



UMBRA INSTITUTE

Academic Programs in Perugia, Italy

UMBR ITLN 201 Intermediate Italian I

Credits: 4

Prerequisite: The equivalent of one year of beginning Italian (level A2+ of the Common European Framework for language proficiency). In addition, all students will take a placement exam on the first day of the semester. This exam is used solely for the purpose of verifying students' linguistic proficiency.

Course Description

Perugia is a wonderful laboratory for learning the Italian language, and the structure of the Italian language program reflects this urban reality. The first week of intensive language instruction immerses the student in the Italian language and culture, and introduces them to local routines and life in Perugia, where the opportunity to use the language abounds. This immersion further orients the students to *studying Italian in Italy*, where the communicative approach with *Italian only in classroom* is practiced in full. Lastly, the week sets the rules and rhythm for the semester and helps to instill an enthusiasm for the Italian language and culture.

This lower intermediate course (the equivalent of a third semester course) is designed particularly to help students improve their communicative skills. The course begins with a grammatical review to reinforce and build upon the grammatical elements introduced in the first year of study. Thereafter the course places emphasis on developing students' ability to speak the language. Students often work in pairs and follow examples of native speakers presented in audio and visual materials. Group work continues outside the classroom where various assignments require students to interact with local Italians. Students will read and analyze a variety of authentic texts that focus on popular, non-specialist topics as a way to develop their skills in reading and writing and to develop a more nuanced understanding of the Italian culture. In-class activities, such as games, role-playing, and presentations, help students to expand their vocabulary and acquire socio-linguistic competence. This communicative approach also allows students to refine their use and understanding of grammatical structures, including:

- Uso dell'imperfetto, del passato prossimo e del trapassato prossimo
- Pronomi diretti, indiretti e combinati
- Particelle NE e CI
- Accordo dei pronomi con il participio
- Gradi dell'aggettivo: comparativo e superlativo
- Il futuro semplice e composto
- Verbi impersonali
- Imperativo diretto, indiretto e con i pronomi
- Il condizionale presente e passato
- Il congiuntivo presente e passato
- Cenni sul periodo ipotetico

Course Outcomes and Objectives

At the end of the semester, students should reach the level B1 of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing. In practice, the student will be able to:

- Understand the main points of an announcement, news item, advertisement delivered in clear, standard speech.
- Begin, sustain and conclude a brief and simple conversation face to face or over the telephone.
- Comprehend and make oneself understood on familiar and personal topics.
- Interact in situations in which one is typically found while traveling around Italy.
- Describe personal experiences, dreams, and hopes and express personal opinions, plans and intentions.
- Craft personal letters and requests for information on hotels, reservations, etc.
- Write simple, brief texts based on familiar topics or personal experience.

Course Guidelines and Policies

- Attendance is essential for learning a language, and, therefore, a maximum of only three absences are allowed. Thereafter, additional absences will require medical justification (and a note confirming the medical excuse); otherwise, they will result in a lower final grade. Specifically, each additional, un-excused absence will lower a student's grade by one notch: e.g., with four absences an A- will be lowered to B+, with five absences a B, and with six absences a B-. More than 8 absences will result in an automatic failure of the course.
- Homework. Students will be regularly assigned exercises, including short essays, and are expected to complete all assignments on time. It is important that students complete the readings assigned for each class in advance of the class meeting. Students are welcome to bring questions about the readings to class in preparing for discussion of the material. Essay assignments will include compositions, summaries, short articles, personal letters and "mock" emails, each of which will be written for a different audience. It will be important to complete a rough draft and set time aside for revising the draft before turning in the final version to the instructor for grading. Please remember that late homework cannot be accepted.
- Exams. There will be two preliminary exams and one final exam. All exams will include vocabulary and grammar exercises (in the form of multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions and sentence transformation exercises), a reading comprehension exercise, and a short writing and/or listening comprehension activity.
- Quizzes. Short oral and written quizzes will be given periodically and will be announced in advance by the instructor. The purpose of the quizzes is to help students maintain a steady pace in their acquisition of both written and oral skills.
- Oral Presentation. Each student will be asked to prepare and deliver a short presentation in Italian on a topic of their choice addressing some aspect of Italian culture, everyday life in Italy, or a subject of personal interest to the student. Students are encouraged to discuss their possible topics with their instructor as early as possible but no later than the time of the second exam. Students may work on their own or in pairs for their oral presentations.
- Co-curricular Activities. We encourage you to participate in optional activities that help to develop your conversational skills outside the classroom and offer an opportunity to socialize with classmates, professors, and Italian and international students here in Perugia! Italian Conversation is an informal, chat session that meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12:00 to 13:00 in classroom 3 in via Mazzini. Stop by after your morning Italian class and join in the conversation. Tandem is a social gathering amongst Umbra students, Italian and international students, and other young Italians and takes place every second Wednesday in the evening. It is a wonderful way to meet new friends and to practice your Italian in exchange for tips on English!

