Course: ITAL 004 Continuing Intermediate Italian

1. Date of Application: 12/1/2011
2. Name, Dept of Proposer: DeAngelis, Dopfel, Modern Languages
3. Name of Dept/Program housing course: Modern Languages
4. Name of Chair/PD: Marachi
5. How often is the course taught: yearly
6. Course Prerequisites: ITAL 003 or the equivalent
7. Unit value of course: 1
8. Normal Class Size: 15
9. Number of sections expected Fall 2012: 0
10. Number of sections expected Spring 2013: 1
11. Is the course appropriate for first-year students: Yes
12. Relevant Learning Goal(s): Community Engagement
13. Chair will oversee submission of student work:
14. Chair will oversee instructor participation in norming/asst:

15. Teaching: "1. Since Italian 4 is the last language class at SMC, it is used as a gateway for students to learn about the cultural identity of Italian immigrants in the Bay Area. Students examine historical and contemporary issues connected with the Italian immigrants in San Francisco. Students conduct life history interviews with members of the Italian American Community Agency in North Beach. They focus on the history of people who have kept Italian culture alive in the city. I use case studies and service learning in addition to oral history as academic methods (Qualitative Case Study Methodology by Baxter, P. and Jack, S. 2008; The Oral History Manual by Sommer, B.W. and Quinlin, M.K. 2009).

In the class, students actively use the language to search for common experiences and realities and reflect upon them. As a service, students provide a DVD to the people they interview with a record of their oral history and legacy for them and their families for posterity.


3. The interview project allows students to use and improve their Italian across the four language skills (speaking, writing, listening and reading). Students learn about Italian heritage and culture. In addition, they learn how to conduct interviews and how to interpret and synthesize interview information into written reports (journals, papers, online discussions) and digital recording.

This class cross lists with Liberal and Civic Studies"

16. Learning: "1. Students demonstrate an awareness and understanding of Italian language and Italian heritage through in-class discussion and participation in on-line threaded discussions. Specific components of culture and heritage include:

a) Family
b) History
c) Geography
d) Traditions
e) Values
f) Immigration history and assimilation process

g) Arts

h) Food

Service is part of the learning process. It is what students achieve and do for the community. There is a mutual benefit for both the students and the community participants. The participants involved with the Italian American Community Agency benefit from having their oral history recorded on a DVD for posterity, and students benefit as well. Through their service, students gain a more fundamental understanding of the Italian immigrant experience and have a chance to enhance their Italian language skills.

2. Written reflections in English on Moodle. Discussions in Italian in the classroom and on-line.

3. Students explore and consider important social issues regarding immigration and assimilation while maintaining and honoring the heritage of a specific culture as part of the reflection process.