

CAS LI 130 INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, after class and by appointment
Office: BU Padua
E-mail: lencilau@bu.edu
Class Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays @BU Padua Academic Center: Class meets for 2.5 hours twice a week during the core phase (10 weeks) + 3 tutorials (2.5 hours each) during the internship phase
Credits: 4
Hub units: The course fulfills one unit of The Individual in Community (IIC)

Course Description

This course for **beginners** offers intensive listening, oral, and written practice of Italian. Reading comprehension is also included. In general, if you do the homework and participate in class activities, by the end of this course you will be able to greet others, exchange information about family, friends and acquaintances, home, classes, work experience, food, schedules, vacations, and getting around an Italian city. You will be able to ask and answer basic questions as well as indicate your likes and dislikes. All of this will allow you to converse about topics directly related to your everyday life, including work experiences, as well as compare it to the lifestyle of Italians.

Program Learning Outcomes

BU Global Programs/study abroad learning outcomes for BU Padua:

<https://www.bu.edu/provost/planning-assessment/program-learning-outcomes-assessment/learning-outcomes-by-program-2/global-programs-study-abroad/>

Learning Outcomes Padua Business Internship Program

- Gain an understanding of workplace dynamics, professional expectations, and the influence of culture on both
- Build proficiency in a range of business or industry skills appropriate to the field of the internship placement, including professional and inter-cultural communication through written, verbal, and nonverbal means
- Refine and clarify professional and career goals through critical analysis of the internship experience or research project

BU Hub Learning Outcomes and Course-Specific Learning Objectives

This course satisfies the following requirements for the BU Hub area *The Individual in Community*

1. Students will reflect critically on their engagement and relations with different communities—campuswide, citywide, national and/or international—and will recognize and analyze the issues relevant to those communities (or to different individuals in those communities).
2. Students will consider at least one of the dimensions of experience that inform their own worldviews and beliefs as well as those of other individuals and societies. Such considerations may include (but are not limited to) race, class, gender expression, sexuality, disability, neurodiversity, age, language, religion, politics, or cultural history.
3. N/A

In order to meet the above Hub learning outcomes, by the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Students participate in different communities, such as the Padua student residence where they live, the work community where they intern, or their classes in an Italian setting. Through exchanges with Italian native speakers and locals, they recognize and reflect on the issues relevant to those communities such as life-style, behaviours and communication strategies.
2. Students analyze Italian society, institutions, and cultural experiences which inform their own worldviews and beliefs and make meaningful intercultural comparison to their own backgrounds. they thus become more adept at interacting in a linguistically and culturally appropriate way with individuals from Italian-speaking communities.
3. N/A

Course objectives

Start and progress in your Italian speaking, listening, reading, and writing proficiency.

Approach, familiarize and understand the reality of Italian culture and initiate development of strategies for effective intercultural comparison.

Create simple types of communication.

Develop strategies to negotiate misunderstandings or ask for assistance.

Familiarize with culturally appropriate ways of initiating and sustaining conversations and written communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Participate with some ease in Italian in brief conversations and communicate in writing in a basic manner on very familiar and relatable topics.

Communicate information, negotiate meaning, and express thoughts about familiar topics to help understand different Perspectives in Italian with native speakers. (IIC)

Provide minimal and predictable information in simple documents and forms. Produce lists of familiar words, brief and/or simple phrases related to the context in which the language was learnt. Reproduce material practiced to transmit the most basic messages.

Understand key words and cognates, as well as highly contextualized formulaic expressions. Understand basic vocabulary related to their immediate reality, such as family, home, and routine. (IIC)

Initiate spontaneous basic and highly predictable conversation with new acquaintances and ask a variety of simple and straight-forward follow-up questions. Provide appropriate responses to sustain and/or end conversation and reflect on your cultural experiences - orally and in writing - throughout your stay abroad. (IIC).

Instructional Format, Course Pedagogy, and Approach to Learning

As do all of BU's modern language courses, LI 130 focuses on both content – learn to understand authentic literary, expository and audiovisual texts from and about an Italian-speaking culture – and students' linguistic

progress. The course is based on an active and experiential approach which include the observation of the culture, society, life-style, habits, behaviours and communication strategies of young Italians and adults. Students are involved in discussion-based and collaborative in-class activities combined with out-of-class assignments designed for beginners. Students combine linguistic resources to synthesize ideas, refer facts and personal experiences in life and/or at work, describe people, things and places, as course materials challenge them to evaluate multiple viewpoints, make intercultural comparisons, and consider alternative perspectives. As a result, students develop effective strategies for reading, writing, and analyzing visual and auditory information in Italian and to become autonomous learners. As students expand their linguistic ability, throughout the semester, class discussions and writing assignments will challenge their current knowledge about the local and Italian culture in general and language through comparative analysis. Through discussions, presentations, skits and role plays students learn to shape, organize, and communicate their ideas and beliefs to a native and not native audience and incorporate feedback.

