



**Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Italian Studies**  
**ITAL 205: Beginners Italian**  
**FALL 2024 – Winter 2025**

**Lecturer:**

**Email:**

**Office hours:**

**Office:** SH680

**Communication plan:** In-person/ McGill email; 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.

**NOTE:** THIS IS A TWO TERM COURSE. The first day of class is August 28<sup>th</sup> and the last day of class is April 11<sup>th</sup>. **Changing section for the Winter semester is NOT PERMITTED.**

### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD**

This course is given entirely in person. In our Italian language class, we emphasize a dynamic and immersive learning experience. New grammar themes are introduced during in-person sessions, ensuring direct and immediate engagement with the material. Our focus in class is on interactive activities, which facilitate practical language use and reinforce the concepts introduced. Homework is assigned to be completed outside of class, allowing students to review and apply the new grammar at their own pace. This approach ensures that classroom time is dedicated to active practice and communication, fostering a more engaging and effective learning environment.

### **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).

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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, to name a few )
- 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 (for example, students will be able to deal 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

- Cozzarelli, Julia. *Sentieri + SupersitePlus access code, webSam* (web Student Activity Manual). *Sentieri*, VHL 4th edition. The digital 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](http://www.wordreference.com)

Additional readings, activities, and grammar exercises will be posted on MyCourses.

#### 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 (whether formally assigned or not)**. 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 *VHL (Vista Higher Learning)*, associated with the textbook *Sentieri*. A deduction of **10% per day** will be applied for late submission of exercises done online on VHL.

#### Quizzes

A total of 4 in-class quizzes will be given; information on content will be provided prior to each quiz. The date of each quiz is provided in the *Course Calendar* (see MyCourses).

### Tests

Students will be asked to take 2 in-class tests; more information pertaining to the content will be provided prior to the exam. The dates of the tests are provided in the *Course Calendar* (see Mycourses).

### Written assignments

Students will be asked to write 4 written assignments that are designed to develop their ability to use grammar structures and recycle vocabulary. The assignments will be written in class; dictionaries, notes, textbooks, cell phones, and laptops will **NOT** be allowed. The topics will be given in class the same day of the composition; the date of each assignments is provided in the *Course Calendar* (see MyCourses).

### Oral Assignments (in person or recording)

There will be 4 oral assignments; students will produce short videos, dialogues in pairs, and oral activities which serve to assess the students' communicative skills in Italian. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses. The date of each oral assignment is provided in the *Course Calendar* (see MyCourses).

### Missed or late assignments

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, (except assignments online VHL, **10% per day**). 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\*\***

### METHOD OF EVALUATION

Assessments	Percentage
Participation	10%
Homework & Preparation VHL	5%
Quizzes	20%
Tests	20%
Written assignments	25%
Oral assignments	20%

### Participation

Active participation in class is essential. Your grade in this category will be based on a number of elements:

- punctuality
- evidence of your daily preparation for each class
- homework & preparatory work completion

- making a concerted effort to speak Italian as often as possible
- interacting with peers in small group activities
- volunteering effective questions and comments on a regular basis
- showing consistent progress in written and oral assignments

**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

Students are expected to attend all class meetings to fully participate in all class activities. Please note the attendance policy that applies after the add/drop deadline (September 10, 2024):

- Students are allowed **2** unexcused absences without penalty.
- After a total of 2 unexcused absences, 1 point per absence will be deducted from the student's final mark on 100%, unless an official medical note is provided within 1 week of the absence or the NOTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Every two unexcused lateness or early departure will count as one absence.

To be accepted, medical notes must indicate the doctor's office or hospital logo and a contact number. Medical notes may be reviewed and evaluated by *Student Accessibility and Achievement* in exceptional circumstances, for example, students with an excessive number of medical notes or students who have conditions/issues that hinder their academic performance.

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.

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.

### 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 of Student Accessibility and Achievement: 1010 Sherbrooke Ouest, Suite 410, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2R7, 514-398-6009. Email: [access.achieve@mcgill.ca](mailto:access.achieve@mcgill.ca)*

Students with a documented disability should contact the Student Accessibility and Achievement office 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.

### 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](#)). »

**Students are forbidden to use translation tools or applications such as: Google translate, DeepL or any form of AI such as ChatGPT. Moreover, they are forbidden to have their work corrected by native speakers or any other person.**

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

- 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.”