

**Duke Ellington School of the Arts**  
**World Languages Department**  
**Italian I - Course Syllabus**  
**SY 2009-10**

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Credit: 1 Carnegie Unit

**Room:** 1  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will be organized around the basic oral, reading and written skills needed by students to communicate with Italian native speakers. Mastery of sounds and intonation patterns is achieved through speaking and intensive conversation practice. Basic grammatical structures are studied and basic functional vocabulary is developed in context. Elementary passages are read for comprehension, and writing is limited basically to the construction of sentences utilizing learned grammar and vocabulary. The history and culture of Italy are studied. The expected level of proficiency is novice-novice high.

**COURSE GOALS:**

This course will...

- Build intellectual growth through the study of the Italian language and the cultures that it represents.
- Help students develop multicultural understanding within the context of the Italian language and cultures.
- Facilitate communication in Italian within the parameters of the basic vocabulary, topics, situations and skills for at least level 1.
- Prepare students to compete, participate, and cooperate in a multilingual world.
- Allow students to identify and demonstrate knowledge of career opportunities enhanced by the ability to communicate in the Italian language.

Also, students will...

- Respond to and give oral directions and commands and make routine requests in the classroom and in public places;
- Understand and use appropriate forms of address in courtesy expressions and be able to tell about daily routines and events;
- Ask and answer simple questions and participate in brief guided conversations related to their needs and interests;
- Read isolated words and phrases in a situational context, such as menus, signs, and schedules;
- Comprehend brief written directions and information;
- Read short narrative texts and poems on simple topics; and

- Write familiar words and phrases in appropriate contexts and respond in writing to various stimuli.
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Additionally, students will learn:

- About nonverbal communication, such as gestures and body language;
- About the use of circumlocution to express themselves with a limited vocabulary;
- About awareness of current events in the culture;
- The major holidays and geographical features of the countries being studied;
- Greeting and leave taking behaviors in a variety of social situations;
- The appropriate way to respond to introductions and use courtesy behaviors; and
- Appropriate etiquette in a variety of social settings.

**CONTENT STANDARDS:** The course is organized to comply with the DCPS World Languages' standards. These new standards are organized to provide students with a high level of content specific literacy necessary to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Their breadth and flexibility create an excellent opportunity for making education relevant to the student while allowing for a general training of his mind.

These standards are grouped under five strands and seven sub-strands:

**1. Communication**

- Person to Person Communication
- Listen and Read for Understanding and Enjoyment
- Make Oral and Written Presentations

**2. Cultures**

- Cultural Perspectives, Practices and Products

**3. Connections**

- Connections with Other Disciplines through Languages

**4. Comparisons**

- Make Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons

**5. Communities**

- Communicate across Communities

**TOPICS USED TO MAXIMIZE VOCABULARY AND CULTURE:**

The following theme, topics and related sub-topics will be emphasized to maximize the acquisition of vocabulary and the appropriate use of grammatical structures.

**Theme:** My World

**Topics/Subtopics:**

**1. Myself**

- names and surnames / age / address and phone numbers
- greetings / leave takings / introductions / courtesy expressions
- body parts / physical descriptions / character traits
- clothes / colors / common fabrics / common patterns

- basic weather conditions
- family members / common family pets

## 2. My School Life and Leisure

- school building / school personnel / classroom objects / school subjects / schedules
- outdoor activities / indoor activities / popular sports
- months and seasons / common weather conditions / weather according to seasons / weather and sports, leisure and clothing
- healthy meals / fruits and vegetables / drinks / meats and fish / meal schedules
- birthdays / graduations / Christmas (religious) / Carnivals, festivals

## 3. My Home and Daily Living

- rooms / outside the house / furniture and objects / basic appliances
- common family activities / basic grooming / basic household chores

## 4. Places in My Community

- public and private buildings / streets, avenues, and promenades
- main means of transport
- activities in my community / where to go in the community / when to go, schedules of places and events
- booking a flight, hotel reservations, weather forecast, packing, cultural activities, souvenirs, currency exchange

## GRAMMAR

Students will be introduced to the level 1 grammar specifications endorsed by the American Association of Teachers of Italian in the context of selected readings.

