



FLOR ITAL 1101 BEGINNER ITALIAN LANGUAGE 1 CAPA FLORENCE PROGRAM

Course Description

The course provides a formative program of 65 hours and it is designed for students with no prior experience of Italian Language. The teacher will explain the fundamental knowledge of grammar, phonetics, morphology and syntax using a functional-situational approach (to learn a rule beginning from its location in a text or context). A part of the lesson will be dedicated to real situation exercises, grammar drills, consolidation of the material, deepening of concepts through readings, conversations, role games and listening exercises to correct pronunciation.

Course Aims The course provides exercises and instruction for students to understand and to use familiar expressions of daily events, as well as common formulas to satisfy needs of concrete terms. It also provides the tools to communicate clear messages in standard language on familiar topics of everyday life. The students learn to introduce themselves and others and speak about personal interests and everyday activities, to interact with people outside school and to manage their life in Florence in simple situations as at the bar, at the restaurant etc....., to tell simple past events and plans in the future.

Requirements and Prerequisites

The students are requested to **arrive on time**, attend class every day and participate in all activities and discussions, take notes and review at home. Students must complete daily assignments and study the lesson for the following class even if they were absent. No late assignment will be accepted. If you feel you need additional help with a particular grammatical point you can ask your teacher for extra exercises.

IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO:

- Use a laptop and any electronic device
- Drink and eat in class
- Leave the class even for a few minutes during class

Learning Outcomes

General learning outcomes:

At the end of the course students should be able to identify, define, and solve problems; locate and critically evaluate information; master a body of knowledge and a mode of inquiry; understand diverse philosophies and cultures within and across societies; communicate effectively; understand the role of creativity, innovation, discovery, and expression across disciplines; acquire skills for effective citizenship and life-long learning.

Course specific outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should have shown to be able to:

- a) introduce themselves and others
- b) speak about personal interests and everyday activities
- c) use common formulas to satisfy needs of concrete terms
- d) communicate clear messages in standard language on familiar topics of everyday life
- e) understand Italians speaking in daily situations and interact with Italians in simple situations outside school and carry on a conversation about daily routine and free time,
- f) manage their life in Florence in simple situations such as at the market, in a store, at the bar, at the restaurant etc
- g) speak about past events
- h) use the formal “Lei” as opposed to the informal “tu” when addressing people, as well as recognize the correct situation when to use one or the other.

Class methodology

The adopted approach relates to the general view of language use and learning provided by the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment* edited by the Council of Europe. It is an “action-oriented” approach insofar as it views language learners primarily as members of society interacting and accomplishing their tasks in a given set of circumstances and environments.

The lessons will be held in Italian in order to facilitate the understanding of the basic principles of Italian pronunciation and to speak Italian in a clearer and more natural way. If the pace of the class allows it, authentic materials, such as ads, brochures, videos, songs, magazine articles, films can be used to expose students to contemporary Italian language and culture. Listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills are integrated into all activities.

Field Component(s): CAPA provides the unique opportunity to learn about the city through direct, guided experience. Participation in the field activity(s) for this course is required. You will actively explore the Global City you are currently living in. Furthermore, you will have the chance to collect useful information that will be an invaluable resource for the essays/papers/projects assigned in this course.

The assigned field component(s) are:

1. (Week 3) At the market: observing along the way the different stores, studying simple sentences and vocabulary for grocery shopping.
2. (Week 5) At the bar: reading and understanding an Italian menu and ordering in Italian.
3. (Week 8/9) At the Davanzati museum: studying the vocabulary of the apartment

Three field trips to reinforce vocabulary and uses of the Italian language and to observe the Italian way of life and culture. Field trips will be organized during your scheduled time class.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in co-curricular program activities.

Tests, Quizzes, Mid-Term & Final Exams

There are two written compositions, four quizzes, a midterm written exam, a final written exam and a final oral exam scheduled during this semester. Inside each quiz there will be grammar and vocabulary exercises as well as reading comprehension or open questions. The written midterm and final test will typically include: a reading comprehension, a section on the vocabulary as well as a variety of grammar studied in class, and they are cumulative. Both written and oral exams are cumulative and focus on specific grammatical and cultural elements, but, as language acquisition is a cumulative process: they will include many forms that will have been previously explored.

Please be fully aware of the fact that THERE WILL BE NO EXAM AND QUIZZES MAKE-UPS.

The four quizzes consist of:

exercises on the vocabulary and grammar studied in class.

