McGill University Faculty of Arts  
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Italian Studies  
ITAL 206: Italian for Beginners - Section 00*  
Fall 2020

Course schedule:
Room: Zoom links for virtual meetings will be posted on MyCourses.
Lecturer:
Email:
Office hours:
Communication plan: Zoom /McGill email /MyCourses; I will answer questions within 24 hours.

“IN THE EVENT OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY'S CONTROL, THE CONTENT AND/OR EVALUATION SCHEME IN THIS COURSE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE”

COURSE DESCRIPTION
ITAL 206 is a language course (6 credits) designed for students who have no previous knowledge of Italian. Over one term, this course introduces students to basic grammatical structures of written and oral Italian and enables them to acquire basic vocabulary for use in daily life situations.

PREREQUISITES
There is no prerequisite for this course. No previous knowledge of Italian is required. However, this course IS NOT open to students who have taken both Italian 101 and Italian 102 at the Cegep level. Students who have some knowledge of Italian or of Italian dialect should speak to the lecturer at the beginning of term about proper placement. For students wishing to pursue further study in Italian, this course fulfills the prerequisite for ITAL 215 (Intermediate Italian), ITAL 216 (Intensive Intermediate Italian).

COURSE OBJECTIVES
By the end of the course, students should be able to:
- Talk about themselves and their environment (class, family, etc.);
- Handle survival situations (grocery & general shopping, eating in restaurants, traveling, etc.);
- Maintain a conversation in an everyday context (weather, daily routine, relationships, news, etc.);
- Give and ask for information;
- Describe a person or an event in the present and the past.
This course aims at developing the following skills:

**Oral comprehension:** Comprehend spoken Italian well enough to grasp the main idea and some supporting details in short conversations that relate to daily life and represent authentic situations. Understand audio and video material presented during the synchronous meetings and on the online component of the textbook.

**Oral production:** communicate at a basic level (dealing with common situations
Such as asking and answering questions; talking about common subjects dealing with everyday life; description; narration.)

**Written comprehension:** read and understand short texts related to everyday life, cultural texts, short newspaper or magazine articles and narratives.

**Written production:** produce short texts on familiar topics (dialogues, descriptions and narrations).

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Dictionary: a good Italian-English or Italian French dictionary. A dictionary is an essential tool to learning a foreign language. Departmental recommended online dictionaries:
  - Garzanti: https://www.garzantilinguistica.it/
  - Zanichelli: http://dizionari.zanichelli.it/
  - www.wordreference.com
- Book of Italian verbs: Bescherelle, Webster etc., (Available at McGill Bookstore or at other bookstores such as Indigo, Renaud-Bray etc.) **OPTIONAL**

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:**

- This course can be taken on either a PC or Mac.

**SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:**

- PC: Windows XP or later.
- Mac: OS X Snow Leopard 10.6 or later.
- Browser: The latest version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are preferred.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- A microphone
- A dependable internet connection
- Software must be installed and fully operational before the course begins.

*A webcam for oral assignments and oral presentations is strongly suggested.

**For any inquiries and/or regarding technical problems, please contact ITS:**
https://www.mcgill.ca/it/
**INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD**
Classes will be conducted remotely using Zoom (link will be posted on MyCourses) during the regularly scheduled class times.
During this course we will adopt a hybrid instructional method consisting of synchronous meetings and asynchronous activities that students are expected to complete independently, outside class time. Asynchronous learning will accommodate different time zones, it will allow self-paced assignment completion and alternative ways students can interact with the content. **Asynchronous activities are an essential part of the course as they are also meant to prepare students for each class. (Please see the details of evaluation).**

Remote Learning Resources – see MyCourses.

**Attendance.***
Considering the specific nature of language courses attendance is **strongly** encouraged. Lectures will not be recorded. Power point presentations with the content of the lecture will be posted every day after class. If students cannot attend the live sessions, it is his/her responsibility to study the lecture slides and complete the assigned homework.

