

## ITA 3420: Grammar & Composition (Fall 2020)



Dr. Colarossi, Alessia

Synchronous class meetings on Zoom (through Canvas): T period 4, R period 4-5

Virtual Office Hours on Zoom: Mondays and Wednesdays 3-3:50pm & by appt.

Email: [acolarossi@ufl.edu](mailto:acolarossi@ufl.edu) (Please allow up to 24 hours for responses, not available after 4pm and on weekends) Please do not email through Canvas

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:** This intensive language course is designed for students who wish to further their writing and comprehension skills in Italian. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring knowledge of a more advanced or sophisticated grammatical apparatus and vocabulary through the readings. Students will be given the opportunity to recognize and ultimately employ a variety of written styles and appropriate grammatical forms in Italian. This course provides a study of intermediate/intermediate-high level grammar and encourages students to use grammatical concepts and new vocabulary in an active manner. During the learning process, students will be asked to complete exercises on grammar, take exams on grammar, and write compositions on a variety of subjects connected with the written styles of the readings and online resources provided. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify, and appropriately use, the advanced grammar and written styles studied in the course.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Identify grammatical structures
- Summarize the use of grammatical structures
- Make use of grammatical structures
- Recognize different writing styles
- Explain the general characteristics of the writing styles
- Practice with the different writing styles

**Prerequisite:** ITA 2221 (Intermediate Italian II) or equivalent.

**This course material and class is in Italian, and it has a substantial amount of writing.**

### **Required Materials:**

- Textbook for the course: Susanna Nocchi, *Nuova grammatica pratica della lingua italiana*, Alma, Edizione aggiornata, 2012.
- E-Course pack (readings). Available on Canvas.
- Dictionary (Italian-English, English-Italian)

## Course Requirements:

### Attendance and participation (Zoom synchronous class meetings) (15%)

Perfect attendance is expected. Roll will be taken each time class meets synchronously.

Please access the **Zoom Netiquette** doc on the first module on Canvas for details/rules to follow.

Joining the meeting late or leaving early will be taken into consideration and lower your participation grade. An absence is considered *excused* if there is an *acceptable reason* according to UF policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of an excused absence and to provide documentation. Otherwise, the absence will be considered *unexcused* and students will receive no points (0).

**\*\*If you are absent it is your responsibility to be prepared for the next class meeting and find out, by contacting a classmate (not the Professor) what was covered synchronously, assigned eventually for the next meeting, and get any pertinent notes; in addition to follow the weekly syllabus posted on Canvas.**

Make sure to keep in contact with your support group (which will be assigned by the prof during the first week). It is strongly advised to exchange phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses to connect outside of Canvas as well.

**Participation:** This course involves also in-class work, practice, and interaction with peers and professor. Individual preparation and participation are crucial to group success. If you are not ready to contribute to written activities, interact in Italian, volunteer, pay attention to material discussed during meetings, then you are not prepared for class. The success of the class depends on the enthusiastic participation of each member. You should remain exclusively focused on classwork for the duration of the class meeting. There is no make-up for participation.

**\*\*The use of cell phones and other electronic devices (with the exception, of course, of your computer) during class on Zoom is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by your professor. Phones must be silenced and put away to avoid any distractions during the virtual meeting. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a greatly reduced participation grade.**

**Preparation.** You should complete the reading(s), learn about the writing styles, study grammar (such as searching for new vocabulary terms at home, understanding what the content is about, recognizing grammatical structures, studying new verbs and conjugations), and be ready to discuss them. Active reading requires writing—so be sure to mark your text and take notes. Reading homework also includes preparation of grammatical structures (on the textbook and on the resources provided weekly) to be practiced and discussed during class meetings.

**About the different resources provided for each week.** You are expected to access them to learn about the styles studied in this course, about grammar (to look at additional explanations different from the ones in the book), and to have additional practice/test their knowledge. The exercises/activities contained in those websites are not required and due but it is crucial to complete them for practice, review and full understanding of how to use the different grammar structures or tenses.

**About the textbook.** The textbook for this course is completely in Italian and it is published by a company which is the leading publisher of Italian learning and teaching materials. Students will benefit from using it. This book does a great job in efficiently explaining grammar and in providing hands on practice. Students will be able to also use this textbook to review grammar points studied in the past which are in need to be (re)studied, reviewed or practiced. It will be normal and part of the learning process for students to experience difficulty in some cases. Thus, students need to familiarize themselves with the structure of this book, and use the dictionary every time they are in doubt of the meaning of a word/sentence. However, very soon they will be accustomed with this engaging approach for reviewing and learning the new grammar covered in this course.

