2024-2025
Italian Language and Culture 3
ITAL 0103--4 Credits

Description: This course is Italian Language and Culture 3. High School students will take this course as their third- or fourth-year Italian course.

Prerequisites: The school will determine who is eligible to take this advanced course.

Grading: The grade is determined by the student's performance on homework, attendance and participation, oral interviews, compositions, and tests.

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this class. Materials will be made available online by the Italian CHS liaison (Lorraine Denman) via Canvas, Pitt's learning management system.

Benvenuti! Welcome to the Department of French and Italian at the University of Pittsburgh. We are pleased that you have chosen to continue your study of Italian. Allow us to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about our program and to make you aware of some of the resources that you should keep in mind as you pursue your study of Italian language and culture.

Language-Learning Goals: Our goal in the French and Italian language programs is to guide you in the **development of literacy skills in Italian through the communicative acts of reading, writing, and creating discourse around texts of all types.** Because you might have limited opportunities to speak or hear Italian outside of class, classroom time is devoted to developing your competence in these areas. **This means that your instructor will speak only Italian to you during class, and you will be expected to do the same with your instructor and classmates.** Should you need additional explanations or wish to discuss matters not directly related to course content, your instructor will be happy to speak to you in English before or after class and during office hours.

Course Objectives for Italian 0103:
- Speak Italian well enough to ask and answer questions on a variety of topics important in Italian cultures beyond those needed to "survive" in the foreign culture. Indeed, you will gain the ability to talk about more than yourself and your immediate surroundings; you will be able to talk about politics, social issues, the future, the media, etc. Gradually, you will find it easier to add detail to your statements and to link ideas together into more complex sentences. You should see an increased ability to reference past or future events with less hesitation and greater accuracy
- Understand Italian well enough to grasp main ideas and some supporting details in short conversations (spontaneous or recorded) pertinent to topics mentioned above
- Read and understand main ideas and many details of literary and non-literary texts
- Write longer and more cohesive paragraphs than you wrote as a beginner

- Make comparisons among Italy's cultural products, practices, and perspectives as defined by ACTFL and between them and your own
- Understand the main grammatical structures of Italian: word-formation, sentence structure, gender resolution, agreement, etc

Our approach to teaching and learning: The approach used in our courses can be characterized as **communicative** and **integrated**. "Communicative" means that the focus of the course is on language use in realistic settings, not on performing exercises, which have no immediate justification other than the practice of a particular procedure. "Integrated" means that the various aspects that make up the language-learning experience are not separated or isolated but will be treated as complementary to one another. In one single activity, you may learn some facts, communicative strategies, and practice certain grammatical structures. Our approach is also "integrated" in the sense that language and culture are not treated as separate, but inter-related: you are learning about Italian culture not only when you listen to a song or analyze a cultural document, but also when you and your instructor use the language itself, which is a social and cultural tool.

Your role: Much of the responsibility for learning a language falls on you, the student. A large part of your grade is based on **attendance** and **participation**. Because it is not realistic to expect to communicate in a new language if you are not physically present to practice it, it is essential that you attend class regularly. A few other suggestions that will ensure optimal benefits from your Italian class:

- **Observe:** Try to develop comprehension strategies to deal with the language-learning environment and to understand what is expected of you in class. Study the gestures people make when they talk; watch others who may know more than you do and use them as models. Ask for clarifications or explanations—in Italian!
- **Listen:** Realize that you need to understand the general meaning of messages, but you should resist the urge to identify each word separately or translate things into English. Try to associate meaning directly to what you see and hear so you may develop an understanding of Italian "from the inside"
- **Speak:** Even if you feel you will make mistakes, speak as much as you can. We consider making mistakes a necessary part of the learning process! Do pay attention to correct usage, and you will learn from your errors. Always remember that the superior language learner is a risk-taker

Resources in Italian: Over the course of the semester, your instructor will introduce you to a variety of multimedia materials. You will be using the Web to access information about Italy in audio, video, and written formats.

ITAL 0103 Course Policies

Assignments: All homework assignments (whether self-corrected or not) must be completed and handed in on time.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is a serious ethical matter and an infraction of University Policy. Students should familiarize themselves with both the University Policy on Academic Integrity (available at https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code) and the Department of

French and Italian Plagiarism Policy (https://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu/undergraduate/about-language-programs/departmental-policies/plagiarism-policy).

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
1. Use of human or online translators (i.e. Google Translate)
2. Unauthorized editorial help (asking a friend in an upper level course for help)
3. Unattributed use of an author's ideas (theft of intellectual property)
4. Unattributed use of an author's words (lack of proper citation)

Sanctions for first-time violations typically result in an 'F' or zero for the assignment. Second violations may result in an 'F' for the course.

Evaluation of Student Work:

Participation	20%
Written and Oral Exams (3)	30%
Quizzes (3)	10%
Written/Oral Projects	10%
Homework	15%
Final Project	15%

Grading scale:

A +	98	B +	88	C +	78	D +	68
A	93	B	83	C	73	D	63
A -	90	B -	80	C -	70	D -	60

Additional course credit information for ITAL 0103:

At the University of Pittsburgh, course credits can count in three ways: toward the requirements for a major, toward elective requirements, and/or toward the total number of credits needed to graduate.

For this course:
- Majors: This course counts toward departmental majors and minors
- Electives: Individual Schools and Colleges of the University (such as Engineering, Arts & Sciences, Business, Computing & Information, and so on) have different policies about elective credits and may count this course as an elective. Students interested in studying at the University of Pittsburgh should contact their School/College of interest to see if this course would be counted
- Graduation: This course's credits count toward the number of credits needed for graduation

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Academic Integrity: All College in High School teachers, students, and their parents/guardians are required to review and be familiar with the University of Pittsburgh's Academic Integrity Policy located online at https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code.

Grades: Grade criteria in the high school course may differ slightly from University of Pittsburgh standards. A CHS student could receive two course grades: one for high school and one for the University transcript. In most cases the grades are the same. These grading standards are explained at the beginning of each course.

Transfer Credit: University of Pittsburgh grades earned in CHS courses appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript, and the course credits are likely to be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. Students are encouraged to contact potential colleges and universities in advance to ensure their CHS credits would be accepted. If students decide to attend any University of Pittsburgh campuses, the University of Pittsburgh grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University. At the University of Pittsburgh, the CHS course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

Drops and Withdrawals: Students should monitor progress in a course. CHS teacher can obtain a Course Drop/Withdrawal Request form from the CHS office or Aspire. The form must be completed by the student, teacher and parent/guardian and returned to teacher by deadlines listed. Dropping and withdrawing from the CHS course has no effect on enrollment in the high school credits for the course.