



University of
New Haven

Beginning Italian I

SECTION I: Course Overview

Course Code: ITA101FCO

Subject Areas: Italian Language and Literature

Prerequisites: This course is designed for students who have little or no prior knowledge of Italian.

Language of Instruction: Italian

Contact Hours: 45/60

Recommended Credits: 3/4

COURSE 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 language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) through communicative, collaborative, and cultural activities.

The course combines several integrated approaches aimed at developing basic Italian language skills. Classroom time is devoted mainly to speaking and practicing Italian through a combination of group-based and individual activities, focusing on grammatical structures, language functions and vocabulary. Sessions also address a range of contemporary cultural themes using newspaper articles, advertising material and short film clips. In addition, on-site activities, such as visits to markets and coffee-bars will give students a unique chance to rapidly implement their linguistic development and newly acquired intercultural competences.

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

This course is offered as a 3 or 4 credit course. Students can see the difference between the two offerings in the forms of assessment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Utilize basic vocabulary relevant to sport, activities and pastimes, family, technology, shopping, food and grocery, as well as greetings and expressions of courtesy.
- Apply basic grammar including adjectives and verbs in the present tense.
- Recognize differences between Italian culture and society and your own culture.
- Produce oral units in Italian in interpersonal mode.

SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

Name:	TBD
Contact Information:	TBD
Class Schedule:	TBD
Term:	SEMESTER

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course will meet twice weekly for 120 minutes each time, for a total of 28 class sessions. All students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared for the day's class session.

CEA enforces a mandatory attendance policy. You are therefore expected to attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, including any field trips, site visits, guest lectures, etc. that are assigned by the instructor. The table below shows the number of class sessions you may miss before receiving a grade penalty.

ALLOWED ABSENCES – SEMESTERS		
Courses Meeting X day(s) Per Week	Allowed Absence(s)	Automatic Failing Grade at X th Absence
Courses meeting 2 day(s) per week	2 Absences	8 th Absence

For every additional absence beyond the allowed number, your final course grade will drop down to the subsequent letter grade (ex: A+ to A). As a student, you should understand that the grade penalties will apply if you are marked absent due to tardiness or leaving class early. In the table below, you will find the grade penalty associated with each excessive absence up to and including automatic course failure.

ATTENDANCE DOCKING PENALTIES								
Absence	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Penalty	No Penalty	No Penalty	0.5 Grade Docked	1 Grade Docked	1.5 Grades Docked	2 Grades Docked	2.5 Grades Docked	Automatic Failure
HIGHEST POSSIBLE GRADE AFTER ATTENDANCE PENALTIES								
Grade	A+	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	F

CEA does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. As such, no documentation is required for missing class. Similarly, excessive absences, and the grade penalty associated with each, will not be excused even if you are able to provide documentation that shows the absence was beyond your control. You should therefore only miss class when truly needed as illness or other unavoidable factors may force you to miss a class session later in the term.

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

Class Participation	10%
Homework Assignments	15%

Independent Presentations	20%
Activities	20%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%

The instructor will calculate your course grades using the CEA Grading Scale shown below. As a CEA student, you should understand that credit transfer decisions – including earned grades for courses taken abroad – are ultimately made by your home institution.

CEA GRADING SCALE			
Letter Grade	Numerical Grade	Percentage Range	Quality Points
A+	9.70 – 10.0	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	7.40 – 7.69	74.0 – 76.9%	2.00
C-	7.00 – 7.39	70.0 – 73.9%	1.70
D	6.00 – 6.99	60.0 – 69.9%	1.00
F	0.00 – 5.99	0.00 – 59.9%	0.00
W	Withdrawal	N/A	0.00
INC	Incomplete	N/A	0.00

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

Class Participation (10%): Student participation is mandatory for all courses taken at a CEA Study Center. The instructor will use the rubric below when determining your participation grade. All students should understand that attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively toward the participation grade.

CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADING RUBRIC	
Student Participation Level	Grade
You make major & original contributions that spark discussion, offering critical comments clearly based on readings, research, & theoretical course topics.	A+ (10.0 – 9.70)
You make significant contributions that demonstrate insight as well as knowledge of required readings & independent research.	A/A- (9.69 – 9.00)
You participate voluntarily and make useful contributions that are usually based upon some reflection and familiarity with required readings.	B+/B (8.99 – 8.40)
You make voluntary but infrequent comments that generally reiterate the basic points of the required readings.	B-/C+ (8.39 – 7.70)
	C/C-

You make limited comments only when prompted and do not initiate debate or show a clear awareness of the importance of the readings.	(7.69 – 7.00)
You very rarely make comments and resist engagement with the subject. You are not prepared for class and/or discussion of course readings.	D (6.99 – 6.00)
You make irrelevant and tangential comments disruptive to class discussion. You are consistently unprepared for class and/or discussion of the course readings.	F (5.99 – 0.00)

Homework Assignments (15%): 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. At any point, you may be called upon to respond to questions dealing with material previously assigned by the instructor who will ask to see your workbook at regular intervals during the course to monitor your performance and progress. If you wish to have your homework further explained by the instructor, please bring it to his/her attention at the end of the class period.

Independent Presentations (20%): These are two short oral or written pieces, worth 10% each, that you will present to the assembled class and that will form the basis of a class-discussion. In the first presentation, comprising a minimum of 60 words, you will introduce yourself (name, age, nationality, studies) and explain how you spend your free time. In the second presentation, comprising a minimum of 100 words, you will talk about your daily life, sports and habits during the week. Further details and evaluation criteria will be explained in class. Students taking this course for three credits will choose one of these two presentations. Speak with the instructor to determine which you will complete.

Activities (20%): Individually or as part of a team you will participate in 2 on-site activities, worth 10% each. Activities include two of the following: a visit to a local market; asking and following directions to places of interest in the city; describing the main streets and places in Rome. The instructor will provide you with template worksheets. The result of your work will be discussed in class afterwards. Students taking this course for three credits will choose one of these two activities. Speak with your instructor to determine which you will complete.

Mid-term (20%) and Final Exam (20%): 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 incorporate idioms and vocabulary items introduced by your instructor during class, or studied through your homework.

REQUIRED READINGS

Reading assignments for this course will come from the required text(s) and/or the selected reading(s) listed below. All required readings—whether assigned from the text or assigned as a selected reading—must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor.

- I. **REQUIRED TEXTS:** You may purchase the required texts upon program arrival. The required texts are listed below:

Textbook: Gruppo Italiaidea, *New Italian Espresso Beginner/PREintermediate– Textbook & eBook*, Alma Edizioni, Upgraded version Florence 2021

Reader: Gruppo Italiaidea, *New Italian Espresso Beginner/PREintermediate – Workbook*, Alma Edizioni, Upgraded version Florence 2021

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 an Italian/English-English/Italian Dictionary, and to bring it with you to all lessons. Consult your instructor for recommendations.

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, and a range of computer-assisted language learning resources loaded onto all study center PCs.

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 course 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 sites and many more on desktop of all study center PCs.

Miscellaneous:

- www.allaboutitaly.com
- www.italianfoodforever.com
- www.romecity.it
- www.romexplorer.com
- www.educational.rai.it

Help with Italian pronunciation online, by means 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.ctom/Ialiandialects/ITALhome.html>

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

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

Films: The following films, highly recommended for their insights into contemporary Italian culture as well as language exercises, are available at the CEA Resource Center.

- *La Famiglia*, Ettore Scola, 1987
- *I Cento Passi*, Tullio Marco Giordana, 2000
- *Notte prima degli esami*, Fausto Brizzi, 2006

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

In order to ensure student success abroad, CEA has provided the academic resources listed below. In addition to these resources, each CEA Study Center provides students with a physical library and study areas for group work. The Academic Affairs Office at each CEA Study Center also compiles a bank of detailed information regarding libraries, documentation centers, research institutes, and archival materials located in the host city.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA student, you will be given access to the online library of CEA's School of Record, the University of New Haven (UNH). You can use this online library to access databases and additional resources while performing research abroad. You may access the UNH online library [here](#) or through your MyCEA Account. You must comply with UNH Policies regarding library usage.
- **CEAClassroom – Moodle:** CEA instructors use Moodle, an interactive virtual learning environment. This web-based platform provides you with constant and direct access to the course syllabus, daily schedule of class lectures and assignments, non-textbook required readings, and additional resources. Moodle includes the normal array of forums, up-loadable and downloadable databases, wikis, and related academic support designed for helping you achieve the learning objectives listed in this syllabus.

During the first week of class, CEA academic staff and/or faculty will help you navigate through the

many functions and resources Moodle provides. While you may print a hard copy version of the syllabus, you should always check Moodle for the most up-to-date information regarding this course. The instructor will use Moodle to make announcements and updates to the course and/or syllabus. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to all Moodle materials and that you monitor Moodle on a daily basis in case there are any changes made to course assignments or scheduling.

