



## ITAL 101: Exploring Perugia: Culture, Language, and Reflection

### Course Syllabus

Summer Session I – 2024

**Instructor:** Nicolò Strano

**Credits:** 3

**Contact Hours:** 45

**Prerequisites:** none

**Class Meeting Days & Time:** Tue-Thu 12:15pm-5:45pm

**Office Hours:** by appointment after a class or via Zoom (see Moodle site)

**Course Type:** Standard Course

**Course Fee:** 95 USD\$

#### Course Description

Exploring Perugia is an interdisciplinary course that focuses on achieving a basic level in cultural and linguistic-communicative competences (speaking, writing, reading and comprehension) regarding familiar contexts, everyday life activities and simple interaction with native speakers. At the same time, it introduces students to various, relevant aspects of contemporary Perugian life and Italian culture, asking them to reflect on their own experience of immersion in a different cultural environment. This course has three pillars: language, culture, and reflection. Basic Italian language instruction is at the core of the class. Students will learn fundamentals of the Italian language in order to interact with Italians in various real-world settings. Second, they will use their language learning as a vehicle for delving into the richness and complexity of Italian culture. Third, students reflect on their experiences living in a new culture and understanding how this has impacted their perspective on the United States and their sense of their own identities. Through engaging in interactive assignments, and participating in group activities, students will learn to live in their new environment, build competence and confidence as global citizens, and understand how they can leverage their Perugia experience for their future personal and professional success.

#### Course Purpose

Students will acquire basic skills in speaking and understanding Italian, study Italian culture and experience it first-hand, and reflect on what they have learned both about Italy, the United States, and themselves through their study abroad experience. This course is the equivalent of a standard first semester college-level Italian course in the United States.

#### Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate foundational skills in speaking and understanding Italian, including:
  - a. *recognizing* and using words and expressions of daily and common use;
  - b. *participating in* conversations at a basic level in everyday situations (talking about oneself, asking information, giving and receiving instructions, shopping, reading notices, etc.);
  - c. *understanding* short texts (menus, signs, announcements, timetables, notices, recipes, short newspaper articles, etc.);
  - d. *composing* short passages about their daily lives and direct experiences.
2. Participate in discussions of contemporary Italian culture.
3. Engage in critical evaluation of their own culture, Italian culture, and other foreign cultures, including:
  - a. *articulating* U.S. cultural rules, norms and biases;

- b. *understanding* how their own experiences have shaped their values and priorities;
  - c. *knowing* how to respond productively to cultural differences;
  - d. *valuing* what is important to members of another culture, including their history, politics, communication styles, economy, beliefs and social practices;
  - e. *interpreting* cross-cultural experiences from multiple worldviews and *respecting* the rights and feelings of other cultural groups;
  - f. *asking* complex questions about their own culture and other cultures, *seeking out* answers to those questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.
4. Understand and articulate the unique benefits of their study abroad experience and anticipate how to leverage those benefits for their future personal and professional success.

### Course Materials:

All students in ITAL 101 will be provided with a personal copy of the Umbra Italian 101 textbook: *Allora! Corso di italiano per stranieri*.

### Assessments

The fundamental approach of this class is the following: the class will nudge you to recall and use what you've learned about the Italian language. There are *many* low stakes, low stress weekly quizzes that together make up a significant part of your grade. Be sure to consult Moodle and mark the due dates in your calendar as missed assignments accumulate quickly. Final grades will be based on the following:

#### *Attendance in class* (10%)

You have to be in class to learn Italian. If you're in class, you'll be able to participate in the various exercises. If you're there, full credit! Class is two days a week. You can have up to one unexcused absence before this grade starts to go down.

#### *Participating in class with completed homework* (30%)

Another important part of learning Italian is doing exercises after class to practice what you've learned. The next day that practice will be part of class. All the written exercises in the book are essentially pass/fail: if you did them, full credit!

#### *Weekly quizzes* (30%)

There are some online quizzes on Moodle, which you may retake as often as you wish/need in order to reinforce vocabulary and key grammatical concepts. You may repeat these exercises as often as you want: your average score is what will count.

#### *Final Exam* (30%)

The final exam will be cumulative: it will cover material from the whole semester.

### Grading

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

Letter Grade Range	Numerical Score Equivalent	Student Performance
A	93% - 100%	Exceptional Excellent
A-	90% - 92%	
B+	87% - 89%	Superior
B	83% - 86%	
B-	80% - 82%	
C+	77% - 79%	Satisfactory
C	73% - 76%	
C-	70% - 72%	
D+	67% - 69%	Low Pass
D	63% - 66%	
D-	60% - 62%	
F	59% or less	Fail (no credit)

**Please note:** decimal numerals between 1-4 are rounded down while 5-9 are rounded up: e.g., expect 89.4 to be 89.0 while 89.5 to round up to 90.

