



McGill University Faculty of Arts
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures - Italian Studies
ITAL 215: Intermediate Italian (6 credits)
Fall 2024 – Winter 2025

Course schedule: MW 11:35- 12:55pm

Location of course: MAASS Room 328

Lecturer: Cristiana Furlan

Office location: SH680 Room 447

Email: cristiana.furlan@mcgill.ca

Office hours: M 14:00 - 16:00 PM or by appointment

Communication plan: in person / McGill email / MyCourses. I will answer questions within 48 hours on weekdays.

IN THE EVENT OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY'S CONTROL, ASSESSMENT TASKS IN A COURSE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PROVIDED STUDENTS ARE SENT ADEQUATE AND TIMELY COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE 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.

NOTE: THIS IS A TWO TERM COURSE. The first day of class is August 28th and the last day of class is April 11th.

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

In order to be admitted to this course, students must have taken a beginners 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.)

For students wishing to pursue further studies in Italian, this course fulfills the prerequisite for 200-level courses taught in Italian. (Please note that some 200-level courses are offered in English).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the beginning of this course students should be able to:

Understand basic Italian spoken at a normal speed

Communicate basic ideas and situations orally

Express opinions

Read texts

Write coherently about subjects dealing with everyday life

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

- Tommasini, Maria Gloria; Maria Flavia Diaco. *Spazio Italia*. Volumi 3, 4. The books are available for purchase at Librairie Michel Fortin.
- Carofiglio Gianrico. *Le tre del mattino*. Einaudi editore, 2017. This novel is available for purchase at the Le James bookstore: <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

Homework

All assigned homework must be completed *before* class meetings. Students are expected to devote approximately **4 hours on studying and preparing for the class per week**. The homework will help them become familiar with the grammatical structures and vocabulary. After each class meeting, homework will be posted on MyCourses.

Quizzes

Short quizzes will be given regularly. Quizzes will help students monitor their acquisition of the material taught in class. Information on content will be provided prior to each quiz. The date of each quiz is provided on the Course Calendar.

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.

Written Assignments

Students will be asked to complete 4 written assignment that are designed to develop their ability to use grammatical structures and vocabulary seen during the course. Assignments will be written in class; students will be permitted to bring their dictionary on 2 written assignments. Notes, textbooks, cell phones, and laptops will **NOT** be allowed. The topics will be given in class the same day of the written assignment and the date of each composition is provided on the Course Calendar.

Oral Assignments (in person or recording)

Students will produce short videos, audio exercises, and dialogues in pairs or groups to assess the students' communicative skills in Italian. Students will be evaluated on grammar structures, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural content studied in the course. More information on topics and evaluation method will be posted on MyCourses. The date of each Oral Assignment is provided on the Course Calendar. ****Oral assessments may be recorded****

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 Homework, Written/Oral assignments, Tests, and Quizzes. Assignments submitted after the due date will result in a deduction of **5% per day**. There will be no make-up tests, quizzes, oral and written assignments unless a doctor's certificate (signed by a doctor) is provided. ****Additional work to upgrade marks will not be permitted****

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Assessments	Percentage
Participation	10
Homework & Preparation	10
Quizzes	15
Tests	20
Written assignments	25
Oral assignments	20

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 (and especially) 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 Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings in order to fully participate in all class activities. Please note the attendance policy that applies after the add/drop deadline:

- After September 10th (add/drop deadline), students are allowed 4 unexcused absences (2 per semester) in full-year classes without penalty.
- After a total of 4 unexcused absences, 1 point per absence will be deducted from the student's final mark on 100%, unless official documentation is provided within 1 week of the absence or the NOTE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. In order 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.
- Two unexcused lateness or early departures will count as one absence.

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.

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are forbidden to use AI and/or translation tools such as: ChatGpt, Zeno Assistant, 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.)

“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).”
- 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.”