Course Evaluation

The final grade in the course will be calculated based on the following exercises and weights:

Class Participation	10%	
Homework	10%	
First Exam	15%	
Second Exam	20%	
Quizzes	5%	
Oral Presentation	15%	
Exit Proficiency Exam		5%
Final Exam	20%	

Grading Scale

Letter grades for student work are based on the following scale:

	B+ = 89 – 87	C+ = 79 – 77	D+ = 69 – 67	F = 59 – 0
A = 100 – 93	B = 86 – 83	C = 76 – 73	D = 66 – 63	
A- = 92 – 90	B- = 82 – 80	C- = 72 – 70	D- = 62 – 60	

Course Materials

Required Text: a *Course Reader* that contains the majority of the reading materials, grammatical units and vocabulary to be covered in the course will be made available.

Supplementary Text: selected exercises and readings from various sources will be handed out periodically.

Dictionary: students are strongly recommended to purchase an English/Italian, Italian/English dictionary. The library in via Mazzini also has a number of dictionaries available for consultation.

Course Structure

- One week of intensive language instruction (24 contact hours)
- 12 regularly scheduled weeks in which the class meets 6 hours per week
- Final week of special academic exercises which include an Umbrian excursion conducted entirely in Italian, class participation in the talent show (skits, songs and poetry readings in Italian), and the final exam.

Course Outline

	<i>Course material (weekly activities & assignments)</i>	<i>Grammar Objectives</i>	<i>Weekly cultural themes & activities</i>
WEEK 1	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salutare • Presentare, presentarsi • Parlare di sè e delle proprie abitudini • Parlare della propria famiglia • Raccontare una storia <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 6-24 Homework: <u>Esercizi:</u> 6, 8-9, 11, 21-24. <u>Esercizi in fotocopia.</u></p>	<p>Ripasso dei principali elementi grammaticali:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presenti irregolari • verbi riflessivi e pronominali • aggettivi e pronomi possessivi • passato prossimo • preposizioni semplici e articolate 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passeggiata alla scoperta della città • La famiglia italiana (aspetti in comune e differenze con quella americana) • Interviste a giovani italiani sul tempo libero: differenze e aspetti in comune con i giovani americani
WEEK 2	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descrivere l'ultima vacanza • Ricordare qualcosa di personale • Parlare di cambiamenti <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 31-49 Homework: <u>Esercizi</u> pp. 35-41, 48-9 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Il tempo passato:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uso dell'imperfetto e del passato prossimo • Uso del trapassato prossimo 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raccontare i primi giorni in Italia • L'introduzione alla letteratura italiana: Un brano da "Lessico familiare" di Natalia Ginzburg

