ILA 200 Studies in Italian Language  
MWF 10-10:50 in F373  
Fall 2019  
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor: Christopher D. Sams, Ph.D.  
Office: Liberal Arts North (LAN) 255  
Office phone: (936) 468-2270 (no voicemail activated)  
Email: samsc@sfasu.edu (please indicate ILA 200 in the subject line of your message)

Office hours: MWF 8:00-9:00, TR 8:00-9:30, and any day by mutually convenient appointment

Students should not email and dictate a time for an appointment: it shows a lack of respect for my schedule. If an appointment is needed (due to reasons other than not feeling like coming in early), please email me with all the days and times available (not just the ones most convenient) and which are the most preferred. It’s rare that I can accommodate appointments with less than 48 hours notice.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the Italian language. See the student learning outcomes below.

Prerequisite(s) None.

Required Texts


Student Learning Outcomes

- Highlight the sound differences between Italian and English and produce accurate pronunciation in Italian
- Introduce students to grammatical structures in Italian to allow them to communicate personal information, personal preferences, conduct business in informal situations, and narrate events
- Expand and apply Italian vocabulary to a wide variety of situations
- Allow students to express themselves in written and spoken Italian in the past, present, and future tenses
- Improve understanding of the Italian language and culture
- Progress students from Novice Low proficiency to Intermediate Low or higher proficiency (see pages 7-9 of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012, https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/public/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012_FINAL.pdf)
Coursework Requirements and Grading Policy

- The final course grade will be determined by 4 open-book/note exams (each worth 100 points) indicated on the tentative schedule below. Only in the most extreme circumstances (which include me being notified prior to the exam start time) do I allow makeup exams. Each case is dealt with based on the individual circumstances. Please don’t bother asking me what is on the exams; if you are in class regularly, you will know.

- Some notes about my office hours: Students don’t need an appointment to see me during office hours. Students should not come to my office hours to ask me to reteach material because they missed class. I divide my time by how many students are waiting. Also, if I am with a student, please make sure that I see you and know that you are waiting; do not walk into my office when I am with another student. If you are turning something in, you don’t need to wait; please just excuse yourself and hand me your paper.

Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%-90%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.9%-80%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79.9%-70%</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.9%-60%</td>
<td>Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9% and below</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Course Policies

- Adults make arrangements. They also take responsibility, are held accountable, and accept the consequences of their actions.

- Attendance, Participation, and Preparation
  - Regular, prompt attendance, active participation, preparation, and adherence to the syllabus policies are expected. **Students are allowed six absences without penalty. After the sixth absence, 2% will be deducted from the final course grade for each additional absence. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.**
  - If a student misses class, they are responsible to find out from a classmate what they missed. Do not ask me. Students can get notes from them and find out if you missed any announcements. After speaking to a classmate, if they have specific questions, they can see me. I will not give private lectures over what was missed in class. Period.

- I post all assignments on D2L. I do not monitor or respond to emails sent via D2L; all emails should be sent to samsc@sfasu.edu. For D2L technical support, contact student support in The Center for Teaching and Learning at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail.

- Students should check their SFA email account daily during the week. I return most emails within 24 hours. If you don’t hear back from me within 24 hours on a weekday, please
resend your email--I may not have received it. This is a professional atmosphere; emails should have a subject, salutation (if for initial contact), body, and signature.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

- Habitually arriving late to class, text messaging, sleeping, or working on material for another class makes you look unconcerned and disrespectful.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

In cases where there exists a violation of academic integrity (whether intentional or unintentional), I reserve the right to fail a student for part of or the entire assignment in question or the entire course.

Withheld Grades Policy (A-54)

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2012), “Semester Grades Policy” (A-54). At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end
of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Tentative Course Outline

We will cover Unità Preliminare through Unità 6 this semester. With 14 weeks in the semester, we’ll be covering a unit every two weeks.

Exam 1: Friday, September 20
Exam 2: Friday, October 18
Exam 3: Friday, November 15
Exam 4: Friday, December 6

End-of-Semester Procedures

For final course grades, an 89.9 is a B and a 79.9 is a C and so on--students should not expect or request that grades be rounded up. All grades are final and students should not email asking for special consideration (e.g., to redo an assignment, do corrections, do extra credit). Final assignment and course grades will be posted on D2L and uploaded to mySFA during finals week.

“JackText grade notification is available to students who sign up for it. This service sends a text to the student each time a grade is posted to their account. This should eliminate some of their anxiety when awaiting grades posting, as they will be notified the moment the grade is rolled into their academic history. Instructions for signing up for JackText can be accessed at http://www.sfasu.edu/5418.asp.”