

ITAL 0800: ITALIAN CONVERSATION – FALL 2023

Section: 301

Instructor: Massimiliano Lorenzon

Meeting time: T 5:15pm-7:15pm

Location: WILL 24

Office: 537

Office Hours: WILL 537. Tuesday, 10am-11am; Thursday, 2pm-3pm; By appointment.

Email: masl@sas.upenn.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course materials and nature of assignments and projects complement the Italian Studies curriculum by supporting the cultural content, linguistic functions, and types of assignments students may have already been exposed to in other Italian courses. This course will serve not only as a gateway to inspire students to take Italian Studies courses in the future but will also accompany classes they may be taking simultaneously. The learning objectives of the works studied in this course will mirror and support the goals of the Italian Studies Curriculum while paying particular attention to oral expression, communication, and fostering a community of students of Italian both inside and outside the classroom. The course is 0.5 C.U.

IMPORTANT DATES

Registration closes: September 12

The **drop** deadline is: October 9

The **last day** to withdraw is: November 6

Advance Registration is: October 30-November 13

COURSE REQUIREMENTS**Participation & Attendance:**

Active practice in class is vital toward your progress in learning Italian and your participation will be assessed weekly (or monthly). The grade will be based on your ability and willingness to demonstrate that you have studied/learned/reviewed the vocabulary and grammar assigned and that you have read and reflected upon the readings. Equally important is your active engagement in class, activities, and discussions. Regular attendance in class is also required and roll will be taken on a weekly basis. For this course, you may not miss more than 2 classes (no excuse is needed). Illnesses, emergencies, travel, participation in sports events or other university-sponsored events all count as absences, so please contact your instructor to make plans to make up work, assignments, and/or activities. Your instructor will talk to you after two absences and submit a warning notice to your school office (see CAN). After two absences, your final grade for the course will be lowered by one sign (e.g., a final grade of B+ will be lowered to a B). For each subsequent absence, your final grade will be lowered an additional sign. This policy may be subjected to revisions (i.e. COVID-19 progression).

Students are expected to join all the sessions on time. Excessive tardiness will be counted toward an absence.

You must report absences through the **Course Action Notices** available through Path@Penn. It is your responsibility to find out what the homework was and come prepared for the next class. For further information regarding attendance, consult the College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/attendance>

PLEASE NOTE: The use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, and other electronic devices in class is only allowed for purposes directly related to the instruction. Inappropriate use of electronic devices during class time (such as text messaging, Facebook, etc.) are not allowed and will negatively affect your class participation/attendance grade.

Grading Criteria for Participation and Engagement					
Student is on time, pays attention, and completes individual or group activities in a timely manner.	Always A 5	Frequently B 4	Occasionally C 3	Seldom D 2	Almost/ never F 1
Student participates actively in class by answering and asking questions, by discussing an issue or by finding a solution for a task/problem.	Almost always 5	Frequently 4	Occasionally 3	Seldom 2	Almost never 1
Student engages creatively with the material and shows a positive attitude and willingness to learn, is curious and interested.	Almost always 5	Frequently 4	Occasionally 3	Seldom 2	Almost never 1
Student tries to interact in Italian in every activity and seeks to take risks (do not always answer with a simple yes/no but try to use more challenging structures and new vocabulary).	Always 5	Frequently 4	Occasionally 3	Seldom 2	Almost never 1
Student collaborates with classmates in interpersonal activities; extends the activity or converse in Italian if the group finishes the exercise early.	Always 5	Frequently 4	Occasionally 3	Seldom 2	Almost Never 1

Course Action Notice (CAN)

You will receive a CAN notice from your instructor if you are having difficulty in any aspect of your performance in the course. You may receive one for attendance, participation, homework, compositions, tests, etc. The CAN is an opportunity for you and your instructor to communicate clearly about your performance in the course and for you to improve upon the points raised by your instructor.

Italian Hour & Extra Curricular Events

Students of all levels must take part at least in 3 conversational hours meetings (TBA) over the entire semester, and 1 extra-curricular event organized by Italian Studies, in order to practice or hear Italian outside the classroom and find more opportunities to explore Italy's culture.

Grading scale:

99 -100 A+	88-89 B+	79-80 C+	72-73 D+
94-98 A	83-87 B	76-78 C	70-71 D
93-90 A-	81-82 B-	74-75 C-	Below 60 F

UNIVERSITY & COURSE POLICIES

Code of Academic Integrity

The Department of French, Italian, and Germanic Studies fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.) The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from some published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way misrepresents someone else's work as your own, you will face severe discipline by the university.

For more info, consult the University [Code of Academic Integrity](#) and [The Office of Student Conduct](#)

Use of Machine Translation and Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence and other tools may be accurate but often fail to consider the context, register, and cultural backgrounds/implications of a language. One of the things to remember is that these tools are only useful if they aid your learning and not replace it; mistakes are important for language learning, as are revisions and practice. If you use any tools to complete your assignments, **be sure you acknowledge their use** and indicate why you used them (grammar, vocabulary, ideas, other reasons). Also, try to understand and learn the words, structures, or verbs you looked up.

