

ITL 328 ADVANCED COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

Spring 2011
M, W & F 10:00-11:00
BEN 1.106

Instructor: Cinzia Russi
Office: HRH 3.110B
Phone: 471 6390
E-mail: russi@mail.utexas.edu
Office hours: M & W 12-1, F 8:30-9:30 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Objectives The goals of this course are to improve students' skills in **writing** and **speaking** in Italian, as well as to increase their level of **comprehension** (both reading and listening). Furthermore, we aim at expanding the students' knowledge of Italian culture. We will reach these goals by:

- a. Reading short stories and passages from novels, and reviewing the grammatical structures they exhibit
- b. Listening to a variety of audio material and watching videos/short movies

★ **The course is conducted exclusively in Italian.**

Participation Regular attendance is required; more than **three** absences will lower the final grade; for the fourth absence, three points will be deducted from the final grade; four points for the fifth absence, and so on.

🚫* This policy will be strictly enforced.

Students will be asked to come to class well prepared on the readings, to complete all the grammar exercises assigned, and to be ready to participate to class discussions.

Temi Proper use of grammar as well as content will both greatly affect the composition grade. In order to get full credit, students **must** turn in compositions on the days indicated on the syllabus.

Students will write **3 temi** of 2/3 pages each. The first draft of the second composition (Tema 2) will be written in class.

Comments to the readings For selected reading assignments, students will write a one page comment, in which they express their opinions and critique on the reading

Oral presentations Students will give two oral presentations in class:

a. *Individual presentation*: Each student will present in class a 5-10 min. oral report on a current event; no reading will be allowed, but visual aids are encouraged.

***Evaluation criteria: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary.

b. *Group presentation*: Each student is expected to speak for about 10 minutes. Therefore, a group of 2 students will give a 20 minute-long presentation, whereas a group of 5 will give a 50 minute-long presentation. No reading allowed! You may use index cards if extremely necessary, but please, be prepared to act out your “role” as much as possible without reading.

You are free to choose the “genre” of your presentation: a satire, a comedy, a drama, an interview, a movie, etc. (if you choose to videotape your presentation, remember that you must have at least a “live” introduction in class). The subject must be based upon the material we have studied in the course; you can focus on one reading/author/film or two, or combine all of them together.

*** Evaluation criteria: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, creativity, fluency of expression.

Texts Patota, Giuseppe. 2003. *Grammatica di riferimento della lingua italiana per stranieri*. Firenze: Le Monnier.
Folder of Xerox-copied material
Dizionario Harper Collins Sansoni, standard edition (or equivalent dictionary)

Useful sites Garzanti Linguistica <http://www.garzantilinguistica.it>
Eulogos <http://www.eulogos.it>

Grade policy The final grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation	10%
Compositions (<i>temi</i>)	20%
Comments to the readings	10%
Quizzes	15%
Two exams	25 %
Oral performance	20%

Grading system Starting in the Fall of 2009, the University will use a plus/minus system for grading. The following table illustrates the correspondences between letter grade, GPA points and percentage grade.

Letter Grade	GPA Points	Percentage Grade
A	4.0	93%-100%
A-	3.67	90%-92%
B+	3.33	87%-89%
B	3.0	83%-86%
B-	2.67	80%-82%
C+	2.33	77%-79%
C	2.0	73%-76%
C-	1.67	70%-72%
D+	1.33	67%-69%
D	1.0	63%-66%
D-	0.67	60%-62%
F	0	Less than 60

CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Religious holidays

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of Blackboard

In this class, I use Blackboard, a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>, to distribute some course materials. You can find support in using Blackboard at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

Academic Integrity

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

For further information, visit the Student Judicial Services web site <http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/>. This site offers excellent resources on how to cite

sources and paraphrase. Copying materials from other people or from sources on the Internet, for example, or having your work edited by somebody else, constitutes a fraudulent submission. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work and will acknowledge others' work as appropriate (e.g., citing sources).

OTHER UNIVERSITY NOTICES AND POLICIES

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students

It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

Documented Disability Statement

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building.
- Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.

- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you are given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT-Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Critical Dates Please note the following critical dates for class administration:

- **January 21: Friday** Last day of the official add/drop period; after this date, changes in registration require the approval of the department chair and usually the student's dean. (See *General Information*, chapter 4, for details.)
 - Last day undergraduate students may register and pay tuition without the approval of the registrar.
- **February 2: Wednesday** Twelfth class day; this is the date the official enrollment count is taken.
 - Last day an undergraduate student may add a class except for rare and extenuating circumstances.
 - Payment for added classes (add bill) due by 5:00 pm.
 - Last day to drop a class for a possible refund. (See *General Information*, chapter 4, for details.)
- **March 28: Monday** Last day an undergraduate student may, with the dean's approval, withdraw from the University or drop a class except for urgent and substantiated, nonacademic reasons.
 - Last day a student may change registration in a class to or from the pass/fail or credit/no credit basis.