ITAL 215 Course syllabus – Fall 2020/Winter 2021

McGill University Faculty of Arts
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Italian Studies
ITAL 215: Intermediate Italian - Section 001 (6 credits)
Fall 2020/Winter 2021

Course schedule: TR 8:35 A.M. – 9:55 A.M.
Location: Zoom
Lecturer: Anna Maria Tumino, Faculty Lecturer
Email: anna.tumino@mcgill.ca
Virtual office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment
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 215 is a language course designed for students who already possess a basic knowledge of Italian. Over two terms, this course introduces students to the more complex grammatical structures of written and spoken Italian. Students will also expand their vocabulary, thus developing the ability to handle a wider range of real-life situations and participate in more sophisticated discussions about Italy and its culture.

Prerequisites
To be admitted to this course, students must have taken a beginner’s level course in Italian, either in the Department (ITAL 205 or ITAL 206) or at another institution (in this case, the permission of the Department is required.) This course is NOT open to students who have taken ITAL 210.
For students wishing to pursue further study in Italian, this course fulfills the prerequisite for ITAL 250 (Literary composition) and other 200-level courses. (Please note that some 200-level courses are offered in English).

Course Objectives
At the beginning of this course students should be able to:
  o Understand basic Italian spoken at a normal speed
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

**Oral comprehension:** understand the important elements of a conversation at a normal speed.

**Oral production:** express themselves in order to deal with everyday situations; describe events in the past tense; express emotions, wishes, likes, dislikes; express an opinion.

**Written comprehension:** understand the daily press and other popular publications; comprehend intermediate-level cultural and literary texts.

**Written production:** Produce summative, descriptive, narrative and expository texts on familiar topics using the proper sequence of tenses in the indicative and in the subjunctive.

**Cultural:** identify and explain cultural references as expressed in written, audio, and visual material.

**Required texts**

- Ammaniti, Niccolò. *Io e te*. Some hard copies of the book are available at the McGill University bookstore Le James: [https://lejames.ca](https://lejames.ca). The digital book is available at *HathiTrust Digital Library*’s which can be access through the McGill online catalogue.
- 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/](https://www.garzantilinguistica.it/)
  - Zanichelli: [http://dizionari.zanichelli.it/](http://dizionari.zanichelli.it/)
  - [www.wordreference.com](http://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** .......................................................................................................................... 15%
- **Compositions (2)** .......................................................................................................... 10% 5% x 2
- **Written Assignments/Discussion boards** ................................................................. 15%
- **Oral Assignments / Tests (Zoom)** .............................................................................. 10 %
- **Oral Assignments on VHL/MyCourses** .................................................................... 10%
- **Oral Presentations/Interviews (2)** ............................................................................. 10%

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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 8:30am 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/Homework 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
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: Io e te, questions on assigned readings. 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:
  o It is a violation of the honor code to have your essays proofread by someone else.
  o 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.