Texas A&M University
Department of International Studies
Instructor: Fabiana Cecchini
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Office Hours: MW 10:00 – 11:00am
ITAL 201.501,502

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

Course description: Italian 201 is aimed at developing the essential skills of communication in Italian in a variety of situations. Students will take on intermediate level reading, and will be expected to write increasingly competent Italian while employing more complex grammatical structures. We will take into consideration a range of written material, including literary excerpts and film reviews. **This is a technology mediated course.**

Prerequisites: ITAL 102, placement test, or instructor’s consent. **NOTE:** If you have already studied Italian in another institution or elsewhere (in Italy, in your family, etc.) notify your instructor or our academic advisor to make sure that section 201 is most suitable for you. Students without a placement recommendation or the instructor’s permission will not be admitted to the course.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the course students will be able to:
• express knowledge of Italian from both cultural and linguistic perspectives;
• communicate on a variety of topics comfortably in an Italian environment;
• utilize analytical tools necessary to compare and contrast Italian culture with the student’s own culture;
• demonstrate social, cultural and global competence.

Core Curriculum Objectives

a) **Critical Thinking:** The course enhances critical thinking through engagement with a variety of inputs or multiple topics in the context of Italian culture. Group/class discussion, written work, and the production of audio and video recordings are all exercises in which students demonstrate critical thinking skills.

b) **Communication:** The course enhances communication skills through participation in class discussions, the production of written essays, and through collaborative work with a team in the production of a video expounding on one of the topics addressed in the course.

c) **Social responsibility:** The course enhances social responsibility by developing intercultural competence through mastery of a foreign language, which allows students to understand the relationship between the practices and the perspectives of the culture they are studying.

d) **Personal responsibility:** The course enhances personal responsibility through engagement with contemporary social issues in Italy.

Methodology: This course focuses on a content-based language curriculum through the **communicative approach.** The class will be conducted in **Italian** and students will be expected:

a) to participate actively in small and large group activities. This course is **not a teacher-centered lecture,** but rather one in which lively participation in multiple tasks will help the student to forge his/her knowledge of Italian.

b) to be prepared to participate in all classroom activities and keep up with out-of-class assignments, such as group projects and online practice; students are asked to work steadily and responsibly, being engaged and creative at all times.

c) to engage into effective communication through linguistic accuracy.

d) to read, watch video clips, and listen to music online and in class in order to increase their familiarity of the Italian language and culture and to forge their own critical thinking.

Throughout the semester, assessment of progress will take place across all modalities – grammar, vocabulary, organization of texts is spoken and written form. Different learners have different learning strategies and styles. However one of the ways of studying a language is finding a partner or a small group of fellow learners to engage with them in those initial steps that are necessary in learning a new language. The classroom is a collaborative and supportive environment. Do not hesitate to come to the instructor’s office anytime you need clarifications, or when you experience difficulties on any matter.
Required Textbooks:

1. **SENTIERI. Attraverso l'Italia contemporanea, by Julia M. Cozzarelli** -- the student's edition package including the access code for the Supersite and the Websam. The textbook and the access code are available at the Texas A&M Bookstore or online at www.vhicentral.com.

**Participation and attendance are mandatory.** Tardiness or early departure will affect your participation and attendance grade. Attendance at regular classes is mandatory and it is connected to participation — if you are not in class, you cannot participate. The university excused absences policy: see [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07) for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of up to **three meeting days**, students must provide a “Texas A&M University Explanatory Statement of Absence from Class” (available at: [http://attendance.tamu.edu](http://attendance.tamu.edu)). The student will initiate this process by completing the form either online or manually. The form must be printed and signed. Electronic copies will **not** be accepted. For absences of **four meeting days or more**, the note must also contain the medical professional’s confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1). For each absence without a documented university excuse, your term grade will be lowered. **Participation:** oral and written class participation is an essential foundation in language learning; it needs to be **constructive and consistent**.

