

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
WINTER 2022

Italian 2220B: Italian Conversation
Italian 3320B: Advanced Italian Conversations

Instructor: Dr. Cristina Caracchini (ccaracch@uwo.ca)

Classes: Tuesday 3:30-3:30, Thursday 3:30-5:30; STVH-3101



Course Content

A selection of guided conversations in Italian dealing with a range of issues relating to 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.

Please note: in this course second-year and upper-year Italian students will share one and the same classroom. They will interact in Italian and learn from each other under their instructor's guidance. While the course content will be the same, course aims and learning outcomes will differ, i.e. they will reflect the students' different levels of proficiency in Italian.

The course aims to:

Course Aims for Italian 2220B

- *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 relating to Italy through different sources (short readings, websites, videos, music etc.)*
- *Provide a solid foundation for advanced courses in the target language*

Course Aims for Italian 3320B

- *Strengthen and refine oral fluency through guided conversations and presentations in Italian*

- *Enrich students' vocabulary and verbal expressiveness in a way that will benefit both general conversation and discussion of specific topics*
- *Enhance students' familiarity with a variety of current issues relating to Italy through different sources (short readings, websites, videos, music etc.)*

Learning Outcomes for Italian 2220B

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*
- *Have a broader passive and active vocabulary*
- *Be able to express opinions and doubt, as well as agreement and disagreement*
- *Be able to give meaningful oral presentations using only a list of key words*
- *Have a broader cultural awareness of some current issues relating to Italy*

Learning Outcomes for Italian 3320B

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

- *Communicate with a greater degree of verbal competence in the target language*
- *Have a sound awareness of the different language registers in Italian*
- *Be able to advance and defend a position on relatively complex topics*
- *Be able to improvise short oral presentations using only a list of key words*
- *Demonstrate critical understanding of some current issues relating to Italy*

Contact Hours

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

We will be regularly using audio/visual material available on the web.

Evaluation

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| • Active participation and preparation | 20% |
| • Vocabulary quizzes | 20% |
| • Role plays | 20% |
| • Oral/Aural Assessments | 30% |

Participation and preparation

Students will need to bring the required course material to every class and are expected to attend all lectures and to complete all assigned readings. This is a CONVERSATION class, so there is no such thing as passive participation. Expanding and strengthening oral communication skills requires active participation, which is assessed on the basis of day-to-day preparation (i.e., completion of assigned readings) and involvement in all in-class activities (discussions, group work, etc.).

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.