Students with Disabilities

The Weingarten Center provides services for students who self-identify with a disability in order to ensure equal access to all University programs, activities, and services. The process begins when a student requests an accommodation, provides documentation of their condition, and meets with a Disability Specialist. Use this [link](#) to register with Disability Services.

Gender Pronoun

This class community affirms people of all gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let your instructor and colleagues know. Feel free to correct others on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

Statement of Inclusivity

This class community strives to be an inclusive learning space, valuing all of our differences. We aim to be respectful of all members of this class, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientation, etc.

The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a wide range of services including individual and group counseling and therapy, crisis intervention, structured workshops, psychological testing, medication reviews, and consultation. One or more of our services could be suitable for you. In the past few years, we have provided individual counseling services to over 2,900 Penn students per year. [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#). 133 South 36th Street, 2nd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Hours: 9am - 5pm, Monday – Friday. Emergencies: 215-349-5490 (ask for CAPS Clinician on Call). Tel: 215-898-7021. Fax: 215-573-8966. Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu

LEARNING RESOURCES**The Italian Studies Home Page**

Consult the Center for Italian Studies Home Page for information on additional resources, such as local radio and TV programming in Italian, sources for Italian-language magazines and newspapers, and organized events for students of Italian. The page also has links to selected Web sites that will enrich your study of the language.

<https://italian.sas.upenn.edu/links-and-resources-italian-studies>

Language Direct

Organized by the Penn Language Center (PLC), this is “a unique peer tutoring program for foreign language learners at Penn.”

Language Direct consists of a network of peer tutors, supervised by graduate students, who assist foreign language learners through drop-in tutoring and online help. Tutoring is available on campus and online. Their services are free.

Request a tutor through their site: http://www.plc.sas.upenn.edu/language_direct/

The Department (Williams 521) maintains a list of tutors who will tutor for a fee.

The Weingarten Learning Resources Center

The learning center provides free professional guidance in academic skills such as academic reading, writing and study strategies.
<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc>

The David B. Weigle Information Commons (first floor west of the Van Pelt Dietrich Library):

The Weigle Information Commons supports collaborative learning and group activities using the latest technologies, provides students with group study rooms, seminar rooms, and training and equipment in the Vitale Digital Media Lab for digital media projects - including video, audio, imaging, and web publishing.
<http://wic.library.upenn.edu/>

The Italian Club

The Italian Club organizes events for those interested in all aspects of Italian language and culture. For further details, see:
<https://www.facebook.com/pennitalianclub/>

Study Abroad

The University of Pennsylvania strongly encourages students to take advantage of the variety of opportunities for study abroad sponsored by the Office of International Programs <http://global.upenn.edu/pennabroad>
(*Be sure to speak to the Undergraduate Chair about your Study Abroad plans*)

Penn in Florence!

Our program in Florence allows students to improve their language skills while enjoying an immersive experience in Italian history and culture. Florence offers a wide array of resources for students, including world-renowned libraries and museums, culinary traditions, and fashion hubs. It is also a very livable city, with accommodations and places of interest all in walking distance.
<https://summer.sas.upenn.edu/programs/abroad/florence>

***Be sure to speak to the Directors of the Program: Rossella Di Rosa (dirosa@sas.upenn.edu) and Eva Del Soldato (evadel@sas.upenn.edu)**

The Vittorini Prize

In the spring of 1979, the Vittorini Fund was established in honor of the memory of Professor Domenico Vittorini, a long-time member of the Italian faculty, to offer prizes for outstanding achievement in Italian course work at the University of Pennsylvania. The Vittorini Fund is administered by the America-Italy Society of Philadelphia, whose representative gives out the awards at an annual ceremony held at the end of the spring semester. Marked by the participation of the Consul General of Italy in Philadelphia, the Vittorini reception is an occasion for all Italian students and faculty at Penn as well as members of the America-Italy Society to celebrate academic excellence and reaffirm the warm relationship between the University and a major Italian American cultural organization of the community. At the ceremony a cash prize is awarded for excellence in the first year of the study of Italian, in the second year, at the 200 level and for the best

essay written in an Italian literature course at the 300 level. The Vittorini Fund may also make available a scholarship for an outstanding major in Italian or Italian Studies who plans to undertake further study in Italy.

