1. DESCRIPTION
This course develops basic conversation, reading and writing skills. Equal focus will be given to grammatical structures, vocabulary and conversation skills. Students will develop a vocabulary that will enable them to engage in simple but useful everyday conversations, thus enhancing and supporting their Italian experience. After taking this course, students will be able to express themselves in basic sentences, will recognize gender and number both in nouns and adjectives, and will approach Passato Prossimo. Emphasis will be given to oral expression of practical vocabulary and newly acquired grammar structures. This level is for absolute beginner students who have never studied Italian before.

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 grammatical structures and sentence patterns.

Vocabulary:
Understanding and using the basic vocabulary regarding the concepts of space, time, quantity and quality. 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 as 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.

**Writing:**
Writing simple texts.

### 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 approach, while part of the study also 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**

Texts required for this course:
A. Battaglia – A. Tarini, *Dimmi...*, Guerra Edizioni, Perugia 2008 (Textbook)
A. Battaglia – A. Tarini, *Praticamente Dimmi...*, Guerra Edizioni, Perugia 2008 (Workbook)

An Oxford Italian dictionary is highly recommended.

These texts have been pre-ordered and should be purchased after the first class meeting at **FELTRINELLI INTERNATIONAL**, Via Cavour, 12/r (in front of Palazzo Medici Riccardi).
You will receive a 15% discount upon showing this 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

Upon instructor’s decision and with class agreement, maximum two on-field lessons might be held during the semester.
7. MATERIAL LIST
N/A

8. ADDITIONAL FEES
N/A

9. EVALUATION – GRADING SYSTEM

Final Grade Breakdown
10% Attendance
10% Participation
20% Quizzes
20% Midterm Exam
20% Final Written Exam
10% Oral Presentation
10% Hand-in assignments

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

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<th>EXAM CALENDAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1: Lesson 4B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam: Lesson 7B</td>
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<td>Quiz 2: Lesson 12B</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation: Lesson 14A/B</td>
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<td>Final Exam: Lesson 15B</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum of 3 - 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:

Quiz 1 counts for 10% of the final grade
The first Quiz is cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the semester to date.
The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

Midterm Exam counts for 20% of the final course grade.
The Midterm Exam is cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the beginning of the semester to date as well as testing all four abilities.
The Midterm Exam consists of fill-in-the-gap grammar exercises, a reading and a listening comprehension, one or more multiple choices, vocabulary exercises and an essential writing exercise.
The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.
Quiz 2 counts for 10% of the final grade.
The second Quiz is cumulative and will be based on grammar topics presented in class from the Midterm Exam to date.
The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

Oral Presentation counts for 10% of the final grade.
Please note: This grade also covers role-play exercises done in class during the semester.
The topic(s) will be decided in class with the instructor.
The oral presentation will be graded according to:
- Vocabulary knowledge and appropriate in usage
- Comprehensibility
- Content presentation (not reading from notes)
- Being able to answer instructor/classmates’ questions during the presentation.

Assignments count for 10% of the final grade.
They will consist of different tasks assigned in class by the instructor.
There will be a maximum of 3 throughout the whole semester.
They have to be handed on the following class meeting after being assigned.
The main objective of these assignments is to support students in improving their vocabulary, structure knowledge and writing skills (e.g. spelling).

Final Exam counts for 20% the final course grade.
The Final Exam is cumulative.
The Final Exam consists of fill-in-the-gap grammar exercises, a reading and a listening comprehension, one or more multiple choices, vocabulary exercises and an essential writing exercise.
The number of points given for each exercise will be clearly stated at the top of the exercise itself.
Time will be clearly stated at the top of the test.

All the Italian Quizzes and 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.

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<tr>
<th>LESSON 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of the course and introduction to the class syllabus. Information on method, objectives, exams, assignments and oral presentation.</td>
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</table>

Getting to know Italian words
COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Greeting people, asking pronunciation and spelling of a word, asking nationality; asking the meaning and translation of a word, asking questions.
GRAMMAR: Alphabet, Italian Spelling with examples and question words.
HOW TO...?
Using the dictionary/Online resources for language appropriately.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lectures</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Unit 1 – Primi Contatti**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION**: Introducing yourself, asking for personal details, saying goodbye.  
**GRAMMAR**: *Essere, chiamarsi* and *avere*: first and second person singular. Adjectives of nationality. Adjectives of the FIRST and SECOND group. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LESSON 3</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lectures</strong></td>
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| **Unit 1 – Al Bar**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION**: Ordering in a café, ordering in a restaurant, asking for the check, asking prices.  
**GRAMMAR**: Nouns of the first group (ending in "o" or "a"), nouns of the second group (ending in "e"). Peculiarities on nouns. Definite article. Indefinite article. *C'è/Ci sono*.  
**VOCABULARY**: Food, drinks and shops. Numbers 0 – 100. Money. |

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<th>LESSON 4</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lectures</strong></td>
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</table>
| **Unit 2 – Parlare di sé**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION**: Introducing someone, asking and giving personal details, talking about your house.  
**GRAMMAR**: Present Tense regular verbs (*fare, andare*). Formal / Informal register.  
**HOW TO**: Use *Buono / Bello / Bene*  
**VOCABULARY**: House and pieces of furniture. |

**QUIZ 1**

Assignment number 1

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</table>
| **Unit 2 – Le abitudini**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION**: Describing habits. Expressing frequency.  
**GRAMMAR**: Irregular verbs in present tense. Frequency adverbs and time expressions.  
**VOCABULARY**: Time references: days of the week, months, dates. |

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<th>LESSON 6</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lectures</strong></td>
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</table>
| **Unit 3 – A Ristorante/Fare Shopping**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION**: Asking for something you want to eat / try on. Reading a menu. Complaining.  
**GRAMMAR**: The verb *Piacere*, Modal verbs, Simple prepositions.  
**VOCABULARY**: Food: Typical dishes. Colours, clothes, sizes, accessories. |
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<th>LESSON 7</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>A + B</th>
<th>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + GRAMMAR: General review</th>
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<td>MIDTERM BREAK – NO CLASS</td>
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<td>LESSON 9</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>A + B</td>
<td>Unit 3 – Scusi, dov’è...?</td>
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<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Asking and giving directions (basics), Asking and telling time, Reading a timetable to give information.</td>
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<td>GRAMMAR: Sapere e Conoscere. Compound prepositions.</td>
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<td>LESSON 10</td>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>A + B</td>
<td>Unit 5 – Daily Routine</td>
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<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Describing a typical day.</td>
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<td>GRAMMAR: Reflexive verbs in Present tense. Pronoun position.</td>
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<td>LESSON 11</td>
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<td>Unit 5 – La famiglia</td>
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<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Describing your family.</td>
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<td>GRAMMAR: Possessive adjectives: forms and peculiarities with words denoting family.</td>
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<td>VOCABULARY: Family</td>
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<td>LESSON 12</td>
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<td>Unit 4 – Cosa hai visitato in Italia?</td>
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<td>COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION: Talking about the past.</td>
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<td>QUIZ 2</td>
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<td>Assignment number 3</td>
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</table>
### LESSON 13

**Lectures**  
A + B

**Unit 8 – Cosa hai fatto ieri?**  
**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION:** Talking about past events. Describing your daily routine in the past.  
**GRAMMAR:** Irregular past participle. Reflexive verbs in the past.

### LESSON 14

**Lectures**  
A + B

**ORAL PRESENTATION**

### LESSON 15

**Lectures**  
A + B

**COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTION + GRAMMAR**  
General review

**FINAL EXAM**

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