

Beginning Italian for Mediterranean Island Ecosystems

ITAL-1003 or ITAL-1503 (3 credits)

Italy: Island Ecosystems in the Mediterranean

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This Beginning Italian language course is designed to meet the needs of SIT students with minimal or no Italian language proficiency. The course focuses on oral expression, comprehension, structure, and grammar; integrates the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing); and adopts a student-centered learning approach. Students engage in class activities and are encouraged to speak Italian within the host community wherever possible. Student learning is enhanced and reinforced through the utilization of audio and visual aids, regular field visits, and weekly tutorials.

Language of Instruction

English and Italian.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Build basic language skills through listening speaking, reading, and writing at the introductory level;
- Use the most common verb tenses of Italian;
- Demonstrate basic understanding of short texts in Italian;
- Develop basic vocabulary and specialized terms used in everyday life in Italy.

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete approximately one hour of homework assignments daily. The assignments consist of written and oral exercises from textbooks. Class attendance, participation, and preparedness are required.

Course Texts

Textbook and compilation of materials specially designed to meet the students' needs will be shared with students at the start of the course.

Course Schedule

Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging event and to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability.

Course Content Includes

- Perform greetings and introduce oneself and others formally and informally;
- Ask questions with ease and confidence;
- Identify objects and items in the classroom;
- Count and order entities sequentially;
- Respond to requests and instructions related to teaching/learning activities;
- Respond to requests and instructions appropriately and courteously;
- Name days of the week, significant dates, and months;
- Identify one's nationality and that of others;
- Narrate simple homestay events, including meals and outings;
- Describe the SIT location;
- Ask and answer questions about weather and seasons;
- Summarize a well-known story or film in Italian;
- Read and understand headlines and basic text of Italian-language press.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

1) Homework and Quizzes (10%)

Homework usually encompasses not only language content taught but also interactivity with community members. Students are also given regular quizzes on the content taught: verb tenses, language structure, and vocabulary

2) Mid-term Written Exam (10%)

The mid-term is applied in the first half of the course. Students are asked to answer questions, provide fill-in the blanks answers, complete sentences, and write task-based answers.

3) Mid-term Oral Exam (20%)

Students meet individually with the teacher to answer questions based on the language structure covered in the first half of the course.

4) Final Oral Exam (30%)

Students are encouraged to do one of the following tasks or a combination of them:

- A. Give an individual short presentation about their experience in Italy;
- B. Role-play determined situations that reflect their daily activities in the host country;

5) Final Written Exam (20%)

Students are asked to answer questions, write short paragraphs, create dialogues, provide fill-in the blanks answers, complete sentences, and write task-based answers.

6) Participation (10%)

This includes active involvement in lectures, readings, discussions, and excursions using the

following criteria:

- Attendance - promptness to class and positive presence in class.
- Active Listening - paying attention in class and during field excursions, asking appropriate questions, showing interest and enthusiasm (this includes body language), entertaining contradictory perspectives, taking notes.
- Involvement in Class Discussions - either in small or large groups, sharing knowledge. This means challenging yourself to speak up if you usually don't, and also means allowing others to speak if you are a person who tends to dominate class discussions.
- Group Accountability – positive participation in the group during field excursions and classes; not keeping others waiting.
- Displaying Respect – culturally appropriate interaction with hosts, SIT program staff, SIT lecturers and communities.

Assessment:

Homework and Quizzes – 10%
Mid-term Oral Exam – 20%
Mid-term Written Exam – 10%
Final Oral Exam – 30%
Final Written Exam – 20%
Participation – 10%

Attendance and Participation

Due to the nature of SIT Study Abroad programs, and the importance of student and instructor contributions in each and every class session, attendance at all classes and for all program excursions is required. Criteria for evaluation of student performance include attendance and participation in program activities. Students must fully participate in all program components and courses. Students may not voluntarily opt out of required program activities. Valid reasons for absence – such as illness – must be discussed with the academic director or other designated staff person. Absences impact academic performance, may impact grades, and could result in dismissal from the program.

Late Assignments

SIT Study Abroad programs integrate traditional classroom lectures and discussion with field-based experiences, site visits and debriefs. The curriculum is designed to build on itself and progress to the culmination (projects, ISP, case studies, internship, etc.). It is critical that students complete assignments in a timely manner to continue to benefit from the sequences in assignments, reflections and experiences throughout the program.

Example: Students may request a justified extension for one paper/assignment during the semester. Requests must be made in writing and at least 12 hours before the posted due date and time. If the request is accepted, an extension of up to one week may be granted. Any further requests for extensions will not be granted. Students who fail to submit the assignment within the extension period will receive an 'F' for the assignment.

Grading Scale

94-100% A

90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64	F

Grading Criteria:

All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing, and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the student's participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Program Expectations

For the successful completion of the course, participants will be requested to:

- Attend classes regularly and avoid leaving the room frequently. Full attendance is expected.
- Be punctual to class.
- Hand in homework assignments in a timely fashion. Late papers will not be graded in full.
- Engage actively in classroom and out-of-the-classroom activities. Individual effort in oral production is key to effective learning and an integral part of the evaluation by the instructor.
- Display a respectful attitude while listening to peers and/or interacting with native speakers of any social or ethnic nomination. Prejudice and demeaning comments of any nature will not be tolerated.

SIT Policies and Resources

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.