

Italian I Class Description

Italian I is an introductory course designed for students who have never before studied Italian or for those who may have previously studied some Italian but not used it for many years. We will start from the very beginning assuming no previous knowledge of the language. Through active participation in class and at-home review and assignments this class provides students with the foundations of the Italian language.

Textbook: Prego! An Invitation to Italian (6th edition, McGraw Hill, ISBN 0072561319)
We will cover the essential building blocks of Italian grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary (through chapter 4 of the book), including the following:

Grammatical Concepts:

Alphabet and pronunciation
Use of genders and singular/plural
Definite and indefinite articles (the/a)
Basic sentence and question formation
Adjectives: agreement and placement
Present tense verbs: regular and irregular
The expressions c'è and ci sono (there is/there are)
Possessive adjectives (my, your, his, her etc)
Demonstrative adjectives (this, that, these, those)
Direct object pronouns

Vocabulary themes will include:

Greetings and salutations
Numbers
Basic conversational phrases
Food and beverages
Day, date, seasons
Places
Asking for and giving directions
Descriptive adjectives/colors
Family
Weather
Time
Pastimes/hobbies

Italian II Class Description

Italian II is the second Italian grammar class and will pick up where Italian I left off. Prerequisite is Italian I or equivalent knowledge. Students should be familiar with: basic pronunciation, gender and plural formation, agreement including articles and adjectives, present tense verbs both regular and irregular, basic sentence and question formation. You should be able to hold a basic conversation in the present tense. We will spend the first several weeks of class reviewing.

Textbook: Prego! An Invitation to Italian (6th edition, McGraw Hill, ISBN 0072561319)
We will continue building our knowledge with new grammatical concepts and vocabulary covering chapters 5-8 of the text book.

Grammatical Concepts:

Past tenses: passato prossimo, imperfetto and trapassato
Articulated prepositions (preposition + article contractions)
Indirect Object Pronouns
Agreement with direct object pronouns and the passato prossimo
The verb piacere
Reflexive and reciprocal verbs
'Have been verbing' time expression
Adverbs

Vocabulary themes will include:

Pastimes/hobbies
Food/Restaurant
Clothing
Larger numbers
Mass media

Italian 3 Class Description

Students will be introduced to the future tense and the imperative mood. Other grammatical points will include the comparison, the superlative, indefinite adjectives, the use of ne and ci, indefinite pronouns, and the impersonal si. Vocabulary themes will be body parts, vacation, shopping, and housing.

The typical Italian 3 student has completed Italian 1 and 2, has a working vocabulary of hundreds of words, can form simple sentences in the present, past and imperfect tenses, and can answer questions in a controlled setting, using memorized expressions.

Italian 4 Class Description

Students will be introduced to the conditional and conditional past tenses, and the three tenses of the subjunctive mood. Other grammatical points will include relative pronouns and the special use of *volerci* and *metterci*. Vocabulary themes will be the environment, the performing arts, social issues, and the workplace.

The typical Italian 4 student has completed Italian 3, is able to participate in simple dialogue, and can generate questions in the target language recognizable by a native speaker.

Italian 5 Class Description

Members taking this course should have completed Italian 3 or 4, or be taking Italian 3 simultaneously. We will focus our discussion on level-appropriate selected topics to be prepared before class or discussed spontaneously. Grammar may be reviewed and emphasized as required by the context. Communication exclusively in Italian will be encouraged. Regular reading of Italian newspapers, magazines and general Italian culture via internet is highly recommended to fuel discussions.

Italian 6 Class Description

Members taking this course should have completed Italian 3 or 4, or be taking Italian 4 simultaneously. Students must feel comfortable carrying on a complex conversation, with a firm foundation in advanced grammatical construction. Communication exclusively in Italian will be encouraged. The main goal of this course is to maintain and improve the members' fluency and competence in speaking and understanding Italian. A literary text will be assigned as preparation for class, with emphasis on reading aloud and spontaneous analysis and discussions regarding the text and related topics.