WEEK 3	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiedere e dare informazioni • Chiedere ed esprimere pareri • Pre-test • TEST 1 (25 January) <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 51-58</p> <p>Homework: <u>Esercizi</u> pp. 55-58 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Pronomi (I):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronomi diretti • Particelle NE e CI • Accordo dei pronomi con il participio 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fare le spese: l'abbigliamento e la moda • Attività: per negozi a fare shopping • Al ristorante: il menù
WEEK 4	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esprimere giudizi, gradimento e non gradimento • Esprimere i propri gusti • Fare paragoni <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 65-69, 12-16</p> <p>Homework: <u>Esercizi</u> pp. 12-15, 66-69 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Pronomi (II):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uso dei pronomi diretti e indiretti • Il verbo piacere • Verbi impersonali • I gradi dell'aggettivo: comparativo e superlativo 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parlare degli aspetti positivi e negativi di Perugia • Il caffè italiano • Visita a un bar della città
WEEK 5	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fare previsioni • Fare progetti • Fare promesse <hr/> <p>Reading: handouts</p> <p>Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Il tempo futuro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Futuro semplice (morfologia e uso) • Futuro composto (morfologia e uso) 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La casa: descrizione del proprio appartamento di Perugia • Differenze tra le case italiane e le case americane

<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 6</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dare indicazioni e istruzioni • Dare o negare un permesso • Dare un consiglio <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 92-94, le pubblicità in fotocopia Homework: <u>Lettura</u> su San Valentino <u>Esercizi</u> p 101 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Imperativo (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronomi combinati • Imperativo diretto (morfologia e uso) 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analisi di alcuni slogan pubblicitari su riviste italiane • L'introduzione alla cucina italiana: le ricette tipiche umbre
<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 7</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dare un consiglio o chiedere a qualcuno di fare qualcosa • Pre-test <p>TEST 2 (22 February)</p> <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 93-103 Homework: <u>Esercizi</u> pp. 96-97, 100-103 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Imperativo (II):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperativo diretto con i pronomi (morfologia e uso) • Il ripasso grammaticale 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Il lavoro in Italia • Compilazione di un curriculum vitae in italiano
<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 8</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esprimere un desiderio, un'opinione e fare una stima • Chiedere qualcosa con cortesia • Dare consigli • Esprimere il futuro nel passato <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 71-90 Homework: <u>Esercizi:</u> pp 72-4, 78-81, 85-6, 89-90 <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Il condizionale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condizionale semplice (morfologia e uso) • Condizionale composto (morfologia e uso) 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lettura sulla storia della Perugia e del Bacio • Concorso letterario: scrittura a coppie di un messaggio da inserire nel cartiglio del Bacio • visita al museo storico della Perugia

<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 9</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fare richieste • Quiz: cultura italiana <hr/> <p>Reader: pp 71-90 Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Condizionale (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripasso dei temi grammaticali 	<p>Themes & activities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervista a giovani italiani in piccoli gruppi sul loro sport preferito e sulle loro attività sportive • Differenze e aspetti in comune con i giovani americani
<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 10</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esprimere le proprie opinioni e idee • Esprimere i propri sentimenti <hr/> <p>Reading: handouts Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Congiuntivo (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congiuntivo presente (morfologia) • Congiuntivo presente (uso) 	<p>Themes & activities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La musica italiana: ascolto, analisi e canto in coro di una canzone italiana • I generi musicali italiani e americani • Brevi cenni sull'opera italiana
<p style="text-align: center;">WEEK 11</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esprimere desideri • Formulare ipotesi possibili e impossibili <hr/> <p>Reading: handouts Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Congiuntivo (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congiuntivo passato (morfologia) • Congiuntivo passato (uso) 	<p>Themes & activities :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Le feste italiane più importanti: tradizioni e cibi legate alle stesse • Confronto con le principali feste americane

WEEK 12	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dare istruzioni, ordini, indicazioni, consigli • Dare un permesso • Formulare ipotesi <hr/> <p>Reading: handouts Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<p>Imperativo (III)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperativo indiretto (morfologia e uso) • Cenni sul periodo ipotetico 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cenni storici sugli etruschi • Visita al museo archeologico di Perugia
WEEK 13 EXIT EXAM	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentazione in classe dei lavori degli studenti • Pre-test <p>EXIT EXAM (12 April)</p> <hr/> <p>Reading: handouts Homework: <u>Esercizi in fotocopia</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ripasso di tutti i temi gramaticali trattati 	<p>Themes & activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letture di preparazione alla gita di fine corso • Breve storia della lingua italiana e dei dialetti italiani

****WEEK 14:**

Umbrian Excursion *in Italiano*
FINAL EXAM & Talent Show