

GREENITALIAN

ITL235 Intermediate Italian Conversation – Spring 2017, F 9:00-10:20

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Office hours: Wed 4:15-5:15 and by app.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

GREENITALIAN - Intermediate Conversation offers a new twist on one of the courses regularly offered as part of the Italian Studies curriculum. Simply put, this course will allow you to become familiar with the geography of Italy and with environmental issues relevant to Italy in the 21st century. Classes will meet in the teaching space of the Botanic Garden (room 111) and resources available in the Botanic Gardens (the collection, microscopes, etc.) will be made available to us.

In this course you will primarily acquire knowledge of specific Italian vocabulary on botany and you will use new terms actively during class to describe plants, flowers, and landscape. This course will also help you build:

- a sense of the rich Italian biodiversity (for example: *Why are there succulent plants in Sicily and why are such plants also found in south Australia as well as in California?*)
- awareness about how Italy has developed historically and how its nature has changed as a result of commerce, exchange with other cultures, and natural calamities (for instance: *Have tomatoes always been a staple of Italian cuisine? Why was there an earthquake in central Italy in summer 2016?*)

You will successfully complete this conversation course if you:

- 1. Participate to activities with enthusiasm** → You are willing to work with others, have a proactive attitude, speak clearly and audibly.
- 2. Demonstrate keen interest in the topics** → You are prepared for class, ask questions, make connections, contribute with new idea
- 3. Show initiative** → You volunteer, do more than is strictly required, speak up and share your ideas.
- 4. Only speak in Italian** → To instructor and class members, from when you enter to when you leave the classroom.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes or modification to this syllabus as needed

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. **Attendance / Participation (14%)**: you must attend 12 classes. This gives you a one-time free pass for which you won't have to provide explanation. Should you miss class a second time or more, points will be deducted from the final grade.
2. **Weekly homework (35%=7x5%)**: you will be assigned a weekly audio to prepare for class. There will be a total of 8 such assignments in the course. All audios are available on the Green Italian WordPress site: <https://greenitaliansmith.wordpress.com/about/>
In class you will participate in activities designed around these audios and aimed at testing that you have acquired new notions and vocabulary. You should work at least 2 hrs/week (ideally 3 hrs) to complete weekly assignments, listen to audios at least twice, research/memorize new vocabulary, identify questions to ask in class, practice pronunciation and conversation.
3. **Audio Comprehension Questions (21%=7x3%)**: each one of the 7 audios contains 2/3 comprehension questions that you will answer by posting a comment directly on the WordPress site. *All answers are due by Wednesday night.*
4. **Midterm Speaking Project (15%)**: Using the vocabulary learned in the first 6 classes, you will give a short presentation describing flowers on display as part of the Botanic Garden Spring Bulb Show (Mar 4th-14th, 2017).
5. **Final Speaking Project (15%)**: During the second half of the course (Mar 8-Apr 28) you will work on a project related to the exhibition "*Plants of Pompeii: Ancient and Modern Medicinal Plants*" on display in the Botanic Garden in connection with the Art Museum exhibition on Roman leisure and luxury (more info tba). The exhibition will feature individual plant portraits with information about how the plants were used in ancient Pompeii. During the second half of the semester, you will read articles on Roman civilization, the history of Pompeii, etc., which will then be discussed in class. At the same time you will learn about the exhibition in the Botanic Garden and will prepare the narrative for a guided tour of the exhibition and will translate the description cards used. You will give 2 or 3 guided tours in Italian to the Smith Italian-speaking community (faculty, students, auditors) during the final week of the semester. The last tour will coincide with the last class meeting and this will constitute the final project for the course.

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Il programma del corso.

Class date	Topic	Details	Homework
Jan 27	4 chiacchiere	Presentazione del corso.	
Feb 3	Audio 1: uno stivale in mezzo al mare	La geografia italiana.	Audio #1 + questions
Feb 10	Audio 2: le regioni italiane	Le regioni, le provincie, le città.	Audio #2 + questions
Feb 17	Audio 4: il paesaggio	Montagne, laghi, mari, fiumi, vulcani.	Audio #3 + questions
Feb 24	Audio 3: che tempo fa?	Il clima.	Audio #4 + questions
Mar 3	Audio 5: la flora	Fiori, colori e il loro significato.	Audio #5 + questions
Mar 10	<i>Bulb Show</i>	Short presentations	Midterm speaking project
11-19 Marzo: vacanza di primavera			
Mar 21 ***	Piantala!	Le piante, la semina, il raccolto.	
Mar 31	Audio 6: il sapore è sapere!	Le spezie e le erbe aromatiche.	Audio #6 + questions
Apr 7	Audio 7: storia dei giardini botanici	I giardini botanici di Firenze, Pisa, Palermo.	Audio #7 + questions
Apr 14	La civiltà romana e Pompeii.	Storia ed evoluzione.	Reading
Apr 21	Le piante medicinali di Pompeii.	L'uso delle piante in medicina, allora e oggi.	Reading
Apr 28	<i>"Plants of Pompeii: Ancient and Modern Medicinal Plants"</i>	Guided tour of exhibition	Final speaking project

*** = ATTENZIONE, during week 8 class will be held on Tue, Mar 21 (and not Fri, Mar 24)

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ACADEMIC POLICIES

PROFESSIONALISM AND COMMUNICATION: You are expected to maintain a professional, respectful and conscientious manner in the classroom with your instructors and fellow peers. You are expected to take your academic work seriously and engage actively in the class. Advance preparation, completing your assignments, showing a focused and respectful attitude, expressing effective interpersonal and cross-cultural communication are key for a successful semester. Simply showing up for class or meeting minimum outlined criteria will not earn you an A in this class.

MAKE-UP TESTS: Tests will not be rescheduled. Pre-arranged travel/anticipated absence does not constitute an emergency and requests for rescheduling quizzes will not be granted.

CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS ETC.: Students who create a disturbance or fail to pay attention in class due to electronic devices, will receive a warning and must immediately put devices away unless otherwise instructed by your professor. Inappropriate usage of your electronic devices or repeat warnings will result in a warning and may lead to a deduction in your grade and/or class dismissal. Students asked to leave class will be marked absent.

Cell Phones: Use of a cell phone for calls, text messages, emails, or any other purposes during class is impolite, inappropriate and not allowed. Students are asked to show common courtesy to others in order to create a positive learning environment and eliminate distractions for everyone. All electronic devices are to be turned off or silenced and placed in your purse, backpack, briefcase, etc. during class time.

Laptops: The use of a laptop may be limited to specific purposes including note taking, as allowed by special needs/academic accommodations, and/or at the discretion of the instructor. The use of a laptop is prohibited during all tests and quizzes, unless otherwise specified by your instructor.

MONITORING GRADES AND ATTENDANCE: You are responsible for monitoring your grades and attendance records throughout the course. Any questions or concerns should be discussed immediately with your instructor. Your grades and attendance records can be accessed in Moodle at any time throughout the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is a core value in this course (as in others). You are expected work independently in the pursuit of knowledge, conduct yourself in an honest and ethical manner and respect the intellectual work of your peers and faculty. You may review Smith College's Honor Code [HERE](#). Violations may result in serious consequences.

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