<https://italian.sas.upenn.edu/vittorini-prize>

Director of Italian Language Program

Dr. Rossella Di Rosa

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Undergraduate Chair of French, Italian, and Germanic Studies

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Settimana	Argomento	Attività	Spunti per la discussione
31 agosto	Quando è nata la lingua italiana?	Parliamo di eventi nel passato; L'italiano come "lingua del cuore"; Leggiamo alcuni passaggi da <i>In altre parole</i> , di Jhumpa Lahiri.	Le lingue; evoluzione delle lingue; la nostra "storia" e il nostro rapporto con la lingua italiana.
7 settembre	Un bambino famoso	Andiamo a conoscere un bambino molto speciale... Pinocchio. Leggiamo alcuni passaggi dal libro originale di Carlo Collodi, e guardiamo delle scene del film su Pinocchio del regista Garrone.	I nostri libri preferiti; i nostri ricordi di infanzia; I nostri passatempi
14 settembre	L'itanglese	Parliamo dell'italiano di oggi, leggendo: http://danteact.org.au/litanglese-quante-parole-inglesi-nellitaliano/	Anglicismi; forestierismi; politica (jobs act, spread etc.).
21 settembre	L'italiano cambia	Parliamo della storia dello schwa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCx9t2OLOSY e leggiamo l'articolo di Vera Gheno: https://thesubmarine.it/2020/08/03/schwa-linguaggio-inclusivo-vera-gheno/	Inclusione; diversità; promuovere differenze; opzioni; chi era Michela Murgia

28 settembre	L'Italia multietnica (1)	Parleremo di cosa significhi essere o sentirsi italiani, discutendo di topic come immigrazione ed emigrazione. Leggeremo alcuni passaggi da <i>Fuori piove</i> , di Antonio Dikele Distefano.	Immigrazione; emigrazione; integrazione; giovani; periferia.
5 ottobre	L'Italia multietnica (2)	Leggiamo alcuni passaggi da <i>Salsicce</i> , di Igiaba Scego.	Immigrazione; Roma; Ferragosto; identità; intervista a Scego.
19 ottobre	Gli italiani all'estero	Parleremo degli italiani all'estero. In quali nazioni ci sono più italiani di prima generazione? Quando è cominciata l'emigrazione italiana? In quali nazioni gli italiani del passato cercavano fortuna? I due casi più famosi: l'emigrazione italiana negli Stati Uniti e l'emigrazione italiana del Brasile.	Emigrazione; italiani all'estero; perché gli italiani emigrano, e perché emigravano?; famosi italoamericani e famosi italobrasiliani.
26 ottobre	Fotografare l'Italia	“Torniamo” in Italia, e parliamo di Letizia Battaglia, una fotografa contro la mafia. Leggiamo: https://www.fanpage.it/spettacolo/personaggi/la-vita-di-letizia-battaglia-attraverso-le-foto-che-ha-scattato/ e l'intervista: https://www.ilpost.it/2022/04/14/morta-letizia-battaglia/	Significato fotografia; ruolo delle donne; mafia, film “Solo per passione” (RAI) https://www.raiplay.it/video/2022/05/Solo-per-passione-Letizia-Battaglia-fotografa-E1-9549c8d0-663d-4dfd-ae76-15a5dd6d830a.html Discutiamo di Letizia Battaglia e della sua vita.
2 novembre	L'Italia delle città	Parliamo di città italiane, dei loro monumenti, della loro storia e del loro presente e futuro. Leggiamo un articolo sulle “città del futuro” italiane: https://initalia.virgilio.it/citta-futuro-italia/siena-46060	Le nostre città preferite; parliamo di cosa abbiamo visitato e/o di cosa vogliamo visitare in Italia; quali sono le città italiane più famose, e perché sono famose? Le loro caratteristiche; Nord e Sud, le differenze.
9 novembre	Nord e Sud Italia in cucina	Si mangia! Parliamo delle differenze tra Nord e Sud Italia in cucina (discuteremo dei cibi tipici delle diverse regioni italiane)	I nostri cibi preferiti; le differenze culinarie in Italia; il chicken parmesan è italiano? E le fettuccine Alfredo?
16 novembre	E per finire... <i>Scontri di civiltà</i> di Amara Lakhous	Leggiamo dei passaggi di <i>Scontri di civiltà</i> di Amara Lakhous.	Immigrazione ed emigrazione; i pregiudizi; Roma; il dibattito politico e sociale in Italia; il romanzo in Italia; i Gialli Mondadori.
21 novembre	Continuazione di <i>Scontri di civiltà</i>	Leggiamo dei passaggi di <i>Scontri di civiltà</i> di Amara Lakhous.	Immigrazione ed emigrazione; i pregiudizi; Roma; il dibattito politico e sociale in Italia.

30 novembre	Continuazione di Scontri di civiltà	Leggiamo dei passaggi di <i>Scontri di civiltà</i> di Amara Lakhous.	Immigrazione ed emigrazione; i pregiudizi; Roma; il dibattito politico e sociale in Italia.
7 dicembre	Riflessioni sui temi trattati nel corso del semestre, e saluti finali		

***Ultimo giorno di lezione per questo corso: 7 dicembre.**