

**ITA 3564 Spring 2019**  
**(Contemporary Italian Culture)**  
**CONTEMPORARY TOPICS IN CONVERSATION**



Dr. Colarossi, Alessia

Meetings: **T** period 7 & **R** periods 7-8 DAU 342

Office: DAU 253

Office Hours: M period 6, W period 4 & by app.

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**Course Description and Objectives:** This course material and class is in Italian. This course explores a sampling of social and cultural questions facing contemporary Italian society. Topics such as millennial identity, social media, multiculturalism, and environmentalism, among others, will be explored through a selection of readings and viewings. The central focus of this course will be oral production. Accordingly, the assignments include several presentations and the expectation is that students will participate actively in class discussions. Thus, while there will also be written assignments, the ultimate goal is for students to refine their oral skills working on the tone and register of language in cultural contexts.

**Course materials:** All materials will be available via Canvas.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. Attendance & Class Participation (25%):**

**Attendance & Makeup Policy:** Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by roll call.

Late arrivals and early departures will be taken into consideration and lower your grade. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for each unexcused absence. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

**\*\*Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself (by contacting a classmate, not the professor) about the content covered and assigned and for coming back to class prepared. Take a few minutes during the first week of class to exchange your phone number and/or e-mail address with two or three other students.**

Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed exams/assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence.

**Class Participation:** For obvious reasons, participation is a crucial component of a conversation class. Accordingly, your participation and attendance is worth 25% of your final grade. When you come to class, you should be ready to speak in Italian, ask questions, and engage with the opinions of your classmates. However, it is absolutely not expected that you deliver your opinions in a sophisticated and always grammatically accurate Italian. It is entirely normal that you make errors of expression or grammar at this stage of your studies. Moreover, class participation is not about having all the right answers. Instead, participation is a question of preparing your homework and being alert and active in class, speaking most importantly! It is about expressing your doubts about our readings as much as it is about sharing your opinions on this or that issue. It is also a matter of listening to your classmates, and

engaging with their opinions. The success of this class, as well as your grade, depends on your willingness to participate to the full. Please do not be shy! There is no make-up for participation. The last page of the syllabus provides a grading rubric for participation.

**2. Questions and reflections (Homework, 20%):** You will be expected to complete and turn in your answers and your reflections for each topic. Due dates can be found in the calendar at the end of this syllabus, homework docs with instructions will be posted on Canvas. You will respond to the questions in Italian and write your reflections in English. Questions will cover issues related to the content of the readings and viewings. You should view this exercise as more of an aid to your reading/viewing rather than a quiz. Your grade will reflect the effort you expend with regard to the assigned reading/viewing and the level of care you take in formulating your answers and writing your reflections. Your answers should be grammatically coherent whether you are writing in Italian or English (only the reflections). More details about this assignment will be given the first week of class.

**3. In class compositions (15%):** Over the course of the semester you will be asked to write three in class compositions of 150-200 words. Please see calendar below for specific dates. Further details will be given in class. Grading rubric available on Canvas.

**\*\*Please notice that your homework and 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, classmate or others in order to avail of their assistance with your homework as this is cheating. Under no circumstances students should use online translation programs.

**4. Confronto interculturale presentations (2) (25%):** During the semester you will, together with a classmate, prepare and deliver **two** presentations. These presentations will provide an American perspective on issues discussed in our readings and viewings. Essentially your presentations will compare and contrast the Italian contemporary topic with how this topic has developed in the United States. Each presentation is worth 12.5 % of your final grade. Presentations will be scheduled during the second week of the semester and start on the third.

**5. Final presentation (15%):** At the end of the semester, you will deliver a presentation on a topic related to one of the issues explored in the readings and viewings. You will select this topic in consultation with me. For your presentation you will be expected to research your topic and you should also prepare a PowerPoint presentation. Grading rubric available on Canvas.

**\*\*Please be aware that your three presentations (total) will have to be on **three different topics.****

**Final Grade:**

- Attendance and participation, 25%
- Questions and reflections (homework), 20%
- In class compositions (3), 15%
- Confronto interculturale presentations (2), 25%
- Final presentation, 15%

There are no extra credits, please do not ask for them.

**Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	63-66	62-60	59-
(4.0)	(3.67)	(3.33)	(3.0)	(2.67)	(2.33)	(2.0)	(1.67)	(1.33)	(1.0)	(0.67)	(0)

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>;  
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to be honest in their coursework. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of assignment and/or course. Students are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources.

**Counseling & Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluations:** Evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, students will be given specific times when they are open.