*Emphasis will be placed on identifying the parts of speech before presenting to students the grammatical structures of the French language.*

## MATERIALS TO BRING TO CLASS EVERY TIME

- any photocopy distributed in class
- a separate composition book or a notebook for this course
- a folder to collect any corrected homework and photocopies (if you do not or cannot put them in the binder)
- two pens, or two pencils, or a pen and a pencil
- 3x5 note cards. These will be used to make flashcards of the vocabulary learnt in class
- a pocket dictionary and a verb book (strongly recommended)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS: every student will be required

- to maintain a composition book or a notebook to write notes during class (because of the nature of the DCPS curriculum, students will not be assigned a textbook. The teacher will provide all necessary handouts necessary to the class)
- to maintain a binder into which all papers will be placed to record achievement and for future reference. Never turn in work on paper torn from a spiral notebook. It will not be accepted

- to do all written work in pencil or pen with blue or black ink. NO other colors will be accepted (only exception: creative activities or personal note-taking)
- to bring materials to each class, unless otherwise specified
- to attend classes on a regular basis and to arrive in class on time
- to participate fully in all classroom activities
- to display behavior that enables the student and his/her classmates to learn. Respect is expected of all students. Students will treat each other with respect and consideration at all times. Cell phones, iPods, MP3s, pagers, hats, sunglasses, gum, food and drinks (with exception of water) are not allowed. Fundraising activities like selling candy- and other items- is unacceptable. All electronic devices have to be tucked away in a bag or backpack, or even better they have to be left in the lockers
- to turn in all homework assignments on time in order to be prepared for the next stage of learning and in order to alert the teacher when extra help is needed. The homework assignments will be printed on a paper placed on one of the classroom walls. If a student misses a class, for whatever reason, it is his his/her responsibility to make up all missed assignments. The assignments will be due within one week after the student's return to class. Homework due on the day of the absence will be checked immediately upon the return to class. Homework prepared during the lessons will not be accepted.  
As a general rule, homework is due when the teacher asks for it; overdue homework will be corrected, but will receive no credit

I also want to remind students that the classroom is to be considered a learning environment at all times. Sleeping, chatting, passing notes, reading of any material not related to the lesson, doing homework, combing or brushing one's hair, walking around the classroom, dancing, applying make up, shouting, going out of the classroom without the teacher's approval, etc., are all unacceptable behaviors, which will have to be disciplined first by a verbal warning, then by a written warning, then by contacting the parent/guardian and finally by scheduling a parent conference.

### **GRADE DISTRIBUTION/SCALE AND GRADING POLICY:**

Classroom participation will impact students' grade percentage dramatically (see course requirements above). Grades will be recorded to reflect the grading scale in the Community Handbook.

The grade percentage will be distributed as follows:

- Tests and quizzes will constitute **40%** of the grade
- Homework, projects will be worth **25%** of the grade
- Classroom participation (which is affected in part by attendance and classroom behavior) will constitute **25%** of the grade
- Composition book and binder will be worth **10%** of the grade

Note: in order to receive a top score the composition book and the binder will have to be maintained in an orderly way and will have to contain all the distributed materials, the notes, the class assignments, and the corrected homework

Grades will be lowered for unexcused tardiness and absences.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Learning is a team effort involving the teacher, the student, and the parents/guardians. Each member of the team has a part to play. In particular, the student's role is to come to class prepared to learn each day. Being ready includes - studying the material covered, looking over notes, doing homework, having appropriate supplies for class, and having a learning attitude.

If you start to get behind in your studies, try to catch up by asking questions! Start with your classmates, those who have figured out the topic are often your best resource. If no one can help you, I will be available for help during lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays, provided that you inform me about your needs and that you show up punctual.

### **PARENTAL ROLE:**

As stated above, learning is a team effort. The parents/guardians have a crucial role in this team. Give your child support by providing a consistent, quiet time and a place to study. This will help your student succeed.

Your child will have homework from me almost every time. In the event that your child will be absent from class, please notify me as soon as possible. If I am given enough warning, I will try to have assignments ready.

Encourage your student to always do his/her best. A foreign language might be a challenge for some kids. I understand and recognize this, but hard work and a willingness to learn will make this a good year for all of us.