SCHOOL OF ITALIAN STUDIES AND LINGUISTICS
DEPARTMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE
COURSE TITLE: COMMUNICATING IN ITALIAN
COURSE CODE: IS IT CI 101
3 CREDITS

1. DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on the relationship between students and the city. Students will have an overview on basic Italian Language structures but used to develop communication skills. Students will develop a vocabulary that will enable them to engage in simple useful everyday conversations, thus enhancing and supporting their Italian experience. After taking this course, students will be able to express themselves in daily life context e.g. shopping for food, clothes, interacting with Italians, talking about themselves, habits, hobbies. Emphasis will be given to oral expression of practical vocabulary. This level is for absolute beginner students who have never studied Italian before. Through lessons, students will be invited to practice the acquired knowledge in a native environment.

2. OBJECTIVE
During the course emphasis will be given to all four different abilities to be developed while learning a language: Listening – Speaking, Reading – Writing. Students will be encouraged to try to speak both in and outside class, to have them become more familiar with the Italian language and culture environment in which they are immersed.

Students will be required to complete written hand-in assignments to strengthen the structures/vocabulary they acquired.

Grammar
Acquiring the basic structures of the language.
Simple structures and sentence patterns.

Vocabulary
Understanding and using the basic vocabulary regarding main daily life situations.
Mastering the basic vocabulary necessary for the most common and concrete communicative situations.

Listening
Understanding the most commonly used expressions in daily verbal communication, such a simple information and very brief dialogues, instructions addressed carefully and slowly.

Speaking
Using the most common colloquial expressions in daily social communication for self-identification, greetings, asking for and giving basic information.
Using the language in order to identify and describe (in limited terms).

**Reading**
Understanding simple texts for practical use.

### 3. REQUIREMENTS

This level is for absolute beginner students who have never studied Italian before. Lectures are held in Italian. Individual study of the notes, the readings, the handouts etc. at home is required after every class. Students will be assigned homework on a regular basis and it should always be completed before class. No eating is allowed in class. At all times cell phones must be turned off. A responsible and active class participation is expected at all times and activities.

### 4. METHOD

The teaching method is based on a communicative and situational approach, while only a reduced part of the study will be dedicated to the Italian grammar. In order to facilitate the learning progress special emphasis will be given to conversational techniques and communication skills.

**TUTORING SCHEDULE:** The Italian language department offers a tutoring service in small group sessions. Individual tutoring can be provided if requested by the instructor. **SIGN UP IS REQUIRED:** Please visit the front desk for days, time and details.

### 5. TEXT BOOK

**COURSE TEXT BOOK**

Textbook and Structure Insights (as a book published by the school) will be available during the first week. Oxford or Webster English-Italian dictionary.

The dictionary has been pre-ordered and should be purchased after the first class meeting at **FEL-TRINELLI, Via de' Cerretani 30/32/F**. You will receive a 15% discount upon showing FUA syllabus. Open Monday to Friday from 9 to 7:30 pm and on Saturday from 10:30 to 7:30 pm.

**FUA LIBRARY:**
The Fua library is located in Corso Tintori 21, on the first floor. Please consult the posted course schedules for official opening times. Please note that the library is consultation only and thus it is not possible to remove texts.

### 6. VISITS – TRIPS

The course is structured to have every week an “on-site” experience, in order to have students become more familiar both within the city and within the Florentine community.

### 7. MATERIAL LIST

N/A

### 8. ADDITIONAL FEES

N/A
9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

Final Grade Breakdown
10% Attendance
15% Participation (in class + on-field)
20% Hand-in Assignments
20% Midterm Exam
20% Final Written Exam
10% Final Oral Project work
5% Oral skills improvement

Please note that a detailed explanation of the above is found in Section 11 (Assignments, Term Papers and Exams).

Grading Scale
A = 100 – 93%  A- = 92 – 90%
B+ = 89 – 87%  B = 86 – 83%  B- = 82 – 80%
C+ = 79 – 77%  C = 76 – 73%  C- = 72 – 70%
D = 69 – 60%  F = 59 – 0%

10. ATTENDANCE – PARTICIPATION

Academic integrity and mutual respect between instructor and students are central to Palazzi’s academic policies. This is reflected in the attendance policy. Class attendance is mandatory and counts towards the final grade. Roll will be taken at the beginning and end of each class. Coming late and leaving earlier affects the attendance and participation grade. It is important that students come to class on time. Two delays will be considered as one absence.