**Quizzes, compositions & homework:** In this semester we will study **chapters 9 through 12 of SENTIERI.**

   a) **Quizzes** will be administered regularly: they will help you check your knowledge of the grammar structures vocabulary, and communicative situations studied in the units. The quizzes will be taken **in class**, unless otherwise noted. **Make-up quizzes:** The general policy is that there will be **no make-up quizzes**, except of university-approved excuse. However, I understand that unexpected events in life happen, so I will be happy to schedule a make-up quiz **if** the reason for missing the quiz fits into one of the ‘exception’ categories: TAMU related activity, religious holiday, health emergency, or family emergency.

   b) **At regular intervals a composition** will be assigned based on the material covered. These compositions must be turned in on the due date.

   c) **On a daily basis your instructor will assign** the exercises from the textbook, the Supersite, Elearning and other sources: all class material covered including the assignments will be posted on Elearning, as a reminder. This means that all workbook exercises and supplementary materials **MUST** be prepared accurately and carefully before class. **It is the student’s responsibility to check the course website EVERYDAY at [http://elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu).**

**NOTE:** Homework, labs, and other types of assignments will **not** be accepted after their due dates, except of university-approved excuse. If you are absent from class, you are responsible for making arrangements to have your work handed in on the due date, by the end of class, and for informing yourself of the material covered in class during the period of your absence.

**Supersite policy:** Sustained and consistent level of preparation for all aspects of oral and written classroom work is essential in order to ensure adequate preparation for class. Homework assignments and other out-of-class activities reinforce accuracy of vocabulary and grammatical forms. Therefore **I will not** accept late Supersite submissions, except of university-approved excuse. Grades from the Supersite’s gradebook will be downloaded the first day of the mid-term oral presentations (see calendar below) in order to calculate your midterm grade; and the first day of the final oral presentations (see calendar below) in order to calculate your final grade. **Make-up quizzes:** The general policy is that there will be **no make-up quizzes**, except of university-approved excuse. However, I understand that unexpected events in life happen, so I will be happy to schedule a make-up quiz **if** the reason for missing the quiz fits into one of the ‘exception’ categories: TAMU related activity, religious holiday, health emergency, or family emergency. You are responsible for informing me of your absence as soon as you can (preferably via email) and for providing the adequate documentation to me, if available. At which point we can schedule a day and time for the make-up quiz. Please be advised that **I will not** email you about any of the missed course work: If you miss a quiz or any other assignment and I will not hear anything from you, that quiz/assignment will be assigned a '0' grade and will count toward your midterm or final average.

**Midterm Presentation & Grade:** Besides everyday in-class participation and conversation, students are required to prepare an **online project** (written and oral components) — details and guidelines will be discussed before the
people). The topic of the online project and presentation must be based on SENTIERI or on one or more subjects studied during the semester (films, handouts, etc). Students can select 1) a topic from the textbook or course material and 2) the online technological tool to create their project (a video story/soap-opera, comics, radio broadcast, etc.). However they must adhere to the following mandatory guidelines:

- students will need to work on the online project consistently and constantly and not just a few days before the midterm or final exam. In fact the midterm portion of the project will constitute the base for the final portion of the final project, the e-portfolio -- guidelines and instructions will follow before the final presentations period.
- the project MUST use online tools, such as (but not limited to) chatrooms, discussion boards, voice recordings, and videos in order to complete the tasks. The work will be checked and graded by the instructor regularly: progress, each student's contribution to the task, completion, personal and group's commitment and creativity will be part of the regular assessment and grade;
- The project must have reading, writing, listening and speaking components that will demonstrate the students' skills acquired throughout the semester(s). NB: remember that studying a language is not an overnight or a semester process: since the first semester of Italian, students start to build up language structures, vocabulary and general competence that will continue throughout the cycles at Texas A&M, and sometimes this can become a lifelong learning experience!
- Throughout the course the online material will provide students with additional opportunities to practice oral and written production in Italian. They will be used as a scaffolding as part of their midterm and final project.
- The instructor will discuss the format and confirm the topics with the students at least fifteen days before the presentation date.

The midterm grade will be calculated on the oral presentation of the project (min. 5' – max. 7') plus the sum of all your tests, quizzes, compositions, participation and attendance up to the end of the midterm period. The midterm grade and report will help you to understand the level of your performance in Italian, and will help you identify the aspect(s) of the language to which you must dedicate greater effort and attention. The midterm project will be presented in class – dates TBA

Final Exam: e-portfolio, see above (min. 7' – max. 10'). Your final grade will be calculated taking in consideration your midterm grade, all quizzes, homework, written assignments, compositions after the midterm period, the final oral presentation of your online project.

Email policy: Please use your TAMU email to correspond with me: the TAMU email address helps identify students, if necessary. Do not contact me using Vista's or the Supersite's internal email system since I am not keeping track of those messages. Plus, specify the object of your inquiry in the subject line and sign your email so that I can recognize who you are. Email communication must meet the spelling, grammar and punctuation standards of formal business communication: even if I do not mind a friendly attitude remember that you are still addressing a question/issue to your instructor.

