

**ITA 3564 Spring 2022**  
**(Contemporary Italian Culture)**  
**Contemporary Topics in Conversation**



Dr. Colarossi, Alessia

Course meets synchronously (Zoom Conferences tab on Canvas): T & R scheduled class periods. All students must join the Zoom sessions with video and audio on.

Virtual office hours: Mondays 3:00-3:50, Wednesdays 10:40-11:30, & by appt. (Office hours will start on week 2). Zoom link for Prof. personal meeting room will be provided via email.

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 Objectives:** This conversation 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, the role of television, among others, will be explored through a selection of readings and viewings. The central focus of this course will be oral production; students will have ample opportunities to expand their Italian vocabulary and to enhance their conversational ability. Therefore, assessments will include several presentations and the expectation is that students will participate actively speaking in Italian in each class meeting, and will be ready to report orally about what they read/view as homework. While there will also be written assignments, the ultimate goal is for students to refine their oral skills through new vocabulary use (and appropriate use of grammatical structures) while also focusing on the tone and register of language in cultural contexts. By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate their growing ability to conduct relatively demanding conversations to express personal ideas and opinions on contemporary issues/topics.

**Required course materials:** All reading/viewing material will be available on Canvas.

Registration and access to Lingua Meeting for small-group conversation sessions with a native speaker coach. Student instructions on how to register will be provided during the second week of classes on first module of Canvas.

**Course structure/ Canvas & Zoom**

- You will be joining the Zoom class meeting via Canvas (Conferences tab). All students must join the Zoom session with video and audio on for the entire class time. No exception. Rules posted on first module on Canvas about attending class on Zoom must be followed. Read carefully the entire Zoom Etiquette doc before joining on the first day.
- You must use a computer (cell phones are not acceptable).
- You must connect from a location with reliable internet access. Video and audio must be clear, no exceptions. No excuse will be given for absences caused by computer related issues.

- You must attend the entire class session. If you disappear, you will be marked absent. If you Zoom in late or leave early will negatively impact your attendance/participation grade.
- You are expected to participate from a quiet, indoor location that is free from distraction. Attending class while riding in a car (alone or with others), working, having meals, hanging out at the pool / beach or participating in any other activities is not acceptable.
- You should remain exclusively focused on classwork for the duration of the class meeting.
- Zoom breakout rooms will be used regularly to allow for pair and small group practice and activities. You must remain on task while in these rooms. The professor will pop in and out to check on progress and provide guidance. You may also call the professor to your room to ask for help.
- Please consult also the Netiquette Guide on the first module for general guidelines for online courses.

## Course components/requirements

### **Attendance, preparation & participation (25%)**

**Attendance:** Perfect attendance is expected. Roll will be taken each time class meets on Zoom.

All students must join the Zoom meeting with video and audio on. Joining the meeting late or leaving early will be taken into consideration and impact your participation grade. If you disappear, you will be marked as absent.

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, assigned eventually for the next meeting, and get any pertinent notes; in addition to follow the weekly module(s) and calendar on Canvas.**

Make sure to keep in contact with at least one or two of your classmates. It is strongly advised to exchange phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses to connect outside of Canvas as well.

**Class Participation:** For obvious reasons, participation is a crucial component of a conversation class. Accordingly, your participation/attendance is worth 25% of your final grade. When you come to class, you should be ready to speak in Italian, volunteer regularly, ask and answer 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. Keep it simple! 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/disagreement about our readings/viewings 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!

In other words, it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Additionally, it is important to demonstrate a positive and supportive attitude to the professor and your classmates.

The last page of the syllabus provides further details on grading criteria for participation.

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 time is prohibited** unless otherwise indicated by your professor. Phones must be silenced

and put away to avoid any distractions. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in a greatly reduced participation grade.

**Homework (20%):** You will be expected to complete written homework related to the topics and content of the readings/viewings. The homework will help you expanding your vocabulary and reflecting on your learning and understanding of the material, in addition to better prepare you to talk in class. You will see homework under assignments on Canvas before the due date, instructions will be included.

You should view this exercise/activity as more of an aid rather than a test. Your grade will reflect the effort you expend with regard to the assigned reading(s)/viewing(s) and the level of care you take in formulating your answers and writing in Italian. Your answers should be grammatically coherent. More details about assignments will be given during class as needed.

**\*\*Please notice that your homework/assignments 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.

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

***Confronto interculturale* presentations in pairs/group (2) (25%):** During the semester you will, together with a classmate, prepare and deliver two presentations. These presentations will provide an American perspective on topics/issues discussed in our readings and viewings related to Italy. Essentially your presentations will compare and contrast the Italian contemporary topic with how this topic has developed in the United States. Presentations will be scheduled during the second week of the semester and start on the third. Presentations will be given during scheduled class time on Zoom as students learning, participation, and feedback are an important component of them. More details and instructions will be given in class and posted on Canvas. Grading rubric for presentations is available at the end of the syllabus.