The two compositions consist of:

- A. The first composition is a postcard (in Italian) you write to a friend in America describing your life and routine in Florence. (minimum 60/70 words)
- B. The second composition is a report (in Italian) of your break vacation or about an event you attended during the semester. (minimum 90/100 words)

The mid-term exam consists of:

- A. reading comprehension (10 minutes)
- B. grammar and vocabulary exercises (40 minutes)

The final exam consists of two parts:

Written exam:

- A. reading comprehension (15 minutes)
- B. grammar and vocabulary exercises (45 minutes)

Oral exam:

“Show and Tell”: show an object (a picture, a present bought during the semester etc...) and speak for five minutes, in Italian, about it. **Assessment/Grading Policy**

Final grade breakdown:

• <u>Class participation/Small group discussion</u>	10%
• <u>Quizzes (4)</u>	25%
• <u>Mid-term exam</u>	25%
• <u>Final Oral Presentation</u>	10%
• <u>Compositions</u>	5%
• <u>Final Written Exam</u>	25%

Overall grade 100%

Grade Breakdown and Assessment of Learning Outcomes			
Learning Outcomes	Assessment task	Grade %	Due Date
a), b), c), d), g), h)	Attendance, Class participation/Small group activities	10%	Weekly
a), b), c), d), g), h)	Quizzes (4)	25%	Weeks: 2,4,9,11
a), b), c), d), g), h)	Mid-term exam	25%	Week 6
b), d), g)	Written compositions (2)	5%	Week 8, 12
all	Final Written Exam	25%	Week 13
all	Spoken Final Exam	10%	Week 12, 13

DESCRIPTOR	ALPHA	NUMERIC	GPA	REQUIREMENT/EXPECTATION
Outstanding (High Distinction)	A	93+	4.0	Maximum grade: In addition to description for grade "A-", the student shows detailed understanding of materials about which he or she can show independent analytical ability. This means the ability to question an issue from different perspectives and evaluate responses in an objective manner.
Excellent (Distinction)	A-	90 - 92	3.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook/class hand-outs/class notes, and the work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for evaluation.
Very good (High Credit)	B+	87 - 89	3.3	Shows evidence of a capacity to generalise from the taught content, or the material in literature, or from class lectures in an informed manner. Also, the work demonstrates a capacity to integrate personal reflection into the discussion and an appreciation of a range of different perspectives.
Good (Credit)	B	83 - 86	3.0	The work is well organised and contains coherent or logical argumentation and presentation.
Good (Credit)	B-	80 - 82	2.7	Student shows understanding of literature beyond the textbook and/or notes, and, there is evidence of additional reading.
Average				The work demonstrates a capacity to integrate research into the discussion and a critical appreciation of a range of theoretical perspectives. Also, the work demonstrates a clear understanding of the

(Good Pass)	C+	77-79	2.3	question and its theoretical implications and demonstrates evidence of additional reading.
Adequate (Pass)	C	73 - 76	2.0	Shows clear understanding and some insight into the material in the textbook and notes, but not beyond. A deficiency in understanding the material may be compensated by evidence of independent thought and effort related to the subject matter.
Below Average (Borderline Pass)	C-	70-72	1.7	Shows some understanding of the material in the textbook and notes. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought related to the subject matter.
Inadequate (Borderline Fail)	D+	67 - 69	1.3	Fails to show a clear understanding or much insight into the material in the textbook and notes
Poor (Fail)	D	60 - 66	0.7 - 1.0	Besides the above for D+, student has not shown interest or engagement in the class work or study.
Poor (Fail)	F	<60	0	Shows little or no understanding of any of the material

Course Materials

Textbooks

- Mina Ricci, *Via della grammatica for English speakers*. Edilingua, 2011. ISBN 978-960-693-050-8 (euro 20)
- Course reader (euro 5)

Students must buy the book and the reader the first day of the course.

Suggestions for extra Reading

- M. Zollo - A. Wesson, *Italian grammar made easy*, Hodder Arnold, 2006
- An English-Italian pocket size dictionary and an Italian monolingual vocabulary are strongly recommended.
Suggested:
 - Garzanti-Hazon, *Piccolo Inglese*, 2009, €12,50
 - Garzanti-Hazon, *Mini Inglese*, 2009, €7,50
 - Zanichelli, *Il mini di inglese*, 2006, €7
 - Garzanti, *Piccolo italiano*, 2009, €12,50
 - Zanichelli, *Italiano essenziale*, 2009, €8
- On line dictionaries: log on to (and register your name etc. for free use):
 - <http://dizionari.repubblica.it/index.shtml#inglese>
 - <http://www.garzantilinguistica.it/>
 - <http://www.wordreference.com/It/>

Weekly Course Schedule

This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. Instructors may change the sequence of steps, add or count out some communicative functions to balance the program with the class feedback. You will be notified if changes will be made.

