

**ITALIAN 121: ELEMENTARY ITALIAN I
ELON UNIVERSITY
FALL SEMESTER 2014**

Location: Mooney 207

Dr. Brandon Essary

Office: Carlton 332

Office Hours¹: MF 1:45-2:45 in Carlton 332: W 2.30 to 3.30 at Argo Tea in Global Commons; and by appointment.

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Syllabus

Introduction

Benvenuti e grazie! (Welcome and thank you!) for your interest in Italian Studies at Elon University. The Italian program offers an exciting array of opportunities to learn and practice the language and culture of Italy. In this class, we will engage one another through speaking (*solo in italiano!*), reading, listening, and writing activities on a variety of interesting topics. We'll learn to talk about family, university life, and pastimes; we'll listen to Italian music from many different genres; and we'll read about the way Italians experiences these phenomena to help us understand better why we are fascinated with this vibrant culture, its exquisite cuisine, and its unsurpassed artistic and literary accomplishments. In this document, you will find all information relevant to succeeding in ITL 121, as well as the Department of World Languages and Cultures policies. Before continuing, be aware that ITL 121 is a gateway to numerous linguistic, academic, and cultural opportunities: we offer an [Italian Studies Minor](#) at Elon University, a semester [study abroad program](#) in Florence, and, for those who are especially passionate about Italy, it is possible to complete an [Independent Major](#). Furthermore, in the near future you will have the chance to complete an Italian Dual Business Degree. If you have any questions about these wonderful opportunities, please let me know!

Required Texts:

1. *Prego! Invitation to Italian*, Textbook, 8th Edition. Graziana Lazzarino, Andrea Dini.

PURCHASE ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Hardcover ISBN: 978-0073386256 OR

b. E-text ISBN: 0077382595

(e-text is available via www.Coursesmart.com)

2. *Prego! An Invitation to Italian*, Online Workbook, 8th Edition. Graziana Lazzarino, Andrea Dini. ISBN: 0073386251. Only available digitally,

from: <https://www.mhcentro.com/servlets/quia.course.ui.registration.PurchaseCourse?bcp=Centro&bookId=41774>.

The course code for the Online Workbook will be sent to you via email and posted on the moodle site for this course. Access to this digital workbook is granted for 24 months, when you purchase it via this website. Please register for the site, before classes start, so that you can begin using it immediately.

¹ If you have questions and cannot make it to your own professor's office hours, feel free to visit another professor. The other professors' hours and offices are as follows: Prof. Essary – MF 1:45-2:45 in Carlton 332: W 2.30 to 3.30 at Argo Tea in Global Commons; Prof. Pardini – Carlton 322 – MW, 1:30-2:30; Prof. Liberti – 328 – MWF: 10-11.

Recommended Texts:

1. A good Italian-English dictionary, such as *Webster's New World Italian Dictionary*. ISBN:978-0139536397
2. *English Grammar for Students of Italian*, Adorni, Sergio. Olivia & Hill Press, 2011. ISBN:978-0934034203

Course Description

This course is designed to expose students to the basics of Italian language and culture. It is for enthusiastic students with little or no prior experience in the language. Special emphasis is placed on active communication to develop listening and reading comprehension skills, as well as oral and writing production skills. Students will learn to converse and write about daily life, integrate colloquial expressions, as well as utilize the present and past tenses. They will also discover exciting aspects of Italian history and contemporary society through regular discussions, supplemental readings, music, and film. No prerequisite or admission by placement test.

In the context of the Department of World Languages and Cultures' mission, ITL 121 promotes insight into foreign cultures and proficiency in the Italian language at the elementary level. The course utilizes language, authentic regalia, and culture to promote this insight. The course is thus designed to deepen students' ability to thrive in an increasingly diverse environment.

