

Our classes are listed in numerical order, but this is not a precise mathematical sequence. Each class moves at a slightly different pace to respect the needs of the individual students. These descriptions provide a general view of our school's structure. If you already speak some Italian and are concerned about which class is best for you, please contact our director, Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti, at 916 4825900 or italy@italiancenter.net for assistance.

Introduction to Italian: Students with no previous Italian will develop basic listening and speaking skills. They will learn the rules of pronunciation and master courtesy words, greetings, salutations, numbers, months and days of the week. They will be able to navigate common communicative situations, like meeting new people, asking for directions, and describing basic characteristics of persons, places and things. This class is mostly in English. Italian is encouraged and spoken to introduce new vocabulary and grammar patterns.

Beginning Italian: Students who have completed our introductory course or have acquired basic Italian will build on the fundamentals and learn new vocabulary. The focus is on learning verbs and understanding frequently used expressions. Students will learn how to speak about family, pastimes, food and drink, the weather and the time of day. Students will continue expanding vocabulary, practice speaking, and understand everyday Italian through interactive classroom conversations, targeted reading and writing. These classes are conducted mostly in English with progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns.

Advanced Beginning Italian: Students will understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment, fashion terms etc.) Students will communicate routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Learn to describe in simple terms aspects of background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. The grammar skills will include reflexive verbs and more past tense verb forms to communicate about events in the past. There will be opportunity to practice and improve conversational skills. These classes use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used for clarification, and all grammar lessons are in English.

Intermediate Italian: Students will be able to understand and communicate the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, and travel. They will produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. They will learn to describe experiences and events, health and body, travel destinations, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Students will learn to compare and contrast and qualify. They will learn to communicate using a variety of

verbs tenses including the future. They will be learn to give and take commands and directions. This class will use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used for clarification and all grammar lessons are presented in English.

Advanced Intermediate Italian: Advanced Intermediate Italian: Students learn to understand the main ideas of more complex text on both concrete and abstract topics. They will learn to interact with more spontaneity and fluency to makes regular interaction with native speakers possible. Students will be able to describe their dwellings, transportation, occupations, business, and personal goals. They will produce clear, detailed text on a range of subjects and issues giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. They will learn to communicate using a broad variety of verbs tenses. This class will use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used only for clarification, and all grammar lessons are presented in English.

Advanced Italian 1: Students learn to understand a wider range texts, and recognize idiomatic phrases and implied meaning. They will practice expressing ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious assistance. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social purposes and can produce clear, well-structured, cohesive sentences. They will learn to communicate about a large range of topics including art, politics, the world of work, and express ideas and opinions. They will use a broad variety of verbs tenses including the remote past, and begin to learn the subjunctive tense and its use. Italian is the classroom language. English is used only for clarification and grammar explanations.

Corso Avanzato: Students of this course can easily understand most spoken or read in Italian. Italian film and literature is also accessible with little or no need for translation. They can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, and can reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express themselves spontaneously, fluently and precisely on simple every day matters. Students practice more complex linguistic constructions, grammar, idioms and expressions. Teacher integrates multimedia, film, literature, internet and other media to increase vocabulary and fluency. Italian is the classroom language and the need for English translation is rare.

Corso Superiore: Students of this course can easily understand virtually everything heard or read in Italian. Italian film and literature is also accessible with no need for translation. They can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, and can reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express themselves spontaneously, fluently and precisely. They are generally able to differentiate the finer shades of meaning even in the complex situations. This fluency allows them to understand jokes, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions in Italian. Students master more complex linguistic constructions,

grammar, idioms and expressions. Teacher integrates multimedia, film, literature, internet and other media to increase vocabulary and fluency. Italian is the classroom language.

SPECIAL CLASSES AND SEMINARS:

ITALIAN FOR TRAVELERS:

This course is specially designed for travelers to Italy who want to experience as much authentic Italian culture as possible. No previous Italian is required. Italian for Travelers is a fun, exciting and practical application focused language training course especially designed to give travelers to Italy the ability to communicate with Italians about a variety of tourist-related situations. Students learn the rules of pronunciation, courtesy words, greetings, salutations, numbers, months and days of the week. Students will be able to navigate common communicative situations, like meeting new people, asking for directions, ordering food and drinks and handling emergency and urgent situations. The class is much more than just language. Travelers receive invaluable information to facilitate traveling in Italy. This class is an introduction to Italian culture, history and geography and the perfect pre-travel course for anyone planning a trip to Italy.

GRAMMATICA E CONVERSAZIONE:

Students who have completed the Prego! text book will review important grammar points using a combination of exercises and teacher led conversation. They will learn to interact with more spontaneity and fluency to make regular interaction with native speakers possible. They will learn to communicate using a broad variety of verbs tenses, structure and syntax. This class will use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. Teacher will provide prompts to focus conversation on various grammar points. English used only for clarification, and all grammar lessons are presented in English.

YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST: *Passato Prossimo, Imperfetto, o Trapassato.*

This three-hour seminar is designed to give students a clear understanding of the verbs used to describe an activity with occurred in the past. Students will compare and contrast the ***Passato Prossimo, Imperfetto, o Trapassato*** tenses and learn to use each fluently and confidently in conversation and written communication. Students should already be familiar with these verb tenses.