



Department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures

**AS210.151.01
Italian Elements I – Verona Program
3 credits
WINTER 2017**

Please note: In order to receive credit for this class, you will need to complete Italian Elements II at Hopkins during the Spring 2017 term.

A) Course coordinator

Course coordinator:

Dr. Alessandro Zannirato

Room: Gilman 448B

E-mail: zannirato@jhu.edu

Phone: 410-516-7230

Office hours: Mon through Friday on Adobe Connect, by previous appointment.

B) Learning outcomes

Italian 210.151 will help you develop the skills and strategies you will need to successfully handle a certain number of basic social situations you may encounter in daily life in Italy, or when meeting Italian speakers. We will follow a task-based and inductive approach, and will work on five main skills: oral production, oral comprehension, written production, written comprehension, and spoken interaction.

By the end of the academic year, successful students will be able to:

Listening skills

- 1) Understand phrases and the most common vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment).
- 2) Catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

Reading skills

- 1) Read short simple texts.
- 2) Find specific predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables.
- 3) Understand short simple personal letters.

Spoken interaction skills

- 1) Communicate in routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities.
- 2) Handle short social exchanges.

Spoken production skills

- 1) Use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms your family and other people, living conditions, educational background and your present or most recent job.

Writing skills

- 1) Write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate need.
- 2) Write a simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.

C) Course format, and language of Instruction

This course will start with an intensive in-person session in early December, followed by an online module. Students will then travel to Verona, Italy, where they will complete the rest of the course in the classroom, with a local teacher. During their stay in Italy, students will also participate in weekly online review sessions with the course coordinator. The course will be taught in Italian, but your instructor may switch to English (or ask you to do so) whenever appropriate.

D) What we expect from you.

Learning a foreign language, especially in an immersion context, requires a lot of commitment. Therefore, you are strongly advised to start working immediately, and to set aside some time every day to get in contact with the language.

E) Attendance and absence policy

1) Class attendance is mandatory. Given the intensive nature of the course, you are allowed a maximum of TWO unexcused absences per for the entire program. Thereafter, any further unexcused absence will entail the loss of 4% from the composite final grade (e.g. composite final grade: 90. Three unexcused absences = 86; four unexcused absences = 83; five unexcused absences = 79, etc.). Six unexcused absences or higher will result in a final grade of F regardless of your performance. There is no need for you to excuse your first three absences.

2) During the online section of the program, submission of the different assignments, activities, and exercises described in the Course Calendar on Blackboard, and participation in the live review sessions will be considered proof of attendance to the class. Not submitting work for a day, or not participating in a review session will be considered as an 'absence'. Written compositions are mandatory, and cannot be used as absences.

3) For each day of absence beyond the first two that you believe should not carry the penalty described in paragraph E2, you should present written documentation of the reason for your absence directly to the course coordinator within *three calendar days* of your return to class after your absence. The following is a list of acceptable documentation: a note from a physician/psychotherapist, a dated prescription issued to you during your absence, or a

note from the Office of the Dean of Student Life. Documentation that is presented more than three calendar days after your return to class will not be accepted, and the penalty will be applied. If the reason for your absence cannot be documented but you think your absence should not carry the penalty described in paragraph E2, you are welcome to confer with the Office of the Dean of Student Life. They will contact the course coordinator if they believe your absence should be excused. Please note that policy exceptions are granted only because of serious circumstances outside a student's control

5) If you experience significant problems that cause you to miss a considerable number of classes or major academic assignments, including written and oral tests, you must confer *immediately* with the course coordinator, and the Office of Academic Advising, which stands ready to assist students facing serious or prolonged problems (Garland Hall, Suite 3A, phone: 410-516-8216). You may also want to contact the Counseling Center of the university (phone: 410-516-8278), which stands ready to assist students who are experiencing personal difficulties. Please do not wait until the end of the program is approaching to speak with an advisor from the Office of Academic Advising and with the course coordinator: without exceptions, no excuse for missed classes will be accepted after your final grade has been posted on ISIS.

6) Absences due to religious obligations are excused. However, you must notify your instructor in writing about your absences due to religious obligations for the whole semester before **December 27th, 2016**. If you fail to do so, you will not be excused.

F) Late arrivals

Arriving late to class (5 minutes or more) constitutes a 'tardy', and three 'tardies' are considered as an absence. Arriving to class 20 minutes or more after the class has started will be considered as an absence. Similarly, leaving class without a documented reason (see E3 for a list of acceptable documents) 20 minutes or more before the end of the class will be considered as an absence.

G) Assessment

Continuous assessment will be used to evaluate your performance for this class. Every assessment item such as tests, written compositions, Sentieri exercises and class participation will count towards your final grade. The final semester grade for the course is composed of the following items:

- 5% Participation in the online review sessions;
- 5% Classroom participation
- 20% Sentieri exercises
- 10% Two written compositions in first and final draft (5% x 2)
- 10% Audio-recorded oral tests (5% x 2)
- 30% Final written exam
- 20% Final oral exam

Active participation

Online

During the first week of the program, and at the end of each module, your course coordinator will offer live review sessions on Adobe Connect. Participation in the review session will be assessed as follows:

	A	U	S	I	N*
Participated in session activities in a voluntary fashion	10	9	8	6	5
Participated in session activities when called upon	10	9	8	6	5
Stayed on task in pair work	10	9	8	6	5
Came to the session prepared	10	9	8	6	5
Used English only when appropriate and/or required	10	9	8	6	5
Asked pertinent questions when appropriate	10	9	8	6	5
Arrived on time	10	9	8	6	5
Respected fellow students and instructor	10	9	8	6	5
TOTAL	/100				

*A= almost always; U= usually; S= sometimes; I= infrequently; N= never

You are also required to meet with your study partner/team members on Adobe Connect weekly, and record a 30-minute study session in which you practice what you learned in each module. Most of the session (at least 70%) should be held in Italian.