In the context of Elon University's mission, the course seeks to foster originality of thought and to help students arrive at the point of basic communication in the target language. In support of the university's language proficiency requirement and the drive to internationalize the campus, ITL 121 is conducted exclusively in Italian and employs a communicative pedagogy that emphasizes the essential skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, critical thinking, and cultural literacy.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of ITL121 you will be able to:

1. speak in the present and past tenses about everyday life
2. have a basic grasp of writing about yourself, your family, and friends
3. read at an elementary level, being able to identify key words or phrases and context clues
4. ask directions, order food, buy groceries, purchase tickets, communicate in real life situations
5. respond to basic questions about yourself with complete sentences

Grade Distribution: Attendance and Participation (15%); *Compiti*/Homework (20%); *Temi* (15%); Oral Presentations (15%); Regions of Italy Website (5%); Exams (30%)

Attendance and Participation (15%) This grade will be evaluated by several criteria:

- *Preparation:* do you bring all materials to class every day; study assigned pages and complete all assignments before coming to class?
- *Language:* do you always speak Italian in the classroom, regardless of accuracy?
- *Participation:* do you volunteer multiple times daily and participate fully in a mature and thoughtful manner?
- *Group work:* do you work well in groups and pairs—speak in Italian and stay on task?
- *Attitude:* do you have a positive attitude in class and are you supportive of classmates and respectful of the principles of learning a foreign language?
- The following descriptions will give you a basic idea of grade equivalents: **A:** Play a leading role in class. Speak up all the time – in Italian – even if unsure of how to say what you want. **B:** Play an active role in class. Speak up quite often – in Italian – even if unsure of how to say what you want. **C:** Play a reasonably active role in class. Speak up occasionally some days, frequently on others. **D or F:** Play a passive role in class. Speak up occasionally or rarely.

- Over the course of this semester, you are required to participate in **at least three Italian extracurricular activities – one per month for the months of September, October, and November.** You may choose among CIAO conversation hours, films screenings, and other Italian cultural events announced by your professor. Sign the attendance sheet when you arrive at each event, and stay for the duration of the event. These three events count as special class time, and, at the end of the semester, if you have not participated fully as outlined, you will be docked one percentage point (1%) from your final grade for each activity you missed. Dates and times of activities will be announced through the CIAO list-serve. Your professor will sign you up.

N.B. Our classroom is an **open and welcoming space** for you to practice your Italian, without fear or judgment. Making mistakes is a necessary step on the way to learning a new language. Do not be afraid to speak up and to use Italian at all times. It can only help you get better! At the same time, please respect your fellow classmates and their attempts to speak Italian, as they, too, struggle with a new language.

Compiti/Homework (20%) Most homework will be done online through the MH Centro Online Workbook. Occasionally, written exercises may be assigned. All written homework must be turned in on time, neatly written, and preferably double-spaced. You may also key (*type*) your homework if you prefer. If you miss class, please bring your homework in on the first day that you return. **Please note: I do not accept homework via email, so do not send it to me.** Late written homework assignments will not be accepted.

N.B. You are responsible for knowing which assignments are due and when. Compositions, tests, quizzes, etc. are posted on the daily program in the syllabus below. All homework assignments for the semester are posted on the MH Centro/online workbook calendar. You should assume that you always have homework so check the calendar regularly.

Temi/Compositions (15%) There will be four in-class compositions. The topic for each composition will be provided to you on Moodle beforehand. You are allowed to bring in an outline for each composition. The outline cannot contain any of the following: 1) complete sentences 2) conjugated Italian verbs 3) any English. You must prepare and turn in the outline as a part of the *tema* grade. The outline should be used as a way to gather your thoughts and ideas in preparation for the in-class writing process. It should in no way be a pre-written part or the composition itself. Furthermore, and to reiterate that everything you need to know is in your text, the majority of the compositions will be open book.

Bring notebook paper to class the day of a composition and write legibly, and **double-spaced**. Each composition will be marked with correction symbols (correction key is available on Moodle) and must be corrected within one week of getting the first draft. The second, keyed draft must be typed with your corrections made in **BOLD** and **underlined** and must include a **WORD COUNT**. The word counts for each are as follows: tema 1, 50-100; tema 2, at least 150; tema 3; 150-200; tema 4, 200-250.

