Introduction to Italian Language and Culture
FYS 295-01, Fall 2007

Syllabus and Reading List
Instructor: Giuliana Palma
Office: Trinity Commons 230; Telephone: 297-2262
Office Hours: M.W. 3:40-4:30 p.m.; Th. 4:00-4:50 p.m.
and/or by appointment

Classrooms and Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCEC 293</td>
<td>LIB 119</td>
<td>MCEC 293</td>
<td>LIB 119</td>
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Description and Statement of Objectives:
To fully understand and appreciate Italy, its people and its culture, one must have a good grasp of the language. This course, therefore, integrates an intensive study of basic Italian with an overview of contemporary Italian culture. The seminar will meet four days a week. On three of those days, students will study grammar and vocabulary and use a language-based approach toward the study of Italian culture. One day a week, however, will be devoted to discussion in English of selected readings, film, and music that deal with important cultural topics. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to apply their basic knowledge of Italian to the texts and to consider the ways the language is a window on Italian culture. Whereas the films are all in Italian with English subtitles, literary and critical readings are in English (except in the case of shorter and more immediately accessible texts which students will read in Italian).
At the end of the semester, students will have acquired considerable knowledge of some very important aspects of Italian culture and will be able to speak, understand, read and write in Italian at the basic level as described in the Common European Framework of reference for Languages.
Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

Attendance and Participation: Attendance in this course is of the outmost importance. Because I consider the student/instructor relationship to be a social contract and because I believe that students are best served by attending all classes, I will uphold the following policy: Students are allowed three excused absences for family reasons and/or for illness during the entire semester. If you have more than three excused absences the instructor reserves the right to lower the final grade by one full letter grade (i.e. “B” to “C”). Chronic absenteeism and non-excused absences will not be tolerated and students will be asked to drop the course. In addition, I do not tolerate tardiness because it disrupts the flow of the class (three ‘lates’ are equivalent to one absence).

Homework: Homework will be assigned at the end of each class period and is due in class the next day. You are responsible for the homework, which will be computed in the participation component of your final grade.

Each week students will write a two page long text in English (Times 12, double space, minimum 500 words) with their critical reflections on lectures, class discussion and readings. Students should also integrate other readings and personal experiences into their reflections. These writing assignments will be due on Wednesdays and they count for 10% of the final grade (see chart below)

Quizzes and exams:
- For the linguistic portion of the course, there will be a quiz every other week. No make up quizzes will be given, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes can be written and/or oral. There will be one midterm exam, which is cumulative. You will be responsible for all the material covered up to that point. The final exam will test your knowledge of all the material covered in the course.

- For the cultural portion of the course, students will work on a Midterm project and one Final paper, the topic of which will be chosen with the instructor’s help. The Midterm project is divided into two parts: a written part and an oral presentation. The written part consists of a five page paper and it is due on October 29th, the oral presentations will take place on November 19th and 20th.

Final grade is computed according to the chart below:

<table>
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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texts</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Required Textbooks

- Readings other than the ones found in the textbook, will be posted in Blackboard or provided by the instructor.
- A Good Italian-English Dictionary

Calendar

PRIMA SETTIMANA; Lunedì 4 - giovedì 6 settembre

Lesson 1

Cultural Topic: *Primi contatti*
The language of gestures in Italy.

Reading:

Film: *Il Postino*

Communicative Functions:

Grammar:

SECONDA SETTIMANA; Lunedì 10 – giovedì 13 settembre

Lesson 2

Cultural Topic: *Buon Appetito*
Food and diet in Italy: a presentation by Prof. Del Puppo

Reading:
Boccaccio, Giovanni. “Una novella” *Decameron.*

Communicative functions:

Grammar:
Nouns of the first and second group. Definite and Indefinite article. Numbers from 20 to 100

Quiz 1

TERZA SETTIMANA; 17-20 settembre

Lesson 3

Cultural Topic: *Io e gli altri*
The working world in Italy.

Reading:


QUARTA SETTIMANA; 24-27 settembre
Lesson 4
Cultural Topic: Leisure time in Italy.
Reading: Calvino readings from Marcovaldo o le stagioni in città: Library Session

Communicative functions: Talking about Leisure time. Talking about how often you do something. Expressing likes and preferences.


Quiz 2

QUINTA SETTIMANA; 1-4 ottobre
Lesson 5
Cultural Topic: Italian language around the world.

Communicative functions: Describing a place. Asking and giving directions. Asking and telling time.


Film: Respiro

SESTA SETTIMANA; 8-11 ottobre (8 – 9 Trinity days )
Lesson 6
Cultural Topic: Vacanze e turismo


Film: Pane e Tulipani
Quiz 3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SETTIMA SETTIMANA; 15-18 ottobre</th>
<th>Lesson 7</th>
<th>Un fine settimana</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Topic:</td>
<td>Italy and the Mediterranean.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communicative functions:</td>
<td>Planning a trip. Talking about a trip. Talking about the weather. Asking information in a travel agency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film:</td>
<td><em>Mediterraneo</em></td>
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<tr>
<th>OTTAVA SETTIMANA; 22-25 ottobre</th>
<th>Lesson 8</th>
<th>Vita quotidiana</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Topic:</td>
<td>Religion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>October 25th</td>
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<tr>
<th>NONA SETTIMANA; 29 ottobre -1 novembre</th>
<th>Lesson 9</th>
<th>La famiglia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communicative functions:</td>
<td>Identifying family relationships. Describing your family.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film:</td>
<td><em>Ricordati di me</em></td>
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<td>Midterm Paper due</td>
<td>October 29th</td>
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<tr>
<th>DECIMA SETTIMANA; 5-8 novembre</th>
<th>Lesson 10</th>
<th>Sapori d’Italia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Topic:</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Activity:</td>
<td>Discussing Puccini’s Tosca. A presentation by Prof. Douglas Johnson</td>
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<td>Communicative functions:</td>
<td>Describing food and eating habits. Grocery shopping</td>
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<td>Grammar:</td>
<td>Direct object pronouns. <em>Ne</em> as partitive expression. Partitive use of <em>di</em> + article.</td>
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<td>Quiz 4</td>
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UNDICESIMA SETTIMANA; 12-15 novembre
Lesson 11  
Cultural Topic: Young Italians and fashion.  
Reading Leopardi, Giacomo Operette morali : essays and dialogues / 1982  
Film: Caterina va in città

DODICESIMA SETTIMANA; 19-20 novembre (21 -25 novembre: Thanksgiving Vacation)
Oral presentations

TREDICESIMA SETTIMANA; 26-29 novembre
Lesson 12  
Cultural topic: Emigration, Immigration and Social Identity  
Reading: Passages from Melania Mazzucco’s Vita  
Communicative functions: Describing animals. Talking about your childhood. Describing past situations. Talking about habitual activities in the past  
Grammar: Imperfetto The use of the imperfetto compared to the passato prossimo.  
Film: Lamerica  
Quiz 5

QUATTORDICESIMA SETTIMANA; 3-6 dicembre
Lesson 13  
Cultural Topic: Italian Women.  
Film: Le Fate ignoranti  

QUINDICESIMA SETTIMANA; 10 dicembre
Revisione generale.

ESAME FINALE : 18 DICEMBRE ore 12,00