

SCUOLA INTERNAZIONALE DI GRAFICA – SYLLABI

Italian Language & Culture

This course focuses on the fundamental structure of contemporary Italian language (lexical, morphosyntax, phonetics, etc.), through lectures and related practical exercises. The course involves all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, all in a cultural context. Most of the language-based activities are developed through reading Italian texts, which promote discussion about and focus on themes related to Italy, as well as expanding to focus on using language in a wider number of situations and contexts.

Students will learn to ask simple questions about daily matters and verbalize social courtesies, and eventually work towards expressing ideas and hypotheses, thoughts, emotions, sensations, critiques, etc. Considering the specificity of art students – and of artists - who are concerned with the lexical and communication functions of language, the course will focus particularly on language related to the visual arts.

It is expected that each student will actively participate in lessons and practice the ideas learned across various methodologies including role playing, class presentations on a chosen topic, individual research (guided by the teacher), and homework. . Ample time will be given to current events, especially local events.

At the start of the first lesson, all students will be a simple written test, in order to gauge each student's level of language proficiency and knowledge of Italian culture. The first 6 lessons will be dedicated to the learning of the Italian language, giving particular attention to everyday communication. Subsequently, each lesson thereafter will be divided into 2 parts: one dedicated to the study of the language; the other focusing on the learning of Italian culture where students discuss music, theater, cinema, literature, the press, Italian traditions and lifestyles, historical/geographical aspects of the Italian territory, politics, and current events. The multidisciplinary character of this course offers a comprehensive, variegated and panoramic study of both the ancient and contemporary Italian world, while inspiring students through a series of stimuli for personal study.

At the end of each lesson, homework will be assigned for the next lesson, to be done individually or in small groups. Each student will prepare a presentation based on a chosen subject agreed to by the teacher, to give to in front of the class.

The course will be divided into 2 weekly lessons of 2 hours each. (Mondays: 8:45-10:45, Thursdays: 11:00-1:00), for a total of 46 hours in 23 lessons.

GRADING:

The final grade will take the following into account:

- 15% Mid-term written exam (21 March)
- 30% Final written exam (6 May)
- 15% Final oral exam (8 May)
- 20% Oral presentation in class and homework
- 20% Punctuality, attendance, and class participation

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- M. Mezzadri., P.E. Balboni. Rete! 1: Multimedia Italian Course for Foreigners. Perugia, Guerra Edizioni, 2000.
- Grammatical texts given by the professor
- Miscellaneous texts of contemporary Italian authors. (N.Ginzburg, I.Calvino, T.Scarpa, E.Brizzi, D.Buzzati, G.Parise, C.Pavese, among others). Newspaper and magazine articles, various texts related to Italian and Venetian history, as well as other texts given to the students by the professor.