Each absence from class will negatively impact your final grade (Attendance).

After the FOURTH absence the instructor will notify the student is at risk.

After the FIFTH absence the instructor may lower the final grade by one letter grade at the end of the term. (Example: 90/A- = B-)

On the SIXTH absence the student will receive an automatic Failure.

It is always the student's responsibility to know how many absences they have in a course. Travel is NEVER an excuse for absence from class.

PARTICIPATION

Learning a foreign language is an incremental process. The rewards will be great only if you are actively involved: students are expected to prepare for each class in advance. Insufficient practice may result in a lower grade. Your participation in class activities is a crucial component of the course and will give you the opportunity to develop your listening and speaking skills in a collaborative, friendly and enjoyable setting. The assessment is as follows:

A – full and enthusiastic participation in class activities, understanding of the linguistic structures, and ability to manipulate such structures with accuracy and creativity in communicative situations. Consistent, timely and accurate work in textbook and workbook.

B – Active participation in class, great efforts to understand the linguistic structures, which are not fully assimilated in a consistent manner, ability to manipulate such structures with a few errors in communicative situations. Work in textbook and workbook regularly and carefully completed.
C – Reactive participation in class activities (student answers willingly and correctly when called on),
basic ability to use the linguistic structures to understand others and make oneself understood in
communicative situations. Errors corrected when pointed out. Work in textbook and workbook
regularly completed and errors carefully revised.

D – Limited class participation. Inability to manipulate structures, which are not assimilated. Great
difficulties in making oneself understood in all the communicative activities. Work in textbook and
workbook irregularly completed, with lack of care. Inability to correct errors when prompted.

F – Lack of interest in class activities, inability or carelessness to answer when called upon. Work in
textbook and workbook poorly completed or not at all.

11. EXAMS – PAPER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAM CALENDAR</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam: Lesson 7B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation: Lesson 14A+B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam: Lesson 15B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum of 4 - Assigned in class by your instructor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: the date and time of the exams cannot be changed for any reason, so please organize
your personal schedule accordingly. No show at the exam F = 0 Credits

Should issues of academic dishonesty arise (plagiarism and so on), the instructor will refer to
the institutional written policy on such matters.

EXAM ASSESSMENT

Midterm Exam counts for 20% of the final course grade.
The Midterm Exam is cumulative and will be based on structures and topics presented in
class from the beginning of the semester to date.
The Midterm Exam consists of multiple choice questions as well as fill-in the blanks exercises,
find the opposite term exercises, reading with true/false or multiple choice replies and a
listening comprehension.
The number of points and duration given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of
the exercise itself.

Final Oral Project Work counts for 10% of the final grade.
Students will be assigned a topic related to the lessons.

Oral Skills Improvement counts for 5% of the final grade.
Instructor will take into consideration any effort and any oral skill improvement students might
have during the course.

Assignments count for 20% of the final course grade.
Student commitment in these activities is strongly recommended, since they constitute an
essential part of the course.
Dates are specified on the syllabus.
There will be a total of 4 assignments (dates on the syllabus).
Topics will include what will be studied during the 3 weeks before the project is assigned.

Final Exam counts for 20% the final course grade.
The Final Exam is cumulative. The Final Exam consists of multiple choice questions as well as fill-in the blanks exercises, find the opposite term exercises, reading with true/false or multiple choice replies and a listening comprehension. The number of points and duration given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.

All the Italian Exams are scheduled and announced in advance and no make-up exams will be given.

12. LESSONS

Please note: every lesson includes two weekly classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 1</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the course and the syllabus. Orientation and cultural introduction to Florence.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visit</td>
<td>Historical and practical walking tours and visits during class meeting time.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 2</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mi presento</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Introducing yourself, giving and asking your name and personal details (age, address, telephone number). Greeting people. Asking and saying nationality. Using formal and informal register. Agreeing and denying.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STRUCTURES: Mi chiamo / ti chiami / si chiama. Come stai? Come si scrive?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ciao / Arrivederci. Numbers 0 to 10. Alphabet.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VOCABULARY: The class: objects and actions.</td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On site</td>
<td>Oblate library: short interviews with Italians.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 3</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Al bar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Ordering at the café or at a tabacchi. Offering something at the café. Asking for information on food and drinks. Asking to pay. Asking questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>STRUCTURES: Vorrei ... Che cosa prendi? Quant'è? Quanto costa? Quale?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>VOCABULARY: At the bar, at a tabacchi, money and prices.</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>B</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Site</td>
<td>Visit of historical coffee shops in Florence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LESSON 4 | ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 1 |
Lecture A

AI ristorante

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Ordering at a restaurant. Reading and asking about the menu. Asking for the bill. Reserving a table. Ordering food to be home delivered. Asking for and telling the time.