NOTA BENE: Under no circumstances is it allowed to used Google Translate or other online translators. Ever. Use what we have learned or are learning, even if what you are trying to say is slightly different from the exact phrase in English.

Oral Presentations (15%) You will have 3 oral presentations in groups of three throughout the semester that focus on the regions and cities of Italy. For the first presentation, each person in the group will choose and act as the “expert” of one of three broad regional categories: Northern Italy, Central Italy, and Southern Italy, as divided in the textbook on page 18. The second presentation will be in new groups of three and require each person to select a specific region from each of the broad regional categories—one from the South, one from central Italy, and one from the North. The third presentation will be even more focused and require each student to select a city in their region from the second presentation. Detailed information will be provided for each.

You should visit your professor during office hours in order to effectively prepare each presentation.

Exams (30%) You will have 6 exams during the semester, including a cumulative midterm and final. Dates and material to be covered can be found on the daily program below. No make-ups, no rescheduling, no exceptions.

Regions of Italy Website (5%) In groups, you will create a website on the regions of Italy using a free, easy-to-use web design site, www.wordpress.com. You will draw this information from your oral presentations.

Grade Scale

A	100-93%	B	86.9-83%	C	76.9-76%	D	66.9-63%
A-	92.9-90%	B-	82.9-80%	C-	72.9-70%	D-	62.9-60%
B+	89.9-87%	C+	79.9-77%	D+	69.9-67%	F	59.9-0%

Elon defines grades accordingly:

A = distinguished work

B = above-average work

C = satisfactory work

D = below-average work

F = failure

Attendance Policy

The Department of Foreign Languages Policy on Attendance is clear and can be found below. In addition, late arrivals, early departures, and extended classroom exits (5+ minutes), and inappropriate use of technology (texting, browsing the web, etc.) will also count against your attendance grade. Three (3) of any of the above will equal one (1) absence.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. A student is expected to arrive on time and be present for the entire class period. Take care of personal needs (bathroom break, phone calls, eating, etc.) prior to class.

*To allow for illness or other unforeseen situations, students in a semester-long 4 s.h. course are allotted the equivalent of one week's worth of class in absences before a penalty is imposed (e.g. 3 absences for a class that meets three times a week; 2 absences for a class that meets twice a week; and 1 absence is allotted for winter and summer courses and for half-semester courses). **Excused and unexcused absences count the same.***

Each absence beyond the limit will result in your final course grade being lowered by 3 points per absence (e.g. if your final grade after the final exam is a 90, and you missed 4 days of class – one over the allowed number – your final grade will be lowered to an 87; for two days over the limit, lowered to an 84; for three days over, 81, and so on).

Excessive absences caused by serious health problems will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Participants in official Elon special programs, including intervarsity athletics, music and theatre, should consult the footnote at the bottom of this page. In accordance with official university policy, absences for religious reasons are to be treated as stated at the bottom of this page.²

² *Special policy for participants in Elon-sponsored events, including intervarsity athletics, music and theatre, which require frequent absence from class: 1) Participants in intervarsity athletics and other sponsored activities must provide a copy of the travel schedule at the beginning of the term. Students are expected to be in class on a travel day if the class meets before the scheduled departure time. 2) Other activities (training, practice, physical therapy, rehearsals, etc.) must NOT be scheduled during class time. 3) For any absence, students are responsible for making up tests at a time that is convenient for the professor and for turning in any assigned work in a timely manner. (preferably before departure). 4) Students are expected to make up for their lack of class participation during travel days by being*

Exams: *The department has a policy of no make-up exams. In extreme circumstances or emergencies, contact the professor before the scheduled exam. Follow-up documentation from the Dean or the infirmary is required.*

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy Cell phones, computers, iPads, etc. are only to be used in class if a student has a **documented disability** which necessitates such use or if there is an assignment that requires such device for its completion. Otherwise, these devices **MUST** be turned off and stowed **out of sight and earshot** for the duration of the class. This is especially true for cell phones. Failure to put away and silence these items will result in a '0' for that day's participation. If you purchase a digital copy of *Prego!*, you will be allowed to use your tablet or laptop. Otherwise, these items should be put away, as mentioned above.

A final note on electronic devices: please remember that in any quiz or test-taking situation, the use of these devices, in any way shape or form, are considered to be a violation of Elon's Academic Honor Code and will be treated as such, which could result in the failure of this course, a blemish on your academic record, or the lowering of your GPA. You can find more information on the Honor Code below.

Special Accommodations Students requiring accommodations should make an appointment with me to discuss their needs **no later than the second day of class**. This will ensure that appropriate measures can be taken to assist you in a timely manner. Special accommodations include, but are not limited to, religious practices, sports matches, and disabilities. In addition, if you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with Disabilities Services in the Duke Building, Room 108 (278-6500), for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

Tutoring Services You can always ask for help, either from me or another professor, in-class or during office hours. Beyond your instructors, Italian tutors are available to you free of charge from Tutoring Services. Do not be afraid or feel down about your skills if you think you need extra help. This class is about learning a whole new way of communicating and not everyone has an easy time of it. So please, use the resources available to you at Elon. Detailed information can be found here: <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/academics/support/tutoring/>. Elon's writing center is also available to you at any point of the writing process if you need assistance: <http://www.elon.edu/writingcenter>.

Elon Honor Code Elon's honor pledge calls for a commitment to Elon's shared values of Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Responsibility. To be clear about what constitutes violations of these values, students should be familiar with the Judicial Affairs policies in the student handbook, including violations outlined at <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/handbook/violations/default.xhtml>. Students with questions about the specific interpretation of these values and violations as they relate to this course should contact this instructor immediately. Violations in academic-related areas will be documented in an incident report to be maintained in the Office of Student Conduct, and may result in a lowering of the course grade and/or failure of the course with an Honor Code F.

Violations specifically covered by academic honor code policies include: plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing and the facilitation of another's dishonesty. Multiple violations will normally result in a student's temporary suspension from the University.

*extra-prepared and especially active during the days when they are present. All travel-related absences together count as one absence. This allows student-athletes or participants in other college activities that require travel a maximum of one or two other absences without penalty. **In supporting religious diversity, Elon has a policy and procedures for students who wish to observe religious holidays that are in conflict with the academic calendar, allowing students an excused absence. Students who wish to observe a holiday during the semester must complete the online Religious Observance Notification Form (RONF), available at the following website within the first two weeks of the semester.** http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/religious_life/ReligiousHolidays.xhtml*

Student Options Related to Enrollment in this Course Students should confirm their Enrollment in this course through their On-Track account. Students who do not appear on the course roll or do not show the correct course/section listed on On-Track should consult with their instructor immediately. As far as Dropping or Withdrawing are concerned, Students may drop a course during the designated drop/add period through their On-Track account. A course that is dropped during the designated drop/add period will not appear on the student's transcript or grade report.

After the designated drop/add period, students may withdraw from a course without penalty through the first half of the semester, following dates published in the academic calendar. Withdrawing from a course during this period will result in a mark of "W" that will appear on the student's academic transcript. Students may withdraw by using the online process located [here](#).

NOTE: Students should not assume that they will be officially withdrawn from a course based on their failing to attend class or their notifying a faculty member of their intent to withdraw. The student has the responsibility for following the official process of withdrawing from a class. Students who do not properly withdraw from a course will receive a grade of F.

Students may not withdraw from a course after the published deadline. Any exception to this policy is the responsibility of the appropriate academic dean's office. When granted, withdrawal from a course after this time will result in a grade of "W" or "F" depending on the student's grade at the time.

For additional information on university course policies, students should consult their [Academic Catalog](#).