**COURSE CALENDAR ITA 3564** (*Schedule subject to change over the course of the semester*)

	<b>Topics &amp; Reading/Viewing</b> <i>**With the exception of week 1, assignments must be read/viewed for the Tuesday class</i>	<b>T period 7</b>	<b>R period 7-8</b>
Sett. 1	<b>Argomento 1: I millennials</b> "I Millennials sono pigri, eterni insoddisfatti e social-dipendenti"+ Video	1/8 Introduzione al corso	1/10
Sett. 2	"Millennial, la generazione smarrita: ma di chi è la colpa se non lavorano?" + Video	1/15 <b>Turn in homework topic 1</b>	1/17
Sett.3	<b>Argomento 2: I social network</b> "Bullismo e Cyberbullismo: Cosa fare?" + Video	1/22	1/24 <b>Presentazione 1 (confronto)</b>
Sett. 4	"Social-linguistica. Italiano e italiani dei social network"	1/29	2/31 <b>Composition 1</b>
Sett. 5	"Swipe Society: cosa pensano davvero gli italiani"	2 /5 <b>Turn in homework topic 2</b>	2/7 <b>Presentazione 1 (confronto)</b>
Sett. 6	<b>Argomento 3: La televisione e i programmi televisivi</b> "Nascita della televisione" + Video "La scienza del Grande Fratello" +Video	2/12	2/14

Sett. 7	“L’amore ha i tempi del dating show” + Video	2/19 <b>Turn in homework topic 3</b>	2/21
Sett. 8	<i>Argomento 4: Donna, lavoro e molestie</i> “Donne ancora avanti negli studi ma indietro nel lavoro” “Le molestie e i ricatti sessuali sul lavoro” + Video	2/26 <b>Turn in homework topic 4</b>	2/28 <b>Presentazione 2 (confronto)</b>
Sett. 9	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
Sett. 10	<i>Argomento 5: Società multietnica e razzismo</i> Nuove generazioni. I volti giovani dell’Italia multietnica. (Leggere l’introduzione e guardare i 5 video)	3/12 <b>Composition 2</b>	3/14
Sett. 11	“L’Italia è un paese razzista?” + Video	3/19 <b>Turn in homework topic 5</b>	3/21 <b>Presentazione 2 (confronto)</b>
Sett. 12	<i>Argomento 6: I mezzi di trasporto</i> “Dal carsharing al carpooling” +Video “L’auto è mezzo di trasporto fondamentale” “5 buone ragioni per viaggiare in treno”	3/26 <b>Turn in homework topic 6</b>	3/28
Sett. 13	<i>Argomento 7: Alimentazione e novità</i> “In Italia, il boom del biologico nel 2017 + Video” “Addio carne e pesce” + Video	4/2 <b>Turn in homework topic 7</b>	4/4
Sett. 14	<i>Argomento 8: Ambiente ed ecomafia</i> Video “Biutiful cauntri” (documentario) “La sostenibilità piace agli italiani”	4/9 <b>Turn in homework topic 8</b>	4/11 <b>Composition 3</b>
Sett. 15		4/16 <b>Presentazioni finali</b>	4/18 <b>Presentazioni finali</b>
Sett. 16		4/23 <b>Presentazioni finali</b>	

### PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	<b>A: 90%- 100%</b>	<b>B: 80%-89%</b>	<b>C: 70%-79%</b>	<b>D: 60%-69%</b>	<b>E: 0-59%</b>
Participation and Use Of Italian	<p>Answers and asks questions in every class.</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in all class discussion</p> <p>Remains alert and focused on class discussion</p>	<p>Asks and answers questions in most class meetings.</p> <p>Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion</p>	<p>Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes</p> <p>Occasionally participates in class discussion</p> <p>Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not</p>	<p>Speaks only when called upon by instructor</p> <p>Generally unenthusiastic about class</p> <p>Rarely focused on class activities;</p>	Absent

	<p>Always speaks in Italian when asking questions or working in groups</p> <p>Avoids speaking English in class or asks permission to speak briefly in English</p>	<p>Mostly alert and focused on class discussion</p> <p>Speaks Italian most of the time</p> <p>Occasionally lapses into English, but quickly returns to Italian</p>	<p>Speaks Italian at least half of the time</p> <p>Frequently lapses into English and seems unconcerned or unapologetic about doing so</p>	<p>plays with phone; generally distracted</p> <p>Rarely speaks Italian or uses only a few words</p>	
Preparation	Always comes to class having completed assigned readings and viewings	Completes assigned readings and viewings most of the time	Completes assigned readings and viewings at least half of the time	Only occasionally completes assigned readings and viewings	Absent
Quality of Comments	<p>Comments always insightful &amp; constructive</p> <p>Comments reflect content of assigned homework and also show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework</p>	<p>Comments mostly insightful &amp; constructive</p> <p>Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework, but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.</p>	<p>Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.</p> <p>Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation</p>	<p>Comments superficial, and mostly off topic.</p> <p>No evidence of having prepared readings. Relies on opinion &amp; personal taste, e.g., “mi piace,” “non mi piace.”</p>	Absent
Engagement in group/pair work	<p>Actively participates in group work.</p> <p>Student listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect &amp; build on others’ remarks</p>	<p>Mostly participates in group work</p> <p>Mostly attentive when others speak or present.</p>	<p>Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus on activity</p> <p>Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.</p>	<p>Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work</p> <p>Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.</p>	Absent