In the classroom

Active class participation is a very important aspect of this course. Active participation means that you should feel the responsibility to **speak**, **volunteer** for activities and **interact** with your instructor and/or fellow students in Italian even when not prompted to. A class participation grade will be calculated according to the following table:

	A	U	S	I	N*
Participated in class activities in a voluntary fashion	10	9	8	6	5
Participated actively in small groups and stayed on task	10	9	8	6	5
Completed assigned homework	10	9	8	6	5
Used Italian most of the time, and always when asked to	10	9	8	6	5
Arrived on time	10	9	8	6	5
TOTAL	/50				

*A= almost always; U= usually; S= sometimes; I= infrequently; N= never

Your instructor will assess your participation regularly. Your final participation grade will be an arithmetic mean of your semester participation grades.

Sentieri exercises

The *Sentieri* platform contains a set of exercises to complete, which will reinforce and expand what you will have learned in class. In order to purchase access to the Sentieri Supersite, please click on the link below:

https://www.vhlcentral.com/section/483053/student_instructions

The deadline for completion of the Sentieri exercises is announced on the Sentieri platform. Exercises are due by 11:59pm EST of the due date. Grading criteria are presented at the beginning of each exercise.

Written compositions

You will write two 200-word compositions, according to the indications provided by your instructor. Each composition will consist of a first and final draft.

Audio recorded oral tests

You will be required to submit two 5- to 8-minute audio recordings of a conversation with a classmate in Italian, according to the instructions provided by the course coordinator. Grading criteria for these tests are available on Blackboard.

Final written and oral exam

Please note that there is a strict no make-up test policy. If you miss a final exam without a valid *documented* reason (See paragraph E3 for a list of acceptable documents), your semester grade will be lowered accordingly.

Blackboard

Blackboard will be used as a resource for this course. The instructor and course coordinator will use Blackboard to post course information, including the syllabus, unit objectives, grammar exercises and other information. To access Blackboard, go to <http://blackboard.jhu.edu>. Then, click on the 'Login using JHU Enterprise Authentication' link and put in your JHED username and password..

H) Submission of late assignments

Late assignments will generally not be accepted for this class. Exceptions will be made in rare and exceptional instances due to circumstances outside a student's control.

I) Grading scale

99-100 = A+; 94-98 = A; 90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 62 and under: F (fail)

Composite final grades are rounded up from .50 and higher and are rounded down from .49 and lower. For general information on JHU grading policies, please visit http://www.advising.jhu.edu/academic_manual/grades.html

J) Academic ethics

The strength of the university depends on academic integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices (including Blackboard activities), unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of students and/or the chair of the Ethics Board beforehand. We would like to draw your attention to the university's Undergraduate Academic Ethics Board Statement on Ethics, which reads:

"Make certain that you know exactly what is and what is not permitted in the class. If you are unsure about the rules concerning a particular assignment, do not assume anything; ask your instructor for a clarification. This is especially important for group projects, where students are often allowed to work together but must submit individual reports or papers. Unfortunately, many individuals who have records of academic misconduct simply did not understand the rules of an assignment. Don't risk your academic reputation by keeping quiet."

<http://www.jhu.edu/ethics/statement.html>

See the guide on [Academic Ethics for Undergraduates](#) and the Ethics Board web site (<http://ethics.jhu.edu>) for more information.

K) Disability

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu

L) E-mail etiquette

When you e-mail your instructor, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Be sure to include a meaningful subject line.
- 2) Start your e-mail with a polite greeting. Acceptable examples include: 'Dear Ms./Dr./Prof. *last name*', 'Hi/Hello Dr./Mr./Prof *last name*'. Don't use your instructor's first name unless specifically invited to do so. It is not appropriate to start your e-mail with no initial greeting or with casual expressions such as 'hey', 'yo' etc.
- 3) Do not e-mail your instructor to apologize for missing your first three classes. They are excused (see paragraph E). If you were absent, e-mail one of your classmates to ask what you missed and what the assigned homework is.
- 4) Use standard spelling and proper grammar, punctuation, and capitalization at all times, and proofread your message before sending it out.

- 5) Always use a professional, courteous tone.
- 6) Close your e-mail with an appropriate formula (e.g. thank you, sincerely, etc.) and sign your message with your name.
- 7) Don't expect an immediate response. If you e-mail your professor at 2am, it is unlikely that you will have an answer by 9am the following day. It is reasonable to expect a response within the following 24 hours during weekdays. If you don't hear from your instructor by then, sending them another e-mail would be appropriate.

M) Course Materials

All students should have copies of:

Authors: Cozzi, Federico & Tancorre Title: Caffè Italia 1 Publisher: European Language Institute (ELI) ISBN 8853601442
A large English-Italian bilingual dictionary
Access to the Sentieri (2 nd Edition) platform: You are required to buy the following option, which includes access to the platform, and an electronic copy of the Sentieri textbook, which can be used as a grammar reference: ISBN: 978-1-60576-487-0 Supersite + WebSAM + vText Code (36 months of student access, immediate e-delivery)

11/16/16 version. Please disregard previous or undated versions.

N) Tentative course schedule

A tentative course schedule is available on Blackboard

Buon lavoro!