

ITA 3564 Spring 2021
(Contemporary Italian Culture)
Contemporary Topics in Conversation



Dr. Colarossi, Alessia

Course meets synchronously (Zoom Conferences tab on Canvas): T & R scheduled class period. All students, even those attending class face-to-face, must join the Zoom sessions. All classes will be online for the first week.

Virtual Office Hours: M and W 1:30-2:30 & by appt. Zoom link for Prof. personal meeting room will be provided via email.

Email: 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 materials 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.

Course components/requirements

Attendance & Participation (25%)

Attendance: Perfect attendance is expected. Roll will be taken each time class meets synchronously. Please access the **Zoom Etiquette** doc on the first module on Canvas for details/rules to follow before the first day of class.

All students must join the Zoom meeting. 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, 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 and 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 (25%): 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 (10%)

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 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 during the second week of classes.

Final Grade:

- Attendance and participation (class meetings) 25%
- Homework 25 %
- Lingua Meeting sessions 10 %
- 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 given/reminded, and questions will be answered at the end of class.
- One-on-one via Zoom during office hours or by appointment. Scheduled appointments are strongly 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 will not be answered.

Feedback

- Ongoing oral constructive feedback on general issues will be provided during class meetings.
- Written and/or audio 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 collaborations/group work together with self-reflections on their performance for additional feedback.

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 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. 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.

In-person students are required to abide by UF guidelines posted at <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/forward-faculty-staff/forward-faculty-staff-health/>. When in class, students are required to wear a face mask and to practice social distancing at all times. They are also required to follow the indicated classroom seating arrangements. At the end of each class, in-person students are required to sanitize classroom objects they come into physical contact with. In-person students are expected to bring a laptop computer and earphones to class so that they can join the zoom class session for discussion and group work. Food and drink are not permitted.

Counseling & 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: 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**

(Changes may occur due to the particular circumstances of this semester)

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

	Topics & Reading/Viewing <i>**With the exception of week 1, assignments must be read/viewed/completed for the Tuesday class unless otherwise specified</i>	Tuesday period 7	Thursday period 7-8
Sett. 1	Argomento 1: I millennials “I Millennials sono pigri, eterni insoddisfatti e social-dipendenti”+ Video (per giovedì 1/14)	1/12 Introduzione al corso, regole e altro da sapere	1/14
Sett. 2	“Millennial, la generazione smarrita: ma di chi è la colpa se non lavorano?” + Video	1/19 Compiti argomento 1	1/21
Sett.3	Argomento 2: I social network “Bullismo e Cyberbullismo: Cosa fare?” + Video	1/26	1/28 Presentazione 1 (confronto USA e Italia)
Sett. 4	Gli Italiani e l’uso dei social network (articolo online) “Social-linguistica. Italiano e italiani dei social network” + Video <hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 1</i>	2 /2 Compiti argomento 2	2/4
Sett. 5	La lingua italiana e i social network (2 articoli online)	2/9	2/11 Presentazione 1 (confronto USA e Italia)
Sett. 6	Argomento 3: Il ruolo della televisione “Nascita della televisione” + Video + articolo online (per il 16) ---- “La televisione cattiva maestra” “Altro sulla televisione” (solo pagine 2-6) (per il 18)	2/16	2/18 Compiti argomento 3

	<hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 2</i>		
Sett. 7	Argomento 4: Donna, lavoro e molestie “Donne ancora avanti negli studi ma indietro nel lavoro” Le donne e il lavoro (articolo online) “Le molestie e i ricatti sessuali sul lavoro” + Video	2/23	2/25 Break day -no class
Sett. 8	Ricerca: Le donne e i diritti, la situazione in USA... <hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 3</i>	3/2 Compiti argomento 4	3/4 Presentazione 2 (confronto USA e Italia)
Sett. 9	Argomento 5: Società multi-etnica, integrazione e intercultura Nuove generazioni. I volti giovani dell'Italia multi-etnica. (Leggere l'introduzione e guardare i 5 video)	3/9	3/11
Sett. 10	<hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 4</i>	3/16 Compiti argomento 5	3/18 Presentazione 2 (confronto USA e Italia)
Sett. 11	Ricerca: Storie di immigrati in Florida (negli USA)	3/23	3/25 Riflessioni sull'argomento 5 (Scriviamo!)
Sett. 12	Argomento 6: Alimentazione e novità “Il cibo biologico è ormai un trend di massa” + Video (per il 30) ---- “Addio carne e pesce” (per il primo aprile) <hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 5</i>	3/30	4/1 Compiti argomento 6
Sett. 13	Argomento 7: Ambiente ed ecomafia “Ladri di futuro” programma/video su Rai 3 Inquinamento (articolo online) <hr/> <i>Lingua Meeting sessione 6</i>	4/6	4/8 Riflessioni sull'argomento 7 (Scriviamo!).
Sett. 14		4/13 Presentazioni finali	4/15 Presentazioni finali
Sett. 15		4/20 Presentazioni finali	

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

	A: 90%- 100%	B: 80%-89%	C: 70%-79%	D: 60%-69%	E: 0%
Participation and Use Of Italian	<p>Participates enthusiastically in class discussion</p> <p>Always speaks in Italian and is always ready to volunteer</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; 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	<p>Comments always insightful & 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 & 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 & 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 & 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, is involved with no class related activities, etc.</p>	Absent

***Students are graded weekly for attendance/participation.**

Rubric Oral presentations

<p>Content and preparation: Superior preparation and oral practice is 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 mainly for images/titles/links.</p>	<p>_____ / 10</p>
<p>Grammar: Grammatical structures are used with few or no errors. Correct usage of intermediate level (or above) structures is demonstrated repeatedly.</p>	<p>_____ / 10</p>
<p>Fluency/pronunciation: Speech is natural and continuous, with few or no pauses. There are no mispronunciations.</p>	<p>_____ / 5</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>_____ / 25</p>