prepositions C'è- ci sono Adjectives	Grammar exploration	Meet your group and prepare the presentation (memorize it, notes are not allowed!) Complete the exercises assigned in class on <i>fare</i> and adjectives
7	Modal verbs (<i>dovere, potere, volere</i>)	Group presentation 1: Role play in a grocery store (commesso\ cliente)	Complete the exercises assigned in class on modal verbs Prepare your shopping list for tomorrow and memorize the expressions for shopping
8	Consolidation	Outdoors: The food market Conversation practice at the market asking for goods and prices, <i>fare la spesa.</i>	Memorize the vocabulary related to the market activity
9	Present tense of reflexive verbs Describing a typical routine	Grammar exploration Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary and the grammar related to song. Prepare your presentation and memorize it! (minimum 15 sentences!) Complete the exercises assigned in class on present tense of reflexive verbs
10	Consolidation	Individual presentations 2: La mia giornata tipica	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook

11	Verb <i>piacere</i> and <i>indirect pronouns</i>	Hobbies, sport e tempo libero Talking about your free time	Memorize the list of words Complete the exercises assigned in class on the verb <i>piacere</i> and indirect pronouns
12	Consolidation	Quiz 2	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
13	Possessive adjectives with family nouns	<i>Ecco la Mia Famiglia</i> Bring a picture of your family to class and describe your relatives to your classmates	Complete the exercises assigned in class on possessive adjectives
14	Consolidation	Outdoors: Andiamo in libreria!	Memorize the vocabulary related to the bookshop activity
15	Introduction to direct object pronouns	Grammar exploration	Complete the exercises assigned in class on direct object pronouns
16	Vestiti, scarpe e gioielli (Clothes and fashion!) Names of the colours La mattina mi metto... Per andare a una festa mi metto.	Fare spese! I VESTITI mi piace / non mi piace mi sta bene/non mi sta bene	Meet your group and prepare the presentation (memorize it, notes are not allowed!) Complete the exercises assigned in class on reflexive verbs
17	Consolidation	Group presentation 2: Role play in a clothing store (commesso\ cliente)	Complete the exercises assigned in class on reflexive verbs
18	Consolidation	Outdoors: The clothing market	Memorize the vocabulary related to the market activity
19	Present progressive of the verb stare Prepositions	Grammar exploration	Memorize the list of words Complete the exercises assigned in class on present progressive
20	Consolidation	Quiz 3	<i>Complete the exercises assigned in class on prepositions</i>
21	Consolidation	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary related to song Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
22	Consolidation	Language exchange	Composition: Students have to describe the girl or the boy they interviewed
23	Past tense Past time expressions	Grammar exploration	Complete the exercises assigned in class on past tense and past time expressions
24	Consolidation	Review for the oral exam	Memorize all the questions\answers Review of all issues arising from your notes and your assignments
25	Consolidation	Review for the written exam	Review all grammar issues
26	Consolidation	Review for the written exam	Review all grammar issues
27	MIDTERM WRITTEN EXAM		
28	MIDTERM ORAL EXAM		
MIDTERM BREAK			Prepare your presentation and

			memorize it! (minimum 20 sentences!)
29	Past tense of irregular verbs	Individual presentation 3: Il mio viaggio! My vacation during the break	Review of all the past tense Complete the exercises assigned in class on the past tense of irregular verbs
30	Consolidation	Andiamo al Cinema!	Memorize the list of words related to the movie and prepare a description of the main characters
31	Consolidation	Andiamo al Cinema!	Memorize the list of words related to the movie
32	Consolidation Past tense of reflexive verbs.. Mi è piaciuto \ non mi è piaciuto	Quiz 4	Complete the exercises assigned in class on past tense of reflexive verbs
33	Imperfetto Quando ero piccolo...	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary and the grammar related to song Meet your group and prepare the presentation (memorize it, notes are not allowed!)
34	Consolidation Mestieri e tradizioni	Outdoor: Visit to an artisan lab Intervista all'artigiano	Memorize the vocabulary related to the visit Meet your group and prepare the presentation (memorize it, notes are not allowed!)
35	Consolidation	Group presentation 3: Role play: interview with the artisan	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
36	Ricette e buon gusto Come si fa...? Il pronome impersonale	Class activity Recipes and food preparation	Memorize the vocabulary Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
37	Che tempo fa? Che ore sono?	Grammar and vocabulary review	Complete the exercises assigned in class on weather and time
38	Consolidation	Language exchange	Composition: Students have to describe the girl or the boy they interviewed
39	Consolidation Adjectives and people description	Class activity: My italian friend portrait	Memorize the list of words Complete the exercises assigned in class on the adjectives
40	Consolidation	Quiz 5	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
41	Past tense versus imperfect	Class activity: Mentre mangiavo qualcuno ha suonato alla porta...	Complete the exercises assigned in class on past tense versus imperfect
42	Consolidation	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary and the grammar related to song Composition: Write a letter to your teacher, telling her what you did during the first month in Florence, how much you travelled, how much you studied and what you would like to do during class

			time
43	Usefull words to speak	Grammar exploration and class activities	Memorize the list of words
44	Vocabulary related to the description of a city and its buildings	Outdoor: Florence walking tour in italian	Memorize the list of words related to a city description Meet your group and prepare the presentation (memorize it, notes are not allowed!)
45	Consolidation	Outdoor: Group presentation 4: The Florence tour guides (students have to pretend to be tour guide and describe monuments, palaces and churches)	Review all the vocabulary
46	Consolidation	Musica! Impariamo l'italiano cantando!	Memorize the vocabulary and the grammar related to song
47	Parts of the day, days of the week, months, seasons, expressions of time and place	Grammar and vocabulary review	Memorize the list of words related to the parts of the day, days of the week, months, seasons, expressions of time and place
48	Consolidation	Quiz 6	Prepare your presentation and memorize it! (minimum 20 sentences!) Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
49	Consolidation	Individual presentation 4	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the workbook
50	Consolidation	Andiamo al Cinema!	
51	Consolidation	Andiamo al Cinema!	Prepare a presentation on the movie (Il film parla di...si svolge a...i personaggi principali sono...mi è \ non mi è piaciuto perchè...)
52	Consolidation	Review for the oral exam	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the worksheets
53	Consolidation	Review for the oral exam	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the worksheets
54	Consolidation	Review for the written exam	Complete the exercises assigned in class on the worksheets
55	FINAL WRITTEN EXAM		
56	FINAL ORAL EXAM		