**Final presentation (15%):** At the end of the semester, you will deliver a presentation on a topic of your interest related to one of the issues explored in the readings and viewings. You will select this topic and let your professor know before starting your preparation (please make sure to plan in advance). For your presentation you will be expected to research your topic to add new information. You will give your presentation in class during the last two weeks of the semester. More details and instructions will be given in class and posted on Canvas. Grading rubric for presentations is available at the end of the syllabus.

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

### **Lingua meeting (15%)**

During the semester you will meet (virtually) and outside of class in small groups to practice speaking with a native-speaker language coach. These sessions (5) will allow you to engage in conversation related to a topic we have already completed. This practice will reinforce recently learned concepts and provide you with the opportunity to participate in authentic language exchanges.

Instructions on how to register and access Lingua Meeting will be provided on the first Module on Canvas.

**Final Grade:**

- Attendance and participation (class meetings) 25%
- Homework 20 %
- Lingua Meeting sessions (5) 15 %
- Confronto interculturale presentations (2) 25%
- Final presentation 15%

\*\*There are **no extra credits** in this course, please do not ask for them.

**Grading Scale:**

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-

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit.

**S/U option:** Students that elect this option must earn a grade of “C” or better in order to receive an “S”. Complete information on current UF policies for assigning grade points is found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

**Communication (generally speaking)**

- Primarily during synchronous meetings, important information will be presented/reviewed, and questions will be answered.
- One-on-one via Zoom during office hours or by appointment.
- 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 will not be answered.

**Feedback**

- Ongoing oral constructive feedback on general issues will be provided during class meetings.
- Written constructive feedback will be provided for assessments. Please allow up to one week for results.
- Feedback one-on-one will be offered during virtual office hours.
- Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of peer collaboration/group work together with self-reflections on their performance for additional feedback.

**Policies**

**Make-up Policy**

If a student misses a presentation due to a documented serious emergency, written proof of the circumstance must be presented to the professor on the same day or the day the student returns to class. Late/retroactive documentation won't be acceptable. 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. Only if documentation is satisfactory, the professor will give the permission to present the first day the student is back to class.

**Academic Honesty:** You are required to abide by the Student Honor Code. Any violation of the academic integrity expected of you will result in a minimum academic sanction of a failing grade on the assignment or assessment. Any alleged violations of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Please review the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code 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."**

**Accommodations:** 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.

**Counseling & Wellness:** A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the [UF Counseling and Wellness Center](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc), 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/](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/>.

## ITA 3564- Weekly Calendar-Overview

*\*\*Schedule/readings subject to change over the course of the semester-please follow/double check on Canvas for changes, additional readings and assignments*

Week	<b>Topics &amp; Reading/Viewing</b> <i>**The material must be read/viewed/completed and prepared <b>before</b> class time</i>  <b>Tuesday period 4 Thursday period 4-5</b>	<b>Homework</b> <i>Please follow instructions/deadline on Canvas</i>	
Sett. 1	1/6 Introduzione al corso, regole e altro importante da sapere Attività: <i>Conosciamo i compagni di classe!</i> Introduzione al primo argomento		
Sett. 2	<b>Argomento 1: I millennials</b> 1/11 “I Millennials sono pigri, eterni insoddisfatti e social-dipendenti”+ video  1/13 “Millennial, la generazione smarrita: ma di chi è la colpa se non lavorano?” + video	Compiti argomento 1	
Sett. 3	<b>Argomento 2: I social network</b> 1/18 “Bullismo/Cyberbullismo” + video. Varie risorse  1/20 <b>Presentazione 1 (confronto USA e Italia)</b>		
Sett. 4	1/25 “Gli Italiani, internet e i social” varie risorse +video  1/27 “La lingua italiana dei social network” + video  <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> <b>Lingua Meeting sessione 1</b>	Compiti argomento 2	
Sett. 5	2/1 TBA  2/3 <b>Presentazione 1 (confronto USA e Italia)</b>	Compiti presentazione	
Sett. 6	<b>Argomento 3: Il ruolo della televisione</b> 2/8 “Nascita della televisione”+ video e varie risorse  2/10 “Uso della televisione” varie risorse	Compiti argomento 3	