### **Extension & Submitting Late Work**

Work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, not partial credit. Each student is allowed one extension of 24 hours over the entire semester. This can be used for any assignment but the final project. Students need to email the instructor before the deadline and inform the instructor of their use of the extension. Any work submitted after the 24-hour extension will be marked zero. As for all policies, exceptions can be made by the Director for students with special accommodations or in case of medical emergencies, etc.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected and mandatory for classroom times and co-curricular activities. The first absence per course due to illness will be considered an excused "sick day" and does not require medical documentation. To receive additional excused absences due to illness, students are required to see a local physician or request a letter from an Institute-approved doctor documenting they should be excused from class for illness.

Unexcused absences will adversely affect a student's academic performance and will result in a reduction of the student's final course grade by 2% per absence up to a maximum of 10%. Excessive unexcused absences may result in a failing grade or disciplinary action. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of absences or late arrivals for each course, and to ask the instructor when in doubt.

If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining class notes from other students and/or for meeting the professor during office hours. Any work missed in class because of an excused absence may be made up within one week of the return to the class. Any work missed that was a quiz or other test must be made up outside of class time and will, in the interest of intellectual honesty, be a slightly different test than the one given in class.

Presence during mandatory field trips is especially important. Missing a mandatory field trip for a course, unless for a very serious reason that is communicated to Umbra staff in a timely manner, will lower the students' grade by half a letter grade (i.e., a final grade of a B+ would be lowered to a B).

Legitimate reasons for an excused absence or tardiness includes: death in immediate family, religious observances, illness or injury, local inclement weather, medical appointments that cannot be rescheduled.

Students who request an approved absence to observe a religious holiday must submit a formal request to the Institute's Director within one week after the add/drop period when course schedules, including any field trips, are finalized. No exceptions will be made after this deadline.

Except in the case of medical emergencies, absences are not accepted when tests are scheduled; tests cannot be made up. Furthermore, scheduled times and dates indicated for exams, quizzes, oral presentations, and any other graded assignments cannot be changed for any reason. Even if more sections of the same class are activated, students may only take exams during the scheduled times and dates for the section they are enrolled in.

### **Tardiness Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes punctually. Any student arriving up to 15 minutes late or leaving up to 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled class end time will be marked as tardy. Each incident of tardiness (late arrivals to or early departures from class) is 0.5% off the final grade. However, should a student arrive more than 15 minutes late or depart more than 15 minutes before the conclusion of the class, it will be recorded as an absence.

Students are also expected to remain in class during the time of instruction except for a reasonable amount of time to use the restroom. Students who leave class and do not return during the class session will receive an unexcused absence or late penalty.

### **Academic Integrity**

All forms of cheating (i.e., copying during exam either from a fellow student or making unauthorized use of notes) and plagiarism (i.e., presenting the ideas or words of another person for academic evaluation without acknowledging the source) will be handled according to the Institute Academic Policy, which can be found in the Umbra Institute Academic Policies and Conduct Guidelines.

Utilizing ChatGPT or other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the generation of content submitted by a student as their own as part of any assignment for academic credit at the Institute constitutes a form of plagiarism.

Should the Institute become aware of a student's use of such platforms and services, the student will be subject to the same consequences and judicial proceedings as are in place for plagiarism (defined above).

**Classroom Policy**

Students are expected to follow the policy of the Institute and demonstrate the appropriate respect for the historical premises that the school occupies. Students are not allowed to use their cell phones or laptops while in class or during co-curricular events and activities, unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus or expressly permitted by the instructor for special learning. This policy also applies to earbuds and headsets. Students who do not respect these rules will be subject to disciplinary warnings and probation, be given an unexcused absence from class, and other disciplinary action including dismissal from the course.

**Moodle**

Please note that Moodle, not this syllabus, is the ultimate reference for due dates, assignment prompts, and course announcements. It is *the student's responsibility* to check the site regularly to be aware of announcements as well as to see and record all due dates for assignments.

## Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments

### Week 1: May 21-23

Textbook: "Allora" – pp. 14-59

Quiz on Moodle

Activity: Visit to railway station and supermarket

Competencies	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentarsi</li> <li>▪ Salutare</li> <li>▪ Domande di "sopravvivenza"</li> <li>▪ Chiedere il significato di una parola, "Come si dice in italiano...?"</li> <li>▪ Chiedere l'identità a qualcuno</li> <li>▪ Fare richieste al supermercato (ripresa di vorrei)</li> <li>▪ Chiedere il prezzo</li> <li>▪ Conoscere gli oggetti</li> <li>▪ Nomi dei negozi</li> <li>▪ Fare richieste di oggetti.</li> <li>▪ Descrizione appartamento (per utilizzare c'è/ci sono)</li> <li>▪ Descrizione della Stazione</li> <li>▪ Chiedere informazioni alla biglietteria</li> <li>▪ Orario</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Alfabeto</li> <li>▪ Numeri</li> <li>▪ Essere/avere</li> <li>▪ Pronomi soggetto</li> <li>▪ Pronomi interrogativi</li> <li>▪ Singolare/plurale</li> <li>▪ Articoli indeterminativi</li> <li>▪ Presente di essere/avere</li> <li>▪ mi piace/mi piacciono</li> <li>▪ Accordo aggettivo/nome</li> <li>▪ Articoli determinativi</li> <li>▪ C'è/ci sono</li> <li>▪ Tre coniugazioni -are -ere -ire</li> <li>▪ Verbo fare</li> </ul>

