Introduction: Welcome! We are glad that you have chosen to continue to study Italian with us. Italian is spoken in Italy and also in Switzerland, parts of Africa, the Balkans, and the island of Malta. It is also the fourth foreign language most spoken in U.S. homes, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Knowledge of Italian is important for people in business, the arts, technology and many professions. It is useful for college students planning careers in art history, music, linguistics, education and international relations.

Course and Program Goals: Learning a foreign language is one of the most enriching experiences in anybody’s education. It entails exploring a way of life, a different culture and the traditions of another country. The goal of Second Year Italian is to further improve your ability to understand/speak everyday Italian, to increase writing skills and develop the ability to read a variety of informal, formal and literary texts, to increase cultural knowledge about Italian culture. Special focus is given to communicating about yourself and others, places, interests and activities and to speaking. Speaking competency is just as important as learning about the Italian language. In particular the goals of the first term include a general review to facilitate getting back into the swing of Italian. We will then cover chapter 10 (future, impersonal structure, feminine nouns), chapter 11 (double pronouns, ne, ci, and informal imperatives), chapter 12 (indefinite adjectives and pronouns, negative expressions and formal imperatives). The themes include vacations and holidays in Italy, shopping (where to buy what in Italy), looking for and describing houses.

Required Materials:
- *Prego! An invitation to Italian, Sixth Edition*. This is the newest edition and is available at the PSU bookstore. The package includes the Textbook, Workbook Manual, Lab Manual and an access number to enter the publisher's website. Here you will find the Audio material as well as several resources and activities. The listening material is also available at the foreign languages computer lab. A small dictionary is also included in the package.
- *Reading Packet* available at Smart Copy, 1915 SW 6th Ave. It contains the Answer Keys for the workbook and some supplementary material to be used in class.

Optional Materials: *Adorni e Primorak, English Grammar for students of Italian*
Online dictionary: [www.garzantilinguistica.it](http://www.garzantilinguistica.it)
A good medium sized English-Italian dictionary.

Final Grade Scale:
- A 100-94
- A- 93-90
- B+ 89-87
- B 86-84
- B- 83-80
- C+ 79-77
- C 76-74
- C- 73-70
- D+ 69-67
- D 66-64
- D- 63-60
- F 59-0

[This syllabus is representative of the course content and is subject to change.]
Grading:
Attendance and Participation and Preparation (includes homework)  25%
Exams  30%
Presentation  15%
Writing activities  10%
Final Project- Skit (on the last day of class)  20%

Evaluation and grading criteria:
Attendance: Attendance is very important for the continuity of class activities and it is mandatory. Absences are recorded each day. The following scale will be used to calculate your attendance grade:
0-2 absences > A  3-4 absences> B  5-6 > absences C  7 absences D  8 absences F
If you miss more than seven days you will fail the class.

Exceptions to this scale may be made for extreme, unforeseen circumstances only at the instructor’s discretion. Consistently late arrival or early departure may affect your attendance grade, at your instructor’s discretion. Arriving late is impolite and disruptive. Please make every effort to arrive on time.

Participation: Active and willing participation in classroom activities is essential to your success in this course. The participation grade is based on the quantity and quality of your participation, where quality is determined by active, on task participation in group activities, by coming to class with homework prepared, by volunteering, by being prepared when called on, etc. Feel free to discuss your participation grade with your instructor at any time during the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Volunteers regularly, always prepared with homework, demonstrates familiarity with the vocabulary, tries to express him/herself as accurately as possible, is on task with group activities. Never uses English in discussion, responds fully, elaborates on answers, elicit discussion from partners by asking pertinent questions, is respectful and attentive to others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Sometimes volunteers, usually prepared when called on, usually on task with group activities, is familiar with part of the vocabulary, pays some attention to accuracy. Communicates insufficiently in some discussion contexts, frequently uses English with and without instructor permission. Gives short answers, has difficulty elaborating when requested, is respectful.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Almost never volunteers, sometimes prepared when called on, seldom on task with group activities, is familiar with only a few vocabulary terms, rarely pays attention to accuracy. The student communicates insufficiently in most or all discussion contexts; responds to contextual questions with isolated words or silence; is tardy, speaks mostly English in class, makes mostly errors with regard to material covered; is disrespectful to others or inattentive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Never volunteers, seldom prepares homework, does not stay on task in group activities, is not familiar with vocabulary, pays little attention to accuracy. The student is unable to communicate in most or all discussion contexts, is often absent and disrespectful to others.</td>
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Exams: There will be 2 in class exams plus a final exam. No make-ups.
Presentation: You will be able to demonstrate your ability in Italian in a 10 minute presentation about some aspects of Italian life or culture (food, art, architecture, holidays, music, literature, etc) based on one of the Italian regions. No draft of this presentation is
required, it will be just an opportunity to speak to the class about something that truly interests you and/or you are very passionate.

**Preparation:** Classroom activities and exams are based on the assumption that you are doing the assignments in the text, workbook and in any additional material provided during the course. Students should assign themselves a participation grade using the Self Evaluation of Participation form provided and leave it with the instructor every 3 weeks. The instructor will confirm the grades. This will help the students understand their instructor's expectations.

**Homework:** There will be assigned daily exercises in your textbook or in the workbook. Exercises in the workbook provided with solutions or the exercises corrected in class will not be corrected.

**Workbook:** Exercises and activities will need to be corrected by using the answer keys in the packet. Make corrections as you go along. Mark the mistakes with a pen of a different color so when reviewing you will immediately notice your mistakes. The workbooks will be checked and returned to the students on exam days.

**Writing Activities:** Compositions and writing activities will be assigned during the term. Two of them will be graded both on content and form. The material in your Reading packet as well as the part called “Un po' di scrittura” in the workbook will be utilized as writing activities. Evaluation criteria used will be provided.

**Final Project/Skits:** On the LAST DAY of class. Groups may have from 2 to 4 persons. You will write and perform a brief skit (5-10 minutes) of your choice. No particular structure is expected. Topics are open to student interests. Just follow your heart and have fun! Grades are assigned using the Participation criteria listed above.

**Oral Exam:** An oral exam will take place during the final exam period indicated in the Schedule of Classes. The topics will be similar to the ones discussed in class and will be given in advance. You might be required to do the exam individually or in pairs. The exam is graded for extension, content, vocabulary, accuracy, grammar, pronunciation and

**Dropping the course:**
We are glad to have you in First Year Italian. If you decide to stop attending class or are unable to continue in the course, please submit a drop form to the Office of the Registrar to avoid receiving a letter grade for the course. The Registrar will not allow us to submit this form for you.

**Accommodation:**
If you need an accommodation please inform your instructor immediately. You will need to document your disability with the Disability Resource Center (Smith Hall 425, (503) 725-4150) in order to request support services where appropriate. Your instructor cannot accommodate your needs if you do not inform the Disability Resource center well in advance.

*In bocca al lupo!*

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