Grading and Assignments

Attendance, participation, homework	15%
3 oral assessments	30% (10%each)
3 written tests	30% (10%each)
Final oral exam	25% (5% ppt and 20% oral performance)

Attendance, participation, homework, tutorial participation (IIC)

Students must be punctual and come prepared to class. They must read and complete assignments before class and within the due date.

By participating in class discussion, the students are able to ask and answer appropriate questions, describe people, things and places, shortly refer on facts and experiences in Italian, develop curiosity for the city of Padua and the Italian culture in general and critically reflect on the relations at the workplace. Students actively improve in the oral expression, and hold a basic conversation.

3 oral assessments (IIC)

There will be 3 oral presentations which aim for the students to use and control grammar, vocabulary, and demonstrate intercultural understanding through their in-class or on-site presentations.

Presentation 1: introduce yourself.

Presentation 2: Talk about your daily activities in Padua and in the US, what is different and why?

Presentation 3: Talk about your intercultural experiences in Italy.

3 written tests

There will be 3 written tests and will cover grammar, vocabulary, and any cultural material presented in class.

Test 1: date tbd

Test 2: date tbd

Test 3: date tbd

Final oral exam (IIC)

Students analyze and reflect on their entire experience in Padua (e.g. life at the dorm, meeting people, study and internship experiences, personal activities like sport, music, dance etc.,

difficulties and easiness in getting familiar with the new environment, approach to the language and people etc.). They will present their impressions and how this cultural exchange has informed their world view and how that view has changed throughout the semester with the language they are able to use.

Power Point Presentation: due

The final oral exam will take place on date tbd.

Course material

- *DIECI A1* Textbook. To purchase before the beginning of the course at https://www.amazon.it/Dieci-Libro-Ciro-Massimo-Naddeo/dp/8861826210/ref=asc_df_8861826210/?tag=googshopit-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=498971786549&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=12825001190404348192&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1009009&hvtargid=pla-1330145590753&psc=1
- Other course material and assignments are available in the Blackboard site of the course. Access using your Kerberos password.

Class and University Policies

Attendance

Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty. Boston University Padua students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, on-site class, internship work appointment, and activity required for the class as indicated in the syllabus. Any student with irregular class attendance may have his/her final grade penalized.

Absences

Unjustified absences from class, and any class related activity, will affect the students' participation grade, which will be lowered by one letter grade for each absence.

Absence for Religious Reasons

According to Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, any student in an educational or vocational training institution, other than a religious or denominational educational or vocational training institution, who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or work requirement on a particular day, shall be excused from any such examination or study or work requirement, and shall be provided with an opportunity to make up such examination, study, or work requirement that may have been missed because of such absence on any particular day; provided, however, that such makeup examinations or work shall not create an unreasonable burden upon such school. No fees of any kind shall be charged by the institution for making available to the said students such opportunity. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to students because of their availing themselves of the provisions of this section. Students who have questions about practicing their religion while abroad should contact Boston University Study Abroad.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Being late three times is equivalent to missing one class.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to turn in all course assignments on time as stated in each course syllabus. Late assignments will not be accepted and missed assignments will automatically be awarded an F. Please note that all coursework must be completed by the end of the program.

Examinations

All academic commitments must be completed before you leave the site; no incompletes are permitted. Students who do not complete a course on time will be given an F. Students are required to sit their examinations on the dates, at the times, and in the same classroom as the other students in their class. If a student is ill or has another extenuating circumstance that causes the student to be absent from a scheduled examination, he/she must provide appropriate documentation and receive approval from the Director.

Plagiarism

Representing the work or ideas of another as one's own; and/or using another's work or ideas without crediting the source. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following: copying the answers of another student on an examination; copying or restating the work or ideas of another person or persons in any oral or written work (printed or electronic) without citing the appropriate source; using audio or video footage that comes from another source (including work done by another student) without permission and/or acknowledgement of that source; and collaborating with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging their contribution. Plagiarism can consist of acts of commission (appropriating the words or ideas of another as one's own), or omission (failing to acknowledge/document/credit the source or creator of words or ideas).

For more details please see Boston University's Code of Student Responsibilities: <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

The use of generative AI is considered plagiarism and any use of it in assignments is not allowed

Disability accommodations

If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Disability and Access Service office (DAS) at 617-353- 3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bu.edu/disability>

Interruption of program or early departure

Only in serious cases – mostly related to medical emergencies – the Director will allow a student to