STRUCTURES: Che cosa prendi come primo, secondo ecc.? Che cosa prendi da bere? Vorrei prenotare un tavolo per... Vorrei ordinare una pizza a domicilio.

VOCABULARY: The restaurant, meals and food / beverages, Florentine typical food, days of the week, hours of the day.

B

On site Let's discover some interesting restaurants!

LESSON 5

Lecture A

Io e gli altri

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS: Identifying and introducing people. Talking about you, what you do and when. Describing your family


VOCABULARY: Jobs. Family members.

B

In class Take photos of your family and describe them.

LESSON 6

Lecture A

Facciamo la spesa

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Shopping in a market, supermarket and in a shop.

STRUCTURES: Vorrei un chilo/etto di... Quanto?

VOCABULARY: Florentine markets, shops and stores. Food (reprise) and containers.

B

On site Visiting markets, supermarkets or typical food shops.

ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 2

LESSON 7

Lecture A

COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + STRUCTURES: General review

B

In class MIDTERM EXAM

LESSON 8 A + B

No class – Midterm Break

LESSON 9
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per favore dov'è la stazione?</td>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:</strong> Asking and giving road instructions. Buying a train ticket at the station or online. Reading a train schedule. Geographical overview of Italy.  <strong>STRUCTURES:</strong> Scusi, sa dov'è/Devo arrivare a..., A che ora parte...? Posso prenotare un biglietto per...?  <strong>VOCABULARY:</strong> The station, in the street.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On site</th>
<th>To the station.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| LESSON 10 |
|-----------|---|
| Lecture | A |
| La cucina italiana | **COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Reading and writing a recipe. Talking about preferences, dislikes and allergies in food. Make invitations for meals in restaurants. Regional dishes  **STRUCTURES:** Mi piace/ ti piace/ le/gli piace...., So cucinare, Che ne dici di...?  **VOCABULARY:** Actions in the kitchen. Weights and measures. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>On site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food tasting / Preparing an Italian dish.</strong></td>
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</table>

| LESSON 11 |
|-----------|---|
| Lecture | A |
| Facciamo spese | **COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Expressing your preferences and interacting in a clothes and shoe shop.  **STRUCTURES:** Come mi sta? Di che colore é? Quale colore preferisci?  **VOCABULARY:** Clothes, colours and sizes. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>On site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visiting shops and department stores.</strong></td>
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| LESSON 12 |
|-----------|---|
| Lecture | A |
| In farmacia | **COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Explaining symptoms of common diseases.  **STRUCTURES:** Avrei bisogno di..., Ho mal di...,  **VOCABULARY:** In a pharmacy, diseases and treatments. |

| E' alto, bello e ha gli occhi azzurri.... | **COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Physical description.  **VOCABULARY:** Body and adjectives for physical description. |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>On site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Practical activity in the city</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td><strong>ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LESSON 13 |
### Lecture A

**Il tempo libero**

**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Talking about free time, talking about movies and music. Make an invitation to go out with a friend.

**STRUCTURES:** Che cosa fai nel tempo libero? Fai sport? Conosci il cinema e la musica italiana? Mi piace/ non mi piace + verbo, Preferisco.... Ti va di andare...?

**VOCABULARY:** Movie and music genres, hobbies and sports.

### Lecture B

**In class**

Selection of videos of Italian films and music.

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### LESSON 14

**Lecture A + B**

**FINAL ORAL PROJECT**

### LESSON 15

**Lecture A**

**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + STRUCTURES**

General review

**In class B**

**FINAL EXAM**

**ALTERNATIVE LESSON:** In the case of the instructor’s absence, a substitute will carry out an alternative lesson during the regular course time.