

## Intermediate Italian for Mediterranean Island Ecosystems

### ITAL-2003 or ITAL-2503 (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 course aims to develop students' skills in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. While all four components will be weighted equally, emphasis in this course is placed primarily on oral comprehension and conversational skills (i.e., listening and speaking). Proficiency in the use of grammatical structures is also highly emphasized to hone the student's communication and comprehension skills. Developing conversation and comprehension skills also enhances students' interactive immersion and promotes their speaking proficiency. Reading and writing skills are reinforced through the inclusion of formal composition and readings of newspaper stories.

The course is also designed to help students grasp cultural practices in Italy. Cultural context is built into the course and introduced through audiovisual materials and experiential activities. Intermediate Italian provides students a more in-depth background in daily life issues, enabling them to master critical language skills necessary for performing everyday activities. Students participate in field exercises and other activities to gain confidence in interacting with Italians and immersing in society. Students are responsible for finding new vocabulary words and expressions matching the assigned field exercises by using dictionaries, using additional texts including newspapers and magazines, and conducting interviews.

The course is built on the knowledge students already have. Students are placed into appropriate language course levels based on oral proficiency interviews and written exams (placement tests) conducted during orientation in Italy.

#### Language of Instruction

Italian.

#### Learning Outcomes

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

- Talk about Italian identity using the appropriate vocabulary;
- Use reflexive verbs in conversation;
- Explain when to use the preterit or the imperfect in a passage;
- Broaden vocabulary by reading newspaper and policy reports;

- Use vocabulary related to family and friendships appropriately in conversation; use double object pronouns in conversation with more ease;
- Dialogue about Italian food, fashion, music, and more using the necessary vocabulary;
- Mention typical Italian foods; discuss cooking using the appropriate vocabulary; identify ingredients used in Italian cuisine;
- Answer questions related to readings;
- Talk about future plans;
- Mention characteristics of Italian culture.

### **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 Requirements**

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

### **Course Schedule**

*\*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.*

### **Methods**

The teaching methodology of this course is based on experiential learning and focuses on developing the student's Italian communication skills through two main aspects:

1. Interaction with Italian-speaking people in everyday situations and during field activities.
2. Participation in classroom activities through individual and group presentations, participation in panel discussions and role-play activities.

### **Content**

#### **Pragmatic**

- Assertive speaking (affirm, announce, assent, etc.);
- Compromise speaking (express will, intention, etc.);
- Expressive speaking (express admiration, surprise, etc.);
- Fact speaking (greet and say goodbye, introduce someone, invite, etc.);
- Directive speaking (give and receive instructions, give and receive consent, etc.).

#### **Grammatical**

- Review of Italian grammar;
- Complex sentences;
- Basic conjunctions and relative pronouns;
- Syntactic order;

- Grammatical morphemes;
- Simple future;
- Pronunciation;
- Orthography;
- Comprehensive speaking in present, past and future;
- Use of basic structures of present subjunctive and imperative;
- Use of whole sentences and short paragraphs with medium fluidity;
- Simple narration, description and argumentation.

### **Lexis - semantic**

- Personal identification;
- Activities of daily living;
- Express opinions;
- Free time and leisure;
- Social and cultural history of Italy
- Commercial activities;
- Food;
- Italian press;
- Weather, etc.;
- National and religious celebrations;
- Proverbs.

### **Intercultural**

- Behavioral and social interaction;
- Accepted behavior in social groups (national and subnational);
- Religious and moral beliefs;
- Behavioral conventions;
- History: periods and construction of nation and its identities;
- Geography: meaningful geographical factors about the country;
- Social Identity and social groups: different social groups with a diverse social base, different national identities, such as class, regional identities or Italian immigrant communities;
- Social and political institutions: institutions that work and give a frame to life in the country such as health assistance, local governments, law and order, educational systems, etc.;
- Socialization: socialization institutions such as families, work or school, social or religious ceremonies, etc.

### **Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

#### Description of Evaluation:

*Diagnostic evaluation:* This evaluation has two parts, one oral and another written, and includes the development of the student's language skills and how this is shown in formal and informal contexts;

*Formative evaluation:* During the semester there will be different instances of support and self-evaluation which will enable assessment of the concretion of initial objectives;

*Last evaluation:* The evaluation criteria will be directly linked to the stated outcomes.

Evaluation also includes the student's:

1. Positive attitude, and participation in class activities;
2. Initiative in the use of Italian, use and acquisition of new vocabulary and use of Italian in and out of the classroom.

During the program students will have to show knowledge and skills acquired, through the following assignments:

### **Description of Assignments:**

#### Written Exam

Written exam on grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; short answer; use of simple vocabulary to write about Italian culture and the Italian way of life.

#### Oral Exam

Ten-minute oral exam with your teacher and the academic director, assessing fluency, use of grammar and vocabulary, corresponding to the content of the course.

#### Oral Presentation

The oral presentation will be assessed through the use of vocabulary and grammar corresponding to language level, capacity to speak without reading notes.

#### Homework and Participation

Students will be evaluated on homework assignments, overall oral participation and motivation.

#### Assessment:

Written exam	40%
Oral exam	30%
Oral presentation	10%
Homework	10%
Participation	10%

#### 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.

### 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.

### **Expectations and Policies**

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the professor.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

### **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.