



Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Italian Studies

ITAL 205: Beginners Italian – Section 002

Fall 2022 – Winter 2023

Course schedule: MWF 10:35 AM – 11:25 AM

Location: SH680 - Room 451

Lecturer: Cristiana Furlan

Email: cristiana.furlan@mcgill.ca

Office hours: MT 11:30 AM - 12:30 AM or by appointment

Office: SH680 – Room 447

Communication plan: In-person/ McGill email /MyCourses; I will answer emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

N.B. 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 OVERVIEW

ITAL 205 is a language course (**6 credits**) designed for students who have no previous knowledge of Italian. Over two terms, 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 an Italian dialect should speak to the lecturer at the beginning of term about proper placement.

For students wishing to pursue further studies in Italian, this course fulfills the prerequisite for ITAL 215 (Intermediate Italian), ITAL 216 (Intensive Intermediate Italian).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Pronounce Italian words and sentences accurately
- Express ideas using relatively simple sentences (telling stories in the present and past), and communicate using some Italian expressions and idioms
- Write short compositions in Italian
- Read and understand selected readings in Italian
- Ask and answer questions on a variety of concrete and abstract topics, (everyday life, university life, the weather, hobbies, work, food, entertainment, family life etc.)
- Describe situations, people, surroundings and common objects in the present and in the past
- Acquire a better knowledge of Italian culture and society

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 in class.

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

- Aski Janice, Diane Musumeci. *Avanti! Beginning Italian*. 5th Edition. The digital book is available for purchase at the McGill University bookstore, Le James: <https://lejames.ca>
- Nanetti, Sandro. *La festa dell'uva*. Edizioni Bulgarini, Casa Delle Lingue, 2014. The physical copy of the book is available for purchase at the McGill University bookstore, Le James: <https://lejames.ca>.
- 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

Preparatory Work & Homework

All assigned activities must be completed *before* class meetings. Students are expected to devote approximately **2 hours on studying and preparing for the class per day**. The preparatory work will help them become familiar with the grammatical structures and the vocabulary that will be seen in class. Assigned activities will include grammatical exercises, readings, vocabulary exercises, listening and speaking exercises on MyCourses and/or the online platform **Connect, associated with the textbook *Avanti!*** A deduction of **5% per day** will be applied for late submission of exercises done on *Connect*.

Quizzes

Short quizzes will be given regularly. Quizzes will help students monitor their acquisition of the material taught in class. Information on content and dates will be provided prior to each quiz.

Tests

Students will be asked to take 2 Tests. More information pertaining to the content will be provided prior to each test. The date of each test is provided on the Course Calendar.

Compositions

Students will be asked to write 2 compositions that are designed to develop their ability to use grammar structures and recycle vocabulary. Compositions will be written in class; students will be permitted to bring their dictionary. Notes, textbooks, cell phones, and laptops will **NOT** be allowed. The topics will be given in class the same day of the composition and the date of each composition is provided on the Course Calendar.

Diario (*Journal*)

Students will be given regular writing assignments, i.e. “entries” in a Journal. Submission may be done in person or online on the due date. Students may be asked to write one journal assignment in class. More information on topics and dates will be provided prior to each assignment.

Oral Assignments (in person or online)

Students will produce short videos, audio exercises, and dialogues in pairs or groups to assess the students’ communicative skills in Italian. You will be evaluated on grammar structures, vocabulary,

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pronunciation, and cultural content studied in the course. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses. The dates of each Oral assignment is provided on the Course Calendar.

Oral Presentations/Interviews

One oral interview conducted in person will take place towards the end of the course. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses. The date of the Oral Presentation is provided on the Course Calendar.

Final Written Examination

This final examination will be held during the official examination period in April 2023, (dates TBA by Faculty). Students will be responsible for all the material studied during the course. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the appropriate section of the Calendar, General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students are expected to consult *MyCourses* (*Content, Assignments, Announcements*) after each class to keep up with all assigned activities such as Preparatory Work/Homework, Written/Oral assignments, Tests, and Quizzes. A deduction of **5% per day** will be applied for late submission of all assignments.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Participation and Attendance	7 %
Homework and Preparation on <i>Connect</i>	6%
Quizzes	10%
Class Tests (2 x 10%)	20%
Compositions (2 X 5%).....	10%
Written Assignments (Journal - <i>Diario</i>).....	7%
Oral Assignments (2 x 4%)	8%
Oral Presentation	7%
Final Examination.....	25%

Consult the *Course Calendar* posted on MyCourses for specific dates of assessments and the weekly schedule of the course.

Participation

Active participation in class is essential. Your grade in this category will be based on a number of variables, including but not limited to the following:

- Evidence of your daily preparation for each class
- Homework completion
- Your use of Italian in the classroom
- Your willingness to participate actively in *all* class activities
- Your cooperation during group and pair work
- Volunteering frequently, not only to provide answers to assigned activities, but also to participate in less-structured speaking opportunities.

Important: Disruptive behavior, using cellular phones (texting) and/or laptops (for personal use or to do work for another course) will also lower your *participation* grade.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance and participation are necessary components of language learning. After September 13th, (add/drop deadline), a total of **three (3)** absences during the course of the semester will be automatically excused. Subsequently, one (1) point will be deducted from the global class participation/attendance mark unless a doctor's certificate is provided within one week of the absence. Please note: a maximum of three (3) medical notes will be accepted. After three medical notes the student will be referred to OSD (Office for Students with Disabilities). Once referred to the OSD, the deduction of points will depend on the student's disability degree. In order to be accepted medical notes must indicate the doctor's office or hospital logo and a contact number. Absences for religious holy days are exempt from these stipulations, but must abide by the conditions of the University Holy Days Policy at <http://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates/holy-days-0/policy-holy-days>. Students who wish to observe religious holidays: **MUST INFORM** the lecturer in writing the first 2 weeks of the semester so that alternative arrangements can be made. It is the students' responsibility to fulfill the agreed upon requirements. Students must keep track of their absences if any.

PUNCTUALITY

Since **tardiness** is disruptive, students are expected to arrive on time and not leave before the end of the class session. While occasional tardiness may sometimes be unavoidable, frequent or chronic tardiness will be counted as absence. **Three (3) late arrivals and/or early departures will count as one absence.** In case of absence students are responsible for catching up with the class, completing homework and coming to the next class prepared. It is the student's obligation to inquire about what he/she has missed by contacting a classmate.

Missed or Late assignments

There will be no make-up tests, quizzes, oral and written assignments unless a doctor's certificate is provided (signed by a doctor).

****Additional work to upgrade marks will not be permitted****

INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures endeavors to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with your instructor and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD): 514-398-6009. For further information you may also contact <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/>. Students with a documented disability should contact the OSD as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. This letter should be sent to the instructor at the beginning of a term. Please note that it might not be possible to accommodate last minute requests for accommodations.

The instructor will gladly honour students' requests to address them by their chosen name or gender pronoun. Please advise the instructor of this at any point in the semester.

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 honour code to have your essays proofread by someone else.
 - It is a violation of the honour code to use translation software or online translation tools.
- The following statement must 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."