Weeks 1 e 2	
Date	
In-class activity	<p>TOPICS / ACTIVITIES Introduction to the program (syllabus and books) Italian alphabet – pronunciation Asking people their names, ages and where they are from Numbers 0-30 Greetings Introducing yourself to other people Some useful expressions like “Come si dice “...” (How do you say”...” ?)</p> <p>GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES Present simple verbs ESSERE and AVERE (to be and to have) Subject pronouns Adjectives ending with “o” – singular/plural and masculine/feminine Noun singular/plural and masculine/feminine Definite articles</p>
Notes	Quiz1
WEEK 3	
Date	
In-class activity	<p>TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Asking people how they are/ Formal and Informal Describing people (eyes, hair, etc..) Colours Easy dialogues in different stores Vocabulary of the market Numbers 30-100</p> <p>GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES C'è – ci sono Italian verbs: ARE-ERE-IRE</p>
Out-of-class activity	Field trip to the market
WEEK 4	
Date	
In-class activity	<p>TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Asking and giving information (on the street) Analysis of short reading comprehension Describing people using some adjectives for the character Professions Vocabulary for regular verbs</p> <p>GRAMMAR STRUCTURE Present simple of regular verbs (ARE/ERE/IRE and ISC verbs) Indefinite articles</p>
Notes	Quiz 2
WEEK 5	
Date	
In-class activity	<p>TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Vocabulary of food and drinks at the bar Ordering something and express your tastes</p>

	Uses of AVERE and FARE (Avere fame, sete ecc../ Fare la spesa, la coda ecc..) Numbers 100-2000 Time: telling the time and days of the week, the months and seasons
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURES Present simple of some irregular verbs Mi piace/mi piacciono (I like)
Out-of-class activity	Field trip at the bar.
Weeks 6	
Date	
In-class activity	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Talking about the weekend and free time Telling the opening and closing time of public places (stores, bank, etc..) Inviting someone Making an hotel reservation
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURE Other irregular verbs in the present tense Modal verbs. Use of some prepositions with verbs of motion and state
Notes	Midterm Exam BREAK
Weeks 7/8	
Date	
In-class activity	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Describing the city. Ask for and give directions Describing the apartment and the furniture Describing where an object and a place is
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURE Combined prepositions
Out-class activity	Field trip to the Davanzati Museum
Notes	COMPOSITION 1
Week 9	
Date	
In-class activity	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Talking about past events Time expressions for the past
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURES Past tense "Passato prossimo": regular forms
Notes	Quiz 3
Weeks 10/11	
Date	
In-class activity	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES Telling a story in the past The family Vocabulary of clothes
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURES Irregular past participles Past tense with modal verbs Possessive adjectives Reflexive verbs
Notes	Quiz 4

Week 12	
Date	
In-class activity	TOPICS/ACTIVITIES The daily routine
	GRAMMAR STRUCTURES Review of present tense Reflexive verbs in the present tense.
Notes	COMPOSITION 2 Final oral exam
Week 13	
Date	
In-class activity	Review of all the program Final oral exam Final written exam

Student Responsibilities

Refer to the *Academic Handbook* for a complete outline of all academic policies. This page contains a summary only.

Attendance

CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Students are also expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Attendance is mandatory and is taken at the beginning of every class. Unauthorized absence from class will result in a reduction of the final grade and ultimately in a F for the course.

Unexcused absences

The instructor for the course may lower the student's participation grade based on the number of absences. For custom programs, some will follow our absence policy (like when CAPA sponsors visa) and some will not; see academic director for details.

Excused absences

Any student seeking to be excused from class on the ground of a verifiable illness (i.e. doctor's note) or a family emergency, must email the DAA (greverdito@capa.org) in advance of their class. The CAPA staff will then email the relevant Faculty member. Note that calling the CAPA Center (055-2466439) is acceptable only if you do not temporarily have access to the internet. An e-mail is still required as quickly as you can get access to the internet again. If a doctor's note is written to excuse a student from class, the student cannot use that time for personal travel. Please note: excused absences will NOT be granted to accommodate visiting friends or family. Students absent due to extenuating circumstances that have been approved by the Director of Academic Affairs in advance of the missed class, including family emergency or verifiable health-related incapacity, remain responsible for meeting all class requirements. Faculty shall offer such students reasonable assistance in making up missed work (e.g. share handouts).

Class Participation

Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from you, the student, a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism and cheating will result in dismissal from the program. See the Handbook of CAPA Academic Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

Use of electronic equipment in class

All devices such as laptops, I-pods, I-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation

to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Director of Academic Affairs or the Resident Director at the beginning of Term.

Use of Electronic Translators

In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

Late Submission

Late submission of papers due, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

Behavior during Examinations

During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action