
Regardless of what the reason was for your choosing to study Italian, I promise you will profit from it, not only because you will become acquainted with another language, but also because you will discover a wonderful people and one of the richest cultures of western civilization. I see us – myself as the instructor and you as the students – as a team embarking on a wonderful linguistic and cultural adventure full of discoveries and – why not – fun.

During this course we will cover the first six units of the text, but while we will be using the book as framework and foundation, you will become proficient in Italian only to the degree in which you will choose to become involved in the language, both in class and out.

We will have at least three tests and a final exam. In addition there will be number of quizzes. There will be no unannounced testing, and you will always know what you are responsible for. As for the grading system, we will follow these guidelines: quizzes will be counted once; tests twice; and the final exam three times.

In the study of a language the frequency of the “check points” is important because falling behind can ruin the pleasure of learning. And as I have already said, I seriously believe this course can be fun, too.

Some exams will have oral components because, at this stage, the most important part is the listening and the speaking. From the start, I want to assure you that I am here to help you as much as you need it. If you merely suspect that you might be falling behind, let me know and we will remedy the situation. The way to be successful in this course is simple: keep up with the work, complete all assignments, participate in class (never be afraid to make mistakes, remember that we are here to learn, and that includes making mistakes), come faithfully to class, and conscientiously prepare for tests. As I said, I am here to help you and assist you, but you must do your part and give it an honest try.

As for the grade computation in this class, I have already mentioned the “weight” that each type of test is given. I would like to add that class participation will also be graded as one major test, so it is to your advantage to get involved in class. Remember that I am not here to “get” you; on the contrary, I will always be your advocate and give you the
benefit of the doubt. I do expect honesty and a sincere effort on your part, however. Cheating, for instance, will result in a failing grade for that exam.

I could write down a detailed syllabus for you, but I could almost guarantee you we would modify it after the first week, thus making it an exercise in futility. I am more interested in satisfying the needs of the class than being a slave to a syllabus. Hence the importance always to be in class and to keep the lines of communication open. I can tell you that, roughly, it will take about a week and a half to cover each unit.

The contents of both quizzes and tests will be clearly spelled out and everything will be reviewed before each exam. Again, you are encouraged to clear up any doubts you may have at any time, either in class or on a one to one basis. Except for extremely extenuating circumstances all tests must be taken when scheduled. The grading system will be the same as the one established by the college, so please refer to pp. 44 – 45 of Moravian College catalog. For anything else not mentioned here, the rules of the College apply. For further clarifications ask me.

I am looking forward to working with you and I wish you every success.

Buona fortuna e in bocca al lupo.