

School of Arts & Sciences - Spring 2023

Prospectus

Advanced Italian II

Course ID and 6-digit Number: ITAL 1200-301

Course Description and Level

In Advanced Italian II, students will strengthen their communication skills and written abilities to narrate, express opinions, hypothesize, use rich and appropriate vocabulary and grammar, and explore significant aspects of Italian history and culture. This course will focus on the Italian film *L'uomo senza gravità* (*The Man Without Gravity*, 2019), which will be used as a point of departure to explore contemporary Italian culture from the '80s to nowadays. Songs, comic strips, photographs, and relevant texts will complement the analysis of the film and allow for an in-depth discussion of several topics, such as the gender roles in matriarchal families, the depiction of physical abilities and disabilities, how diversity challenges individuals to find ways to fit in with society, youth unemployment, the influence of the USA in Italian film and pop culture, the portrait of the consumer society of the '80s and '90s, the role of the television in turning people's lives into a spectacle, and the complex relationship between fiction and reality. Course materials will include works by Calvino, Fellini, Ramondino, Rigoni Stern, Romano, and Tomba, among others, and will be used to investigate the many facets of Italian identity and to prepare those students who will continue their study of Italian literature and culture in higher-level courses. Students are expected to participate in conversations and other activities to improve their communicative competence and explore and research topics related to the course independently.

Prerequisites

- ITAL1000 or equivalent

Class Structure for Spring 2023

- In-Person Sessions Planned
- Students will attend classes TR 12:00-1:30 pm
- Students will complete out-of-class assignments as indicated by the instructor

Out-of-class Activities

- Weekly forum discussion on Canvas
- Weekly Video/Voice recordings
- Daily assignments (handouts, compositions, videos, research, mini-presentations)

Essential Course Policies

- No textbook is required. Course Material (readings, PowerPoints, handouts, videos, and links) provided by the instructor

- Access to Canvas

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

The viewing of sequences from the movie will be followed by written and oral exercises in class and/or at home to assess comprehension, vocabulary, and provide an opportunity for analysis. Students will be responsible for in-class or video presentations of assigned sequences and topics. Compositions will be assigned regularly. In place of a final exam, students will write a final essay. Details on the project will be given out two weeks in advance of the due date. Guidelines for final group presentations and projects will be developed throughout the semester.

Grade Breakdown

- Attendance, preparation, and participation: 20%
- Discussion Boards and Voice/Video Recordings (every week): 15%
- Homework: 20%
- Compositions (5x2):10%
- Presentations (10x2): 20%
- Final Project: 15%

Students requiring accommodations of any kind should let the instructor know as soon as possible.

Students are invited to consult with Student Financial Services to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.