

Advanced Italian for Mediterranean Island Ecosystems

ITAL-3003 or ITAL-3503 (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 sophisticated skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing Italian for the interdisciplinary field of food studies, through traditional classroom instruction and field-based activities. While emphasis is placed primarily upon oral comprehension and developing conversational competencies (i.e., listening and speaking), reading and writing are also highlighted as crucial to the reinforcement of those skills. The village stay experience helps the student hone their proficiency in conversational Italian and grasp cultural practices in the Italian world. Vocabulary about policy and legal context is built into the course and introduced through audiovisual materials and experiential activities. This fairly advanced level of Italian gives the students a more in-depth background into everyday life, enabling the mastery of critical language skills necessary for performing a variety of activities. The objective of the course is to review and expand on topics including communicating with Italian speakers and stakeholders working broadly within the program theme, enhancing the student's oral and written communication skills in Italian.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have mastered the following linguistic competencies in Italian:

- Use vocabulary and idiomatic expressions in connection with situations in food studies;
- Explain in some detail the content of selected policy or agricultural practices or reports;
- Dialogue about the main characteristics of Italian culture in Tuscany;
- Describe the stakeholders involved in Italy's vast food network;
- Describe, in a fairly detailed fashion, an Italian agricultural process or network, public or religious event or ceremony;
- Summarize the outcomes of a field visit or educational excursion;
- Analyze an article about a facet of Italy's food culture from an Italian daily newspaper.

Language Levels and Placement

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

This course is conducted entirely in Italian.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing all required readings and assignments and generating questions for class discussions.

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*

The course schedule will be shared with students upon arrival.

Methods

The teaching methodology implemented during this course is based on experiential learning and focuses on developing the student's Italian communication skills in Food Studies context through two main aspects:

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

Course 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

- Composed sentences;
- Use of conjunctions and relative pronouns;
- Syntactic order;
- Grammatical morphemes;
- Principle of subordination, subjunctive mode;
- Prepositional regime;
- Pronunciation;
- Orthography;
- Comprehensive speaking in present, past and future;
- Use basic structures of present and past subjunctive and imperative;
- Use whole sentences and extensive paragraphs with a degree of fluidity;

- Narration, description, and argumentation.

Lexis - semantic

- Specific vocabulary in the context of Food Studies
- Reading and analysis of policy and agricultural reports;
- Synthesis of arguments of political movements;
- The future of the EU as it relates to food sovereignty;
- Impact of populist-national movements in Italy and Europe;
- Human rights and immigrant communities in Italy;
- Media in Italy;
- Soccer and national identity;
- Free time and leisure;
- Transportation;
- Social and human relations;
- Health;
- Education;
- Commercial activities;

Intercultural

- Behavioral and social interaction;
- Accepted behavior in social groups (national and subnational);
- Religious and moral beliefs;
- Behavioral conventions.
- Stereotypes and national identity: Notions of national identities in Italy
- 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 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 and open-ended questions; use of pertinent vocabulary

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; effective use of vocabulary related to program theme;

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.