

ITA 3420: Grammar & Composition (Fall 2016)



Dr. Colarossi, Alessia

Meetings: T period 4 -Matherly #116, R period 4 and 5 -Flint #121
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Course Description: This grammar and composition 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. Students will be given the opportunity to identify and ultimately employ a broad variety of written styles and appropriate grammatical forms in Italian, ranging, for example, from a formal literary register to a dialectal model of narrative, from a journalistic register to the anti-traditional Italian which characterizes youth culture. 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. 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.

This course material and class is in Italian, and it has a substantial reading and writing component.

Required Materials:

- Textbook for the course: Susanna Nocchi, *Nuova grammatica pratica della lingua italiana*, Alma, Edizione aggiornata, 2012.
- E-Course pack (readings) to be printed and brought to class.
- Dictionary (Italian-English, English-Italian).

Course Requirements:

Attendance. Your perfect attendance is expected. Roll will be taken on a daily basis.

Late arrivals and early departures 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>). Acceptable reasons include documented medical illness, religious holidays, military obligation, serious family emergencies, and the twelve-day rule. 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 a **0** for that day (total points per week =12).

**If you are absent it is *your* responsibility to find out, by contacting a classmate (not the Professor) what was covered in class, assigned as homework, and get any pertinent notes.

Take a few minutes during the first days of class to exchange phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses with at least three other students.

Class participation. Since this course involves also in-class work and discussion, individual preparation and participation are crucial to group success. If you are not ready to speak/volunteer, listen, agree/disagree when you come to class, then you are not prepared for class. The success of the class depends on the enthusiastic participation of each and every member. There is no make-up for participation.

**The use of cell phones and all other electronic devices during class is prohibited unless otherwise indicated by your instructor. Phones must be silenced and put away in your bags while in the classroom. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a greatly reduced participation grade.

Preparedness. You should complete the reading/study grammar by the assigned class period (searching for new vocabulary terms at home, understanding what the content is about, recognizing grammatical structures, verbs, and etcetera) and be ready to discuss it. 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 online sources provided) to be studied and discussed during class meetings.

About the online resources (websites) provided. Students need 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 on grammar. Although the exercises/activities contained in those websites are not required and due, it is strongly advised to complete them for practice, review and full understanding of how to use the different grammar structures or tenses.

Homework. Due assignments will include the completion of grammar exercises contained in the textbook and of those given and specified as due by the Professor. Exercises must be completed for each grammatical structure to practice and reinforce the rules studied. **Assignments will not be accepted without corrections and/or late.** Students are required do the following on a separate sheet of paper to be turned in to the Professor:

1. Write precisely the title, number of the exercise, and the textbook page number. Write your answers. 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 rewriting the correct answer.
4. If you have more than 1 page, please staple the pages and put them in order.

Compositions. During the semester you will write 6 compositions of at least 200 words (double-spaced). While five of them are a take-home assignment, the last composition is in class. Your compositions should be entirely your own work. Secondary sources, whether textual or internet based, must be adequately acknowledged. Copying and pasting from internet sources as well as any 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, students using outside assistance will receive an E for the compositions in question. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STUDENTS USE ON-LINE TRANSLATION PROGRAMS.**

In-class Exams (40%). During the semester you will take four in-class exams. These exams will be assessing grammar.

Final Grade

- Class participation/attendance 15%
- Homework preparation 15%
- 6 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 A- 92-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-73
 C- 72-70 D+ 69-67 D 63-66 D- 62-60 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”.

Make-up Policy. If a student cannot take an exam due to a documented emergency, written proof of the circumstances must be presented to the instructor on the day the student returns to class. Medical excuses must be on a physician’s letterhead, must include a statement that says that the student “could not attend class”, and must state the dates on which the student could not attend. A receipt from a visit to a physician is not acceptable. If documentation is satisfactory, the instructor will arrange a time and date for the make-up.

Academic Honesty. Students are expected to follow University of Florida Student Honor Code, which can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

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.**

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 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. Course evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations/ufl.edu>. They will open at the end of the semester. Students will be notified of the opening and closing of the evaluation period.

Course Content. A detailed weekly syllabus will be sent separately by the Professor.