**Homework** (15%). Due assignments will include the completion of grammar exercises contained in the textbook and others posted and specified as due/graded by the professor. Exercises must be completed to practice and reinforce the grammar studied. Exercises **will not be accepted without corrections and/or late**. In order to submit the exercises, you are required to create a separate Word document and do the following (same instructions will be found on Canvas for each assignment):

1. Include precisely the title, number of the exercise, and the textbook page number. Type your answers. It is your responsibility to learn how to type Italian accents when required. You do not need to rewrite the entire exercise.
2. Check your answers with the answer key (found in the last pages of the book).
3. Show your corrections underlining your mistakes/errors and typing the correct answer in a different color (or highlight the corrections).
4. Make sure the exercises are in order (numbers and pages) before submitting.

Exercises not following all of the above will not be accepted.

**\*\*No late work will be accepted.** In general, **all online assignments must be completed by their assigned deadlines.**

**Compositions** (30%). During the semester, you will write five compositions to practice the writing styles and grammar.

**\*\*You are required to** use a Word doc and the following format: double-space, Times New Roman font 12 or 14. It is your responsibility to learn how to type Italian accents when required. Please double check the format for accuracy and proofread before submitting.

**The use of Google translate (and any other translation/grammar checking program) is strictly prohibited, in class and for assignments/assessments.**

Your compositions must be entirely your own work. In other words, translating, copying and pasting from internet sources as well as any other form of plagiarism will earn you an E for the entire course. You must not contact an Italian speaking relative/friend or others in order to avail of their assistance with your homework as this is cheating.

**Exams** (40%). During the semester, you will take four exams proctored by Honorlock. Exams will be scheduled during regular class periods (there will be no synchronous meeting on exam days and you will have the entire 50 minutes to complete the timed exam on Canvas). Exams can only be taken once. These exams will be assessing grammar. Grammar points tested in each exam are provided in the weekly syllabus.

A weekly course schedule of topics and assignments is available on Canvas (Modules and Course summary-Syllabus tab)

## Final Grade

- Attendance/participation in synchronous class meetings 15%
- Homework (textbook exercises and others assigned by the prof.) 15%
- 5 Compositions 30%
- 4 Exams 40%

**\*\*No extra credits will be given in this course, please do not ask for them.**

## Grading Scale:

A 100-93	B 86-83	C 76-73 (S)	D 63-66
A- 92-90	B- 82-80	C- 72-70 (U)	D- 62-60
B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67	E 59-

**S/U option.** Students that elect this option must earn a grade of “**C**” (73) or better in order to receive an “S”.

## Communication (generally speaking)

- Primarily during synchronous meetings, important information will be given/reminded and questions will be answered at the end of each class.
- One-on-one via Zoom during office hours or by appointment. Scheduled appointments are recommended.
- Via email (through UF email not Canvas). See beginning of syllabus with Prof. info for details/time. Do not e-mail about general course questions. If you have a question about the course, first read the syllabus and all other docs posted very carefully. Contact your classmates if in need to double check about something. NOTE: e-mails and questions regarding material that is already contained in Canvas/MIL will not be answered.

## Feedback

- Ongoing oral constructive feedback on general issues will be provided during class meetings.
- Written and audio constructive feedback will be provided for assessments. Please allow up to one week (max) for results.
- Feedback one-on-one will be offered during office hours.

- Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of their support group for additional feedback together with self-reflections on their performance.

**Make-up Policy.** If a student cannot take an exam due to a documented serious emergency, official written proof of the circumstances must be presented to the professor. Medical excuses must be on a physician's letterhead, must include a statement that says that the student "could not complete coursework", as well as the inclusive dates on which the student was unable to complete assignments. If documentation is satisfactory, the instructor will arrange the make-up.

**Academic Honesty.** Students are expected to follow University of Florida Student Honor Code, which can be found at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. The Honor Pledge states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code." On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "**On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.**"

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. For specific information on violations of the honor code, please refer to the aforementioned website. **Violations of the honor code will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.**

**Netiquette Communication Politeness:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common politeness in all email messages, discussions, meetings and tasks. Please see details in the general doc called Netiquette posted on the first module on Canvas.

**Accommodations.** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to be given to the instructor by the student who is requesting accommodation.

**Counseling and Wellness.** A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> or reached by phone at 392-1575. Please see also U Matter, We Care: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/> The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**Course Evaluations.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available

at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.