To access Moodle: Please log-in to your MyCEA account using your normal username and password. Click on the “Academics” tab. There you will see a link above your schedule that says “View Online Courses” select this link to be taken to your Moodle environment.

COURSE CALENDAR
Beginning Italian

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	ACTIVITIES & ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1	Introduction to the course	Pronunciation Useful sentences in classroom Sei Italiano?	Introduction to the Course Alphabet Greeting people & introducing yourself Numbers from 0 to 20 <i>Essere & chiamarsi</i> Adjectives of Nationality Regular verbs: first and second person singular
Week 2	Al ristorante	2 languages: Italian gestures <i>Cameriere!</i> Role-play: in a restaurant	Assignment review Numbers from 20 to 100 Nouns Definite articles <i>Questo & quello</i>
Week 3	Fare la spesa	Shopping list: preparare <i>la lista della spesa</i> for the onsite class	Assignment review Asking for prices Indefinite articles Numbers from 100 onwards Regular verbs ending in <i>-are;-ere-ire(singular)</i> Occupational names
Week 4	Io e gli altri	<i>Piacere!</i> Role-play in a formal conversation <i>How often do you...?</i> Small group discussions on your habits	Assignment review Simple Prepositions Formal and Informal communication Verbs: <i>fare, andare, stare</i>

		<p>FOA & On site Activity #1: <i>"Fare la spesa"</i> Conversation practice at local Food Market / or Grocery shop asking for goods and price</p>	
Week 5	Tempo libero	<p><i>Amici su Internet:</i> Write an email to find friends on internet</p>	<p>Regular verbs: Presente Indicativo Adverbs of frequency</p>
Week 6	Tempo libero	<p><i>La tua universita'</i> Interview a classmate</p>	<p>Irregular verbs: present tense Asking questions - interrogative words <i>sapere & conoscere</i> Verb <i>piacere</i></p>
Week 7		<p>REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM</p> <p>MIDTERM EXAM</p>	
Week 8	In giro per l'Italia	<p>In pairs try to guess the name of the Italian city from your partner's description</p> <p><i>La vita in un'altra citta'</i> Read an interview</p> <p><i>Buon Viaggio!</i> Traveling in Italy.</p> <p>Small group discussions on travelling in Italy</p> <p>FOA & Independent presentation #1: Talking about yourself: how do you spend your free time? (Introduce yourself: name, age, nationality, studies and your free time. Min. 60 words)</p>	<p>Irregular verbs C'è /ci sono Prepositions Asking for directions</p>

Week 9	In giro per l'Italia	<p>FOA & On Site Activity #2 Description with a template worksheet of some of the main streets and places in Rome: 'Le Vie e le Piazze di Roma'</p>	<p>Adjectives of first group Adjectives of second group Asking & telling the time Compound preposition Streets directions</p>
	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10	In albergo	<p><u>Una prenotazione</u> <u>At the reception:</u> Role-play: complaining/offering a solution</p>	<p>Assignment review Modal verbs (<i>dovere, potere, volere</i>)</p>
Week 11	Vita quotidiana	<p>Describing and asking about someone's daily routine</p> <p><u>Gioco</u> <i>Il domino della giornata</i></p>	<p>Assignment review Present tense of Reflexive verbs Describing a typical day</p>
Week 12	Un fine settimana	<p><i>Il fine settimana passato...</i> Tell your partner what you did last weekend</p>	<p>Adverbs of time Past tense Past time expressions Talking about a trip</p>
Week 13	Un viaggio	<p><u>In a travel agency:</u> Role-play: asking information</p> <p><u>Musica!</u> Listen to and comment on Italian popular songs</p>	<p>Assignment review Possessive adjectives</p>

Week 14	Un viaggio (Continued)	<p>FOA & Independent presentation #2: In Italian describe individually your typical day. Your daily life, sports and habits during the week. Min. 100 words.</p>	<p>Possessive adjectives with family nouns Review of present and past tense</p>
Week 15		<p>REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM</p> <p>FINAL EXAM</p>	

SECTION III: CEA Academic Policies

The policies listed in this section outline general expectations for CEA students. You should carefully review these policies to ensure success in your courses and during your time abroad. Furthermore, as a participant in the CEA program, you are expected to review and understand all CEA Student Policies, including the academic policies outlined on our website. CEA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. For the most up to date policies, please review the policies on our website.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)