**EVALUATION**

- Preparatory Work .............................................................. 15%
- Homework in VHL ............................................................... 15%
- Quizzes ........................................................................ 20%
- Compositions (2) .............................................................. 10%
  Composition 1 = 5%; composition 2 = 5%
- Written Assignments/Discussion boards............................ 10%
- Oral Assignments / Tests (Zoom) ....................................... 10 %
- Oral Presentations/Interviews (2) ....................................... 10%
- Oral Assignments on VHL/MyCourses .............................. 10%

**Preparatory work**
All asynchronous activities assigned, must be completed before class meetings. Students are expected to devote approximately 30 minutes to the preparatory work which will help them become familiar with the grammatical structures and the vocabulary that will be seen during the live sessions. Preparatory work will include: overview of grammatical structures, readings, vocabulary exercises, listening exercises.

The hybrid method adopted in this course will allow students to work independently and at their own pace. However, as stated under Instructional method “Asynchronous activities are an essential part of the course as they are also meant to prepare students for each class.” Considering that meetings will be reduced to approximately 1h, plan on spending 20 to 30 minutes before each class in order to prepare for the upcoming meeting.
Students are expected to **complete the assigned exercises, posted on MyCourses, before each class meeting** (the time limit to submit the preparatory work is *am/pm Montreal time).

Please note that 5% will be deducted for late “Preparation Work” if submitted the same day, 10% per day is deducted if submitted on later dates.

**Assignments/Home work in VHL**

Homework will be assigned after each class. It will be posted on MyCourses, VHL and/or will be sent by email to the students.

**Important note:** During the course students are expected to dedicate at least one hour of work (homework, studying, reviewing etc.) per each hour of class time.

Homework will be posted on MyCourses after each meeting and must be submitted within 24 hours. Please note the 10% will be deducted for late submissions.

**Quizzes**

Short quizzes will be held regularly during class time on MyCourses and on the VHL supersite. Quizzes will help students monitor their acquisition of the material taught in class. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES unless a doctor’s certificate is provided (signed by a doctor).** Students living in time zones different than Eastern Standard Time, need to contact the instructor so that arrangements, if needed, can be made.

**Compositions**

**Compositions:** Students will be asked to write 2 compositions that are designed to develop their ability to use grammar structures and recycle vocabulary. Students must send, as a Word document, the compositions to the instructor on MyCourses (in Assignments) no later than 6:00 P.M. (Montreal time) on the due date. Late compositions carry a penalty of 1 point per day. Compositions handed in one week after due date will not be accepted.

**Written Assignments/Discussion boards**

Students will be given weekly or by-weekly writing assignments to be completed on MyCourses or on the VHL Supersite. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses.

**Oral Assignments on VHL/MyCourses**

Students will produce short videos and audio exercises on MyCourses or on the VHL Supersite. Oral assignments are designed to increase students’ oral expression and prepare them for the oral presentations/tests.

**Oral Assignments / Tests (Zoom)**

During the semester students will be tested regularly on a variety of topics, such as: *Un fine settimana a Roma*, questions on assigned readings, vocabulary. Students will be also asked to conduct role plays in pairs or groups. Given the nature of class meetings and the limited time available, students may be asked to record themselves while in the Zoom room. Those who are not comfortable with recording themselves will be allowed to turn off the camera. Videos will be seen by the instructor only. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses.

**Oral Presentations/Interviews**

Two oral presentations conducted via Zoom will take place during the course. More information on dates, topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses.

**Students are forbidden to use translation tools or applications such as:** Google translate, DeepL or any other kind of translation software. Moreover, they are forbidden to have
their compositions corrected by native speakers or any other person. (See below under Academic Integrity for more details.)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures” (see McGill’s guide to academic honesty for more information). (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

« L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l’honnêteté académique de McGill).

- Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to text-matching or other appropriate software (e.g., formula-, equation-, and graph-matching).”

- Please remember the following points when you write your essay:
  - It is a violation of the honor code to have your essays proofread by someone else.
  - It is a violation of the honor code to use translation software or online translation tools.

- The following statement should be added at the beginning of every composition, written assignment and recorded oral assignment: “I will be fair and honest in my coursework. I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any assignment, quizzes or exam”.

“© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.”

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

END OF COURSE EVALUATION

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.