Italian 2220B: Italian Conversation

Tentative

Instructor: Diana Johnston (djohns8@uwo.ca)
Classes: Tuesday 9:30-11:30, Thursday 9:30-10:30; SH 3307

Course Content and Aims

A selection of guided conversations in Italian dealing with a range of issues in contemporary Italy. Students will develop their communicative skills in Italian through discussion of a number of topics, ranging from social and political issues to media, pop culture, films, music, fashion, food, and sports. The course aims to:

- improve oral fluency through guided conversations and presentations in Italian
- expand students’ vocabulary in a way that will benefit both general conversation and discussion of specific topics
- familiarize students with a variety of current issues in Italy through different sources, such as short readings, websites, videos, music etc.
- provide a solid foundation for advanced courses in the target language
Learning Outcomes

It is expected that, upon successful completion of this course, students will have the ability to accomplish the following:

- Speak with greater confidence and fluency in the target language
- Demonstrate to have a broader passive and active vocabulary
- Be able to express opinions and doubt, as well as agreement and disagreement
- Improvise questions and answers in a discussion on a prepared topic
- Be able to give meaningful oral presentations using only a list of key words
- Have a broader cultural awareness and an understanding of some current issues relating to Italy

Contact Hours

One two-hour class meeting, and one one-hour meeting per week.

Course Texts

Available at the Western Book Store:

- **Recommended** - Italian Thesaurus: *Dizionario sinonimi e contrari* (UTET – Garzanti Linguistica, 2001)

Evaluation

- Participation and preparation: 25%
- 3 Role plays: 15%
- 5 Vocabulary quizzes: 15%
- Presentations (individual or small group): 20%
- Oral Assessment 1: 10%
- Oral Assessment 2: 15%

**Participation and preparation**: Students will need to bring the textbook to every class and are expected to attend all lectures and to complete all assigned readings and drills before coming to class. Participation is assessed on the basis of day-to-day preparation (i.e., completion of assigned readings) and preparation for active participation in class discussions, group work and in-class activities.

**Role plays**: Students will be divided into groups of 3/4 and will engage in role playing activities based on topics explored in class.
**Quizzes**: 5 short vocabulary quizzes will be administered on selected dates, based on specific readings covered by the syllabus.

**Presentations**: Students will deliver two individual or small group presentations on a topic related to the course, i.e. to Italy and the Italian culture. The presentations will have to expand on the topic and will require some research. All presentations will be followed by a discussion moderated by the presenter. The class will be expected to respond actively and students presenting are expected to facilitate and encourage their classmates to participate.

**Oral assessments**: Individual oral assessment with the instructor will be held approximately one month after the beginning of classes (OA 1), and at the end of the course (OA 2). Feedback on strong and weak points will be provided.

**Absences**: Students must provide medical documentation in order to write make-up quizzes or to be permitted to reschedule their oral presentations, assessments or role plays.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available [here](#). It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.