### Week 2: May 28-30

Textbook: "Allora": pp. 64-99

Quiz on Moodle

Activity: Leisure time places in Perugia (Tempietto, Giardini del Frontone, ecc.)

Competencies	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "La giornata 'tipo'"</li> <li>▪ Chiedere e dare informazioni sugli orari</li> <li>▪ Parlare delle proprie abitudini</li> <li>▪ Parlare del tempo libero</li> <li>▪ Parlare di ciò che (non) si sa fare</li> <li>▪ Esprimere volontà</li> <li>▪ Formulare una richiesta cortese (vorrei...)</li> <li>▪ Chiedere il conto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presente indicativo regolare e irregolare</li> <li>▪ Presente indicativo dei verbi riflessivi (svegliarsi, farsi la doccia, addormentarsi...)</li> <li>▪ Alcune preposizioni</li> <li>▪ Amare + infinito, verbi modali.</li> <li>▪ Presente indicativo dei verbi modali: volere, potere, dovere, sapere</li> <li>▪ Mi piace/mi piacciono</li> <li>▪ Mi piace + infinito</li> <li>▪ Vorrei + infinito</li> </ul>

### Week 3: June 4-6

Textbook: "Allora": pp. 100-138

Quiz on Moodle

Activity: Dante's tour and Gelato - *order your gelato*

Competencies	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Descrivere attività e luoghi di vacanza</li><li>▪ Esprimere preferenze sul viaggio</li><li>▪ Chiedere per avere</li><li>▪ Chiedere e dare informazioni</li><li>▪ Chiedere di raccontare e raccontare fatti passati</li><li>▪ Raccontare un viaggio o una vacanza passata</li><li>▪ Prenotare servizi</li><li>▪ Ordinare cibi e bevande</li><li>▪ Conoscere i nomi di piatti e cibi tipici italiani</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Il verbo partire + da/per</li><li>▪ Il passato prossimo</li><li>▪ Alcuni participi passati irregolari (aprire - aperto, bere - bevuto, fare - fatto, ecc.)</li><li>▪ Espressioni di tempo al passato (ieri, l'altro ieri, scorso, fa, stamattina)</li><li>▪ Avverbi di tempo (prima, poi, dopo)</li><li>▪ Preposizione in + mezzi di trasporto</li><li>▪ Alcune preposizioni di luogo: al ristorante; al bar; in pizzeria; in prosciutteria</li></ul>

### Week 4: June 11-13

Textbook: "Allora": pp. 150-179

Quiz on Moodle

Activity: visit to local shops

Competencies	Grammar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Parlare degli acquisti e delle proprie abitudini in merito</li><li>▪ Fare la spesa in un negozio di alimentari ed esprimere i propri desideri al riguardo</li><li>▪ Chiedere e dire il prezzo</li><li>▪ Chiedere una quantità</li><li>▪ Chiedere qualcosa in modo gentile</li><li>▪ Descrivere l'abbigliamento</li><li>▪ Dire la taglia</li><li>▪ Chiedere per avere</li><li>▪ Chiedere qualcosa in modo gentile</li><li>▪ Chiedere ed esprimere i propri gusti</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Pronomi diretti con i tempi semplici e composti</li><li>▪ Ne partitivo</li><li>▪ Ripresa dei pronomi diretti e <i>ne partitivo</i> con i verbi modali</li><li>▪ Verbi riflessivi (vestirsi, mettersi)</li><li>▪ Aggettivi dimostrativi</li></ul>

**Week 5: June 18-20**

Textbook: "Allora" + Handouts + Review

Activity: Dinner at "Ristorante Il Moderno" on June 18th

<b>Competencies</b>	<b>Grammar</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Scrivere una ricetta</li><li>▪ Parlare del cibo e delle abitudini alimentari</li><li>▪ Commentare il sapore di un alimento</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Le forme ci vuole, ci vogliono</li><li>▪ Ripresa degli avverbi di tempo (prima, poi, dopo, ecc.)</li></ul>

**Grammar Review:**

- Presente indicativo
- Passato Prossimo
- Pronomi diretti

**Final Exam: June 20**