Academic Integrity: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do." You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures, stated at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonors>. All tests, take-home quizzes, compositions and homework of this course respect the provisions of the Aggie Honor Code. NB: In particular for this course, special attention will be given to the following principles:
- students MUST neither give nor receive any unauthorized help on take-home assignments;
- any form of plagiarism will be reported;
- proof-readings by third parties are not permitted: it is unacceptable to ask someone else to write, translate or edit any parts of your oral and/or written assignments; it is unacceptable to use any computer program that translates sentences from English into Italian;
- it may be acceptable to use: a) any spelling check (Microsoft word, etc.); b) online dictionaries are allowed to look up ONLY individual words – all sources (bibliographical, internet or other) must be cited at the end of each oral/writing assignment.

Violations of these guidelines will be considered ‘cheating’: if your work raises any doubt concerning your academic integrity it will be submitted to the "Aggie Honor System Office" to be evaluated.

Disabilities: The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing
that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Office of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, B-118 Cain Hall (845-1637).

A general note on grades: In this course grades are not given, but they are earned. Your grade will be the result of your performance on your exams, quizzes, assignments, class participation and attendance. They are not based on how badly you feel or deserve a good grade, the fact that you did not miss a single class, or the fact that you need to maintain a certain GPA. I prefer not to round up grades, unless I see a real commitment and effort put in the course during the entire semester – by commitment and effort, besides good grades, I mean outstanding class attendance and participation, going to all the movie screenings and full participation to all the events related to Italian, in the semester. I have to discuss a case of grade round up, then ONLY final grades will be adjusted to the nearest point value: for example 89.2 = 89, 79.7 = 80. Since I return all quizzes and assignments, you are responsible to keep track of your own records so that you can approximately calculate your grade, any time. I am also happy to give an estimate of your performance during the semester (besides the midterm report), but NOT via email: I would prefer you to come to my office hours. Same thing for questions concerning course assignments, quizzes, etc: if the issue raised is complex and require a detailed explanation I encourage you to visit my office hours or to schedule an appointment to meet face-to-face.

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<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT CATEGORIES:</th>
<th>GRADING SCALE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance 20%</td>
<td>A = 100 - 90</td>
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<td>Quizzes and tests 15%</td>
<td>B = 89 - 80</td>
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<td>Written Assignments/Homework (includes Supersite) 15%</td>
<td>C = 79 - 70</td>
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<td>Midterm online project – presentation 20%</td>
<td>D = 69 - 60</td>
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<td>Final online project – presentation 30%</td>
<td>F = 59 and below</td>
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Please note: The professor reserves the right to change the dates of the quizzes should she seem it necessary. Any changes will be announced in class and Vista’s calendar will be updated accordingly. Students are responsible for checking the calendar and for finding out about such changes.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agosto</th>
<th>Settembre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lunedì 27 -- first day of classes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 29</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunedì 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunedì 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunedì 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 19</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunedì 24</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 26</strong></td>
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<td>Ottobre</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lunedì 1 -- Midterm pres (Fabiana)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Lunedì 8 --</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mercoledì 10 -- Midterm pres. (Mac &amp; C)</strong> (Brawnwyn &amp; C.)</td>
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<p>| Venerdì 5                     |</p>
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<th>Lunedì 15</th>
<th>Mercoledì 17</th>
<th>Venerdì 19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lunedì 22</td>
<td>Mercoledì 24</td>
<td>Venerdì 26</td>
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<td>Lunedì 29 - quiz # 3</td>
<td>Mercoledì 31</td>
<td>Novembre</td>
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<td>Venerdì 2</td>
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<td>Lunedì 5</td>
<td>Mercoledì 7</td>
<td>Venerdì 9</td>
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<td>Lunedì 12</td>
<td>Mercoledì 14</td>
<td>Venerdì 16 - quiz # 4</td>
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<td>Lunedì 19</td>
<td>Mercoledì 21</td>
<td>T-F 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>Lunedì 26</td>
<td>Mercoledì 28 - Final pres.</td>
<td>Venerdì 30 - Final pres</td>
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<td>Dicembre</td>
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<td>Lunedì 3 - Final pres.</td>
<td>Martedì 4 - Last day of classes</td>
<td>5-6 Reading Days</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM -- IN PETR 106</strong></td>
<td>Tues DEC. 11, ITAL. 201.501</td>
<td>15:30 - 17:30pm, both sections</td>
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