	<i>Lingua Meeting sessione 2</i>		
Sett. 7	<p><b>Argomento 4: Donna, lavoro, violenza di genere</b></p> <p>2/15 “Donne e lavoro”+ video e varie risorse</p> <p>2/17 “La violenza di genere e il femminicidio” varie risorse</p> <p><i>Virtual exchange</i> (Incontro virtuale con gli studenti di USP in Brasile)</p>		
Sett. 8	<p>2/22 Ricerca: Le donne e la situazione in USA.</p> <hr/> <p>2/24 <b>Presentazione 2 (confronto USA e Italia)</b></p> <hr/> <p><i>Lingua Meeting sessione 3</i></p>	Compiti argomento 4	
Sett. 9	<p>3/1 <b>Argomento 5: Società multietnica, integrazione e intercultura</b></p> <p>“Nuove generazioni. I volti giovani dell’Italia multietnica” (Leggere l’introduzione e guardare i 5 video) varie risorse</p> <p>3/3 “Storie di integrazione” video</p>		
Sett. 10	<b>Spring Break</b>		
Sett. 11	<p>3/15 “Milano e il signor Hu”</p> <p>3/17 <i>Virtual exchange</i> (Incontro virtuale con gli studenti di USP in Brasile)</p> <hr/> <p><i>Lingua Meeting sessione 4</i></p>	Compiti argomento 5	
Sett. 12	<p>3/22 Ricerca: Storie di immigrati in Florida (o in altri stati)</p> <p>3/24 <b>Presentazione 2 (confronto USA e Italia)</b></p>	Compiti presentazione	
Sett. 13	<p><b>Argomento 6: Alimentazione e novità</b></p> <p>3/29 “Alimentazione e trend” varie risorse</p> <p>3/31 “Produzione e prodotti biologici” varie risorse</p>		

	<i>Virtual exchange</i> (Incontro virtuale con gli studenti di USP in Brasile)		
Sett. 14	<p><b>Argomento 7: Ambiente e inquinamento</b></p> <p>4/5 “L’inquinamento”</p> <p>4/7 “Le microplastiche” video + varie risorse</p> <hr/> <p><i>Lingua Meeting sessione 5</i></p>	Compiti argomento 7	
Sett. 15	<p>4/12 <b>Presentazioni finali</b></p> <p>4/14 <b>Presentazioni finali</b></p>		
Sett. 16	<p>4/19 <b>Presentazioni finali</b> e fine corso</p>		

**\*\*Virtual exchange** Details about this new experience and collaboration in this course will be provided in class by the professor.

**Grading criteria for participation and attendance** (\*\*there is **no make-up** for class participation)

Students are graded weekly for attendance/participation.

- Please remember that missing class on Thursdays will make you lose double the points.

	<b>A: 90%- 100%</b>	<b>B: 80%-89%</b>	<b>C: 70%-79%</b>	<b>D: 60%-69%</b>	<b>E: 0%</b>
Participation and Use of Italian	<p>Participates enthusiastically in class discussion</p> <p>Always speaks in Italian and is always ready to volunteer/talk</p> <p>Remains alert and focused on class discussion</p> <p>Answers and asks questions in every class.</p> <p>Avoids speaking English in class</p>	<p>Participates enthusiastically in most class discussion</p> <p>Speaks Italian most of the time and at times volunteers</p> <p>Mostly alert and focused on class discussion</p> <p>Asks and answers questions in most class meetings.</p> <p>Occasionally lapses into English, but quickly returns to Italian</p>	<p>Occasionally participates in class discussion</p> <p>Speaks Italian at least half of the time and rarely volunteers</p> <p>Frequently distracted, but alert more often than not</p> <p>Ask and answers questions in at least half of the classes</p> <p>Frequently lapses into English and seems unconcerned or unapologetic about doing so</p>	<p>Generally unenthusiastic about class</p> <p>Rarely speaks Italian or uses only a few words</p> <p>Speaks only when called upon by instructor</p> <p>Rarely focused on class activities; plays with phone or engages in non-related class activities; generally distracted</p>	Absent
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	Comments always insightful & constructive  Comments reflect content of assigned homework and also show personal consideration or reflection on questions raised by homework	Comments mostly insightful & constructive  Comments mostly reflect content of assigned homework, but are occasionally too general or not entirely relevant to the discussion.	Comments sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.  Comments not always relevant to discussion and often show no evidence of homework preparation	Comments superficial, and mostly off topic.  No evidence of having prepared readings. Relies on opinion & personal taste, e.g., “mi piace,” “non mi piace.”	Absent
Engagement in group/pair work	Actively participates in group work.  Student listens attentively while others speak or present, as indicated by comments that reflect & build on others’ remarks	Mostly participates in group work  Mostly attentive when others speak or present.	Sometimes inattentive during group work; needs to be reminded to focus on activity  Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.	Only occasionally focused attention on topic of group work Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, is involved with no class related activities, etc.	Absent

### Rubric-Oral presentations

<p><b>Content and preparation:</b> Superior preparation and oral practice are evident. Ideas are very well developed. The presentation shows full understanding of the course material, and effort/time spent on researching the topic (when applicable). A broad range of new words and/or expressions is accurately used. Instructions are comprehensively followed. PowerPoint is used only for images/titles/links and <u>not</u> for reading paragraphs contained in the slides.</p>	_____ / 10
<p><b>Grammar:</b> Grammatical structures are used with few or no errors. Correct usage of intermediate level (or above) structures is demonstrated repeatedly.</p>	_____ / 10
<p><b>Fluency/pronunciation:</b> Speech is natural and continuous, with few or no pauses. There are no mispronunciations.</p>	_____ / 5
<p><b>Total</b></p>	_____ / 25