SYLLABUS spring 2012 (Service Learning)

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Office hours: Mondays 12:30-2:00, Wednesdays and Friday by appointment

ITALIAN 004 Continuing Intermediate Italian

OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES

By the end of this 14-week course, students will have gained:
1. Enhanced Italian language skills in listening, reading, speaking, and writing (based on their study in the classroom and online)
2. An understanding of Italian culture gained experientially through service in the local Italian community.
3. A greater appreciation of a specific culture.

This course combines language learning and cultural awareness with service to the community (oral history project). This semester, we will meet in the classroom for language practice three days per week and asynchronously online using Moodle once per week. In addition, we will travel to San Francisco three times (mostly on Wednesdays and Thursdays) to learn about how the Italian neighborhood of North Beach was shaped by the Italian immigrants who lived there.

Students will examine historical and contemporary issues connected with the Italian immigrants in San Francisco. Students will conduct life history interviews with members of the Italian American Community Agency in North Beach. We will focus on the history of people who have kept the Italian culture alive in San Francisco.

The final project will involve creating a multimedia presentation of these interviews. Students will create a DVD featuring the memories and oral history of the people they interview.

This project will allow students to use and improve their Italian across the four language skills (speaking, writing, listening and reading). In addition, students will learn about Italian heritage and culture. Students will learn how to conduct interviews and how to interpret and synthesize interview information into written reports (journals, papers, online discussions) and digital recording. Reflections on Moodle will be in English. Everything else will be in Italian.

Students will share their final projects in a digital form with the people they interviewed.

Required Texts: Prego! (7th edition) 1. Libro di testo (Textbook)
2. QUIA (online workbook)

Articles: provided by the instructor on Moodle (e.g. Qualitative Case Study Methodology by Baxter, P. and Jack, S. 2008; The Oral History

Recommended Texts: English Grammar for Students of Italian by Adorni & Primorac
An Italian/English dictionary (recommended Oxford Pocket Dictionary)

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Presente! (Attendance and participation). Attendance is mandatory for all class sessions. A maximum of two absences will be allowed before the final grade is impacted. There are no excused absences. Repeated tardiness will be marked as absences (3 late arrivals equal 1 absence). Daily presence and oral participation in class are vital factors in determining the student's grade. Students should bring to class the required texts, handouts and assignments and go over the material the night before it is to be covered in class. Class time is primarily for practice of the material in speaking, listening, reading and writing. During the months of March and April students will spend some time interviewing people for their project.

Parliamo solo italiano. AVOID SPEAKING ENGLISH. Respect other people’s efforts by responding in Italian and by avoiding any comments on their proficiency. Since there are a lot of different activities in this course, students need to pay close attention to the syllabus and class schedule every day.

Interviste (interviews): Beginning in late March and continuing throughout April, students are required to spend two one-hour sections with the people they interview. Plan on two hours in addition to traveling time. We will meet the interviewees once before the interviews. Students will be able to spend class time transcribing and editing the interviews. Details to follow.

Moodle: We will not meet in the lab on Thursdays. Instead, every week, students will work online for one hour, as this is designed to be a hybrid class.

I will post reading, exercises, translations and discussion questions every Sunday. This will help your understanding of Italian culture. Part of the Reflection assignments can be written in English. Every student should respond to the discussion questions by the next Thursday afternoon with a minimum of one paragraph. This paragraph will be graded based on:

1. Grammar/syntax
2. Clarity and accuracy of expressions
3. Content
4. Quantity (whether the response met the minimum length)
5. Responses (see next paragraph)

In addition, every student will be required to comment on two responses posted by another student. This part of the assignment will be graded based on evidence of reflection about the main points and issues in the discussion. The Moodle discussions will substitute for part of the lab and it will be in addition to normal homework.

Reflections: students will connect with the course objectives by writing their reflections on Moodle, addressing questions, challenges and insights on the work they are doing. Students will address the questions “What?” “So what?” and “Now what?” to better understand the purpose of
this course. They will reflect on actions taken before during and after the interviews and they will analyze the concepts and information that they have gained. This session will be connected with the readings of the articles.

**Technology:** Students will learn how to use two programs: iMovie ‘11 and iDVD. This will be vital for the making of the digital media presentation they will give as a gift to the interviewee.

**Aiuto! (Help!)** Students are encouraged to see me during the established office hours or by appointment when additional help is needed. In addition, I **highly recommend that students sign up for an Italian tutor (X 4358).** This can be very helpful, and it is a free service. In addition to the tech demo in class, CaTS is also available for technical tutoring sections at X 4266.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Student Disability Services Coordinator, Jennifer Billeci, at (925) 631-4164 to set up a confidential appointment to discuss accommodation guidelines and available services. Additional information regarding the services available may be found at the following address on the SMC website: [http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/academic-consultancy-and-achievement/student-disability-services.html](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/academic-consultancy-and-achievement/student-disability-services.html)

The guidelines for academic honesty and plagiarism will be followed as written in Student Handbook and Catalog of Course.

1. **Cultura (Culture):** Students are required to attend the DANTE CLUB meetings and go to a minimum of two approved outside activities. Students are required to write one paragraph in Italian describing each event and turn it in by the last day of class as part of their final grades.

**DANTE CLUB EVENTS**

Meetings  
Saint Joseph’s Table  
Carnival for kids  
Italian Sidewalk Café  
Night in the Piazza  
Intercultural event with the students of Bishop O’Dowd TBA

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

**GRADING**

The course grade will be determined on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSEWORK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation/Oral and Activities Including the Dante Club events</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (exercises, essays, translations)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online reflections</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical skills</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Midterm exam written and oral</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project written and oral + DVD</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**TOTAL** 100%


Students will be able to see their grades weekly on Blackboard (grading center)

**ASSESSMENT**

The course grade will be determined on the following basis:

1. Class participation (Italian Competency)
   Students will demonstrate competency in translating English-Italian & Italian-English in spoken and written formats.
   Students will be graded every day for language competency based on staying in the target language and participating in the class discussion (3.33 point per day).

2) Quizzes

   We will cover one chapter of the Prego book every two weeks. There will be one quiz every two weeks.
   Every quiz will have a listening and a reading comprehension section, a vocabulary section, and grammar questions.

3) Homework:

   Students are responsible for coming to class prepared to talk about the assigned reading.

4) Midterm (Interviewing Skills)

   For the midterm, students will create and document one of their classmate’s biographies with a sample interview, using pictures and documents of their lives.
   The interview should include social and professional profile of the classmates.
   Students will demonstrate the following interviewing skills:
a. Establish rapport and create a comfortable environment  
b. Ask clear questions  
c. Ask/use effective prompts and follow-up questions  
d. Manage the pace/focus the interview to remain on topic

1. Technical Skills

Students will demonstrate mastery of the following technical skills:

a. Use of recording equipment  
b. Use of editing software (iMovie, iDVD, GarageBand)  
c. Produce a final DVD product

2. Reflections (Italian Heritage)

Students will demonstrate an awareness and understanding of Italian language and Italian heritage through class discussion and participation and 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  
i. Other cultural variables collectively determined by students and instructor

3. Final

During the second part of the semester we will focus more on the interviews. For the final, there will be a presentation of the final interviews written and oral, plus the creation of DVD

We will have a celebration at the end of the course for students and their guests.