

**Italian for Beginners 1030** (former 030)<sup>1</sup>  
Sections 001-008  
Coordinator: **Luca Pocci** (lpocci@uwo.ca)



### Course Content and Aims

An ideal introduction for students starting from scratch, this course is structured to link language instruction to a general understanding of modern and contemporary Italian culture. "Italian for Beginners" concentrates on high-frequency vocabulary and basic grammar. Students will be progressively introduced to the rich character of Italian culture through films, short prose texts, and songs. The course aims to achieve the following:

- develop the ability to read, write and understand Italian at a basic level
- enable students to express themselves in Italian in different cultural contexts
- offer insights into the culture, history and daily life of Italy
- encourage positive attitudes to language learning in general and a deeper understanding of other societies and cultures
- identify connections between Italian and English in relation to general linguistic concepts
- provide a starting point and linguistic foundation for progression to Italian 2250 (second-year Italian), as well as the Italian modules offered by UWO

<sup>1</sup> Former numbers are antirequisites for all courses.

## Learning Outcomes

It is expected that, upon completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- pronounce Italian accurately
- grasp the foundations of the Italian verb system, adjective endings, and sentence structure
- master the use of pronouns and prepositions
- communicate and comprehend notions related to motion and location in space
- use a basic Italian vocabulary required for communication on such topics as the weather, hobbies, sports, food, shopping, family, education, travel, transportation etc.
- greet people, ask questions, express wishes, describe surroundings, and relate past events
- participate in simple dialogues stemming from various social situations
- read and understand short passages dealing with contemporary social issues
- appreciate a number of differences and similarities between Italian culture and North-American culture



The Canal Grande in Venice

## Contact Hours

2 two-hour class meetings per week.

**Texts** (available at the UWO Book Store):

Required: *Ciao!* (Carla Riga & C.M. Dal Martello, sixth edition): this textbook comes with a set of cds and a workbook

\*You will need to **bring the textbook to every class.**

Recommended: Sergio Adorni, *English Grammar for Students of Italian*

\*You are strongly encouraged to purchase this book.

### **Mark Breakdown**

3 tests	30%
7 quizzes	30%
2 in-class compositions	10%
attendance & participation	10%
final exam <sup>2</sup>	20%

\*The Course Calendar will be handed out on the first day of classes



\*Please note:

**- Students are expected to attend all lectures and to complete all assignments before coming to class;**

**- Students must provide medical documentation in order to write make-up compositions, quizzes and tests.**

**Antirequisite:** Those students with Grade 12U Italian or OAC Italian must consult the Department before registering for this course.

### **Absenteeism**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

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<sup>2</sup> The final examination is cumulative, i.e., it covers the entire year. It is timetabled by the Office of the Registrar without any input from the Department. Since it may be scheduled for any date during the April examination period, and since students must write at a scheduled time, you should not make any plans which might run into conflict with the examination timetable.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness  
(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>  
under the Medical Documentation heading

### **Definition of Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.