

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND RE-READ IT BEFORE YOU EVALUATE YOUR INSTRUCTOR AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

## ITA 1120 & 1121 Beginning Language and Culture I & II

**OUR WEB-SITE ADDRESS IS** <http://www.italian.fau.edu>. Check it on a regular basis for news and updates about the Program in Italian Studies.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** ITA 1120 and 1121 are sequential courses for beginners. They are aimed at teaching basic speaking, writing, reading and listening skills in the target language. Cultural information is and should be an integral part of these courses.

**METHODOLOGY:** The **communicative approach** is aimed at developing language skills and an appreciation of the culture of the speakers of that language through carefully structured dialogue in the target language exclusively. So, do not get discouraged when you do not understand your instructor immediately. The language of instruction is Italian, and even grammatical explanations are provided in a communicative way and in the target language.

**GRADING:** Although oral proficiency is emphasized, written assignments and exams are an integral part of the course and support the students' incremental learning of the language (see syllabus for details). Your workbook as well as your diary\* will be evaluated regularly. They should always be up to date. There will also be two in-class oral presentations in the course of the semester [no reading!!] on a topic of your choice, to be prepared beforehand in consultation with your instructor. During these oral tests you will be evaluated on your ability to communicate fluently, as well as on correct use of grammar and syntax, vocabulary and pronunciation. (The grading scale is on the first page of your syllabus)

**PASS/FAIL:** Avoid exercising the P/F option. Usually students perform better than they thought they would. Moreover, courses taken on a P/F basis do not count towards the major or minor. In addition, while **a passing grade does not count towards your GPA, a failing grade does!** You cannot change from P/F to a grade after the first week of class.

If either you or the instructor deems it necessary, a **PROGRESS REPORT** will be given before the date of "withdrawal without receiving an F-grade".

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Your attendance is of the utmost importance in any language class. An absolute maximum of **3** absences is allowed under valid circumstances. Each additional absence results in the lowering of your course grade by one-half grade (idem for 2 late arrivals or early departures). In other words, if your grade average was B+, after the fourth absence you will receive a B.

**MAKE-UPS** are simply **not possible**, unless with a **valid, documented** excuse for the absence. Late written work will not be accepted (no exceptions!!). Regularly scheduled dental and doctor's appointments do not qualify as excuses for an absence.

**PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, OR MISREPRESENTATION of your level of knowledge results in an automatic "F"-grade. You must indicate to your teacher when, where, and if you had any previous instruction in Italian.**

**INCOMPLETES** cannot be given unless at least 80% of the course work has been completed.

**STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES:** If you know or suspect that you have a learning disability, inform your instructor. The "Students with Disabilities Office" can be reached at 297-3880.

**FLMC:** A computerized **FOREIGN LANGUAGE MEDIA CENTER** is operating in GCS 207.(GCS is the building next to the student cafeteria). Some Italian software is available for your use. FLMC's operating hours will be posted electronically and are available at: [language.fau.edu/flmc](http://language.fau.edu/flmc). Since Italian software is not as advanced as for other languages, availability is limited. You are however

required to frequent the foreign language media center and to use the software available to you for ½ hour per week. Your textbook refers to WEB-sites that further enhance your study of the Italian language, and you must exploit the opportunities offered by these electronic sources.

Free **tutoring** is available through **Minority Services** (# 7-3959), although Italian tutors are not always available. If you need a tutor, and no one is available, you might want to contact the Department of Languages and Linguistics, where a few private tutors' names are on file (tel. 297-3860). Their services will not be free. Please note that your **instructor's office hours** should not be used as one-hour free tutoring sessions.

If you have a **problem** or a **disagreement** with your instructor, first try to work matters out with your instructor in a civil way, THEN with the Italian language Coordinator, Dr. Emanuele Pettener, then with the Head of Italian Studies/department chair, Dr. Myriam S. Ruthenberg.

CONSIDER JOINING THE **ITALIAN CLUB**, IL CIRCOLO ITALIANO "**INSIEME**" DI FAU which is active during the Fall and Spring semesters. Club information will be posted on our Website.

Our WEEKLY optional "**ORETTA DEL CAPPUCCINO**" has been an Italian program tradition since Fall 1986 and is open to all interested students, students' parents and friends, as well as to faculty willing to speak Italian only (during Fall and Spring semesters only). Time and day to be determined.

**Knowledge of a foreign language makes you more marketable!** Therefore, you might want to consider a **MINOR** or a **MAJOR** in Italian. For information see Dr. Emanuele Pettener (AH 150, E-mail [epet5370@fau.edu](mailto:epet5370@fau.edu)) or Prof. Ruthenberg, Head of Italian Studies and Interim Chair (AH 118, or # 7-2682; E-mail: [Ruthenbe@fau.edu](mailto:Ruthenbe@fau.edu).)

PLEASE READ THIS TEXT AND YOUR SYLLABUS CAREFULLY and be sure you understand the attendance policy, the student evaluation procedures and the grading system.  
ENJOY YOUR SEMESTER IN THE PROGRAM IN ITALIAN STUDIES.

*\* You must keep a diary in which you enter data twice a week. The data you provide will be an immediate and personal application of what you learned in class on any particular day.*