



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Modern Languages Homepage
Italian Homepage
Course Objectives and Syllabus
Italian 312

Prerequisite: Completion of Italian 311 or placement into Italian 312.

Description:

Italian 312 meets three hours per week. The focus of this course, and all courses in the program, is the acquisition of oral and written skills. During class time you should expect your teacher to speak entirely in Italian and to focus on drilling you on core conversations and phrases that you have learned at home. The curriculum demands tremendous commitment on the part of the student. In order to successfully complete the course, students should expect to not only come to every class meeting and not miss more than four lessons, but to study at least 10 hours a week. In order to continue working on written and analytical skills, students will be asked to maintain a journal and/or turn in short written un-graded assignments. By the end of the term students should be able to write a 4-5 page double spaced essay on topics that they have studied in class. Students will improve their writing skills, their oral comprehension and will be able to write and discuss complex topics in Italian. They will become familiar with past and current issues in Italian culture and society, while reviewing difficult grammatical structures. At the end of the course, students should be in the Intermediate/ High on the ACTFL oral proficiency guidelines.

Required Text: *Mercurio. An intermediate to Advanced Reader in Italian Language and Culture.* Yale University Press. 2005.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Drop policy:

Drexel University allows students to drop a course through the end of the sixth week of the term. This means that you will not be allowed to drop a course, even if you are failing, after the sixth week of the term. The number of times you have already been

absent, the status of your lab hours, the result of your midterm testing, and your evaluations are your best guide to decide whether you should drop the course.

2) Attendance policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed to miss **no more than four classes** during the term. Students who exceed this number of absences will not be scheduled for a final exam and consequently will fail the course. Students are also expected to actively participate in class.

3) Final exam:

Please note: The scheduling of final exams is done by SAS on a University-wide basis. The final exam date cannot be changed and may not correlate to the class meeting time/days. Final exam week runs Monday through Saturday. If you miss your final exam, your instructor is under no obligation to provide you an alternate time to make-up the exam.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOME

This course will provide students with an intermediate/advanced understanding of the Italian language in several core competencies. Specifically, the five areas of assessment are: listening, reading, spoken interaction, spoken production, and writing. Below is a table intended to clarify the expected learning outcome for students of this Italian 312 course, which align with the ACTFL standards for language learners at the “Advanced” level. For more information on these metrics, please see the [ACTFL standards online](#).

Listening	Speaking	Reading	Writing
<p>The student is able to understand main ideas and most details of connected discourse on a variety of topics beyond the immediacy of the situation. Comprehension may be uneven due to a variety of linguistic factors. The student can comprehend description and narration in different time frames and aspects; examples include interviews,</p>	<p>The student is able to satisfy the requirements of everyday situations and routine school and work requirements. The student can handle with confidence but not with facility complicated tasks and social situations, such as elaborating, complaining, and apologizing. The student can narrate and describe with some details, linking sentences together smoothly. The student can communicate facts and</p>	<p>The student is able to read somewhat longer prose of several paragraphs in length, particularly if presented with a clear underlying structure. The prose is mostly in familiar sentence patterns. The student can understand the main ideas and facts, while they miss some details. Texts at this level include descriptions and narrations such as simple short stories,</p>	<p>The student is able to write routine social correspondence and join sentences in simple discourse of at least several paragraphs in length on familiar topics. The student can take notes, write cohesive summaries and resumes, as well as narratives and descriptions of a factual nature. The student has sufficient writing vocabulary to</p>

short lectures on familiar topics, and news items and reports primarily dealing with factual information. The listener is aware of cohesive devices but may not be able to use them to follow the sequence of thought in an oral text.	talk casually about topics of current public and personal interest, using general vocabulary. Shortcomings can often be smoothed over by communicative strategies, such as pause fillers, stalling devices, and different rates of speech.	news items, bibliographical information, social notices, personal correspondence, routinized business letters, and simple technical material written for the general reader.	make expressions simply, while they may still make errors in punctuation and spelling. The student's writing may resemble literal translations from the native language, but a sense of organization is emerging.
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GRADING: A + : 98-100, A: 93-97, A - : 90-92; B + : 87-89, B: 83-86, B - : 80-82; C + : 77-79, C: 73-76, C - : 70-72; D + : 67-69, D: 63-66, D - : 60-62.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: See the Drexel Student Handbook for [Academic Dishonesty](#).

GRADE BREAKDOWN: Your grade will be determined by your midterm and final exams (oral as well as written), quizzes, compositions.

Class participation (and attendance): 20%

Written homework, weekly journal and newspaper reports: 40%

2 Oral presentations: 20

Written final exam: 20%

Class participation (20%):

In order to participate in class and to fulfill your obligation to others during group and pair activities, attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken every day. This grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your participation.

Description of Participation Grades:

A: Arrives to class prepared, on-time, and ready to work. Participates actively in all classroom activities. Volunteers frequently and readily contributes to group work. tries to use ITALIAN as much as possible in the classroom, both when asking questions and when working in a group.

B: Usually arrives to class prepared, but occasionally misses a homework assignment or neglects to learn the material. Occasionally a bit late for class. Participates in classroom activities on a regular basis. Sometimes volunteers, but usually waits for the teacher's cue. Contributes to group activities, but sometimes breaks out into English so that the task may be completed with greater ease. Tries to ask questions in ITALIAN (when reminded) but often resorts to English to facilitate communication.

C: Does not always arrive to class prepared and this lack of preparation affects ability to participate in classroom activities. Often late for class, thereby missing important instructions and practice time. Contributes to classroom activities occasionally, but usually only when asked to do so by teacher. Sits quietly during group time or resorts to English. Rarely attempts to use ITALIAN as a medium of communication- uses English to ask questions and to ask for clarification.

D/ F: Always arrives to class unprepared and is frequently absent. Rarely participates in classroom activities unless asked to do so by the teacher. Does not become involved in group activities. Never uses ITALIAN as a medium of communication.

Written homework, weekly journal and newspaper report:

The class requires reading the textbook at home and answer to the various exercises assigned by the instructor. Students need also to turn in a weekly one page reflective journal, in which they express their interpretations and feelings about what they learn in class and in the textbook pertaining Italian culture. Journals must be typed, double spaced and in 12 font. In addition, students present weekly to the class one article taken from the main newspapers in Italy: la Repubblica.it or Corriere.it or Lastampa.it

Oral presentations:

Students should attend two Italian events held in Philadelphia and make a 5 minute oral report about them in front of the class, supported by evidence of attendance and possible visual aids.

Written final exam:

It consists on a 5 page paper that covers one of the topics dealt in class, to be chosen by the students.

RESOURCES:

The Conversation Network:

Through the English Language Center, located on the first floor of the Language and Communication Center, Italian language students may sign up for a conversation partner. The Conversation Network is designed to give Drexel students an opportunity to meet and converse with a foreign student who has come to Drexel to learn English. This program is not designed to replace daily preparation for class, but rather can provide a forum for informal student interaction. Students may sign up for the Conversation Network by stopping by the English Language Center, or sending an e-mail to:

Conversation.Network@drexel.edu or by phoning them at (215) 895-2022.

Drexel University encourages all students to study and/or work abroad as part of their academic program. Available options include:

1. Intensive Language Study Abroad:

Various programs are available, primarily in the summer. Information is available on the Study Abroad website: <https://drexel.studioabroad.com/> and also at the Modern Language Programs

office (Language & Communication Center 210) <http://www.drexel.edu/culturecomm/lang/>, in the IAS Office (MacAlister 2024)

2. Co-op and Internships Abroad:

Drexel Abroad programs in languages and the liberal arts are administered by the director of International Area Studies and include study-internship programs in Europe and intensive language programs in China, Japan and Russia. They require junior status, with a 3.0 average (3.5 for pre-juniors), completion of level 203 of the target language (except in London), and at least two upper-division courses in history, politics and sociology. Internships in Belgium are with the European Parliament, and in other countries with multinational corporations or with organizations and agencies in a variety of disciplines. <http://www.drexel.edu/scdc/coop/abroad/>

3. International Programs:

The Office of International Programs offers a number of discipline-specific programs abroad (most of which do not require substantive language skills), including the opportunity for Drexel students in a variety of majors to study/co-op in London. More information is available by emailing the Study Abroad office at: studyabroad@drexel.edu or by contacting Daniela Ascarelli, Study Abroad Director at (215) 895-1704.

Italian 312 Course Calendar (subject to changes)

week1: capitolo 3 Città; songs by Fabrizio De Andrè; journal 1

week 2: capitolo 3; journal 2

week 3: capitolo 4 Migrazioni; visione del film Nuovomondo; journal 3

week 4: capitolo 4; songs by Francesco Guccini; journal 4

week 5: capitolo 4; visione del film La stella che non c'è; journal 5

Oral presentation

week 6: capitolo 5 America; songs by Roberto Vecchioni; journal 6

last week to drop a class

week 7: capitolo 5; songs by Paolo Conte; journal 7

week 8: capitolo 6 Europa; visione del film I giorni dell'abbandono; journal 8.

week 9: Capitolo 7; Oral presentation, journal 9

Week 10: capitolo 7 visione del film Fortapasc; Journal 1

In bocca al lupo!!!