Programma giornaliero (Daily Program)

Data <i>(date)</i>	Capitolo <i>(chapter)</i>	Argomenti <i>(topics)</i>	Pagine <i>(page #s)</i>	Scadenze <i>(deadlines)</i>
1. 27 agosto (m)	prel.	introduzione al corso; saluti ed espressioni di cortesia; in classe	1-7	
2. 29 agosto (v)	prel.	alfabeto e suoni; numeri; calendario; ripasso	8-16	
3. 1 settembre (l)	1	una città italiana; nomi	17-26	
4. 3 settembre (m)	1	articolo indeterminativo e buono	27-28	1° tema
5. 5 settembre (v)	prel. - 1	"avere" e pronomi soggetto; espressioni idiomatiche con "avere"	29-34	
6. 8 settembre (l)	prel. - 1	ripasso; scelta dell'insegnante		
7. 10 settembre (m)	prel.-1	esame 1		1° esame

8. 12 settembre (v)	2	aggettivi	42-46	
9. 15 settembre (l)	2	il verbo "essere"	47-49	
10. 17 settembre (m)	2	articolo determinative e <i>bello</i>	50-53	2° tema
11. 19 settembre (v)	2	ripasso; scelta dell'insegnante		
12. 22 settembre (l)	2	esame 2		2° esame
13. 24 settembre (m)	3	la famiglia e l'università; verbi <i>-are</i>	62-67	
14. 26 settembre (v)		i verbi "dare, stare, andare e fare"	68-70	
15. 29 settembre (l)	3	aggettivi possessivi; possessivi con termini di parentela	71-74	3° tema
16. 1 ottobre (m)	3	aggettivi possessivi; questo e quello	75-76	
17. 3 ottobre (v)	3	ripasso; scelta dell'insegnante		1° orale
18. 6 ottobre (l)	prel.-3	ripasso per il midterm		
19. 8 ottobre (m)	prel.-3	il midterm		il midterm
20. 10 ottobre (v)	4	i passatemi e il tempo libero verbi <i>-ere</i> e <i>-ire</i>	84-88	
13 ottobre (l)		Lezione sospesa – Fall Break		
21. 15 ottobre (m)	4	dovere, potere e volere; dire, uscire e venire	89-91	
22. 17 ottobre (v)	4	verbi <i>-ere</i> e <i>-ire</i> ; dovere, potere e volere; dire, uscire e venire	89-92	
23. 20 ottobre (l)	4	pronomi di oggetto diretto	93-94	
24. 22 ottobre (m)	4	l'ora	95-96	2° orale
25. 24 ottobre (v)	4	ripasso; scelta dell'insegnante		
26. 27 ottobre (l)	4	esame 3		3° esame

27. 29 ottobre (m)	5	bibite e spuntini al bar; preposizioni articolate	107-112	
28. 31 ottobre (v)	5	passato prossimo	113-116	
29. 3 novembre (l)	5	passato prossimo	117-120	
30. 5 novembre (m)	5	passato prossimo: essere o avere?; conoscere o sapere	113-122	4° tema
31. 7 novembre (v)	5	ripasso; scelta dell'insegnante		
32. 10 novembre (l)	5	esame 4		4° esame
33. 12 novembre (m)	6	cucinare e mangiare; pronomi di oggetto indiretto	129-134	
34. 14 novembre (v)	6	accordo del participio passato nel passato prossimo	135-137	<i>Portare un computer, tablet o smartphone</i>
35. 17 novembre (l)	6	accordo del participio passato nel passato prossimo; il verbo "piacere"	135-141	
36. 19 novembre (m)	6	il verbo "piacere"	138-141	
37. 21 novembre (v)	6	ripasso		3° orale
38. 24 novembre (l)		visione dei siti sulle regioni; ripasso		
39. 1 dicembre (l)	1-6	ripasso per l'esame finale		
ITL 121 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE FALL 2014: Section A: Thursday 04 December – 8:30am to 11:30am Section B: Tuesday 09 December – 8:30am to 11:30am Section C: Saturday 06 December – 8:30am to 11:30am Section D: Monday 08 December – 8:30am to 11:30am Section E: Saturday 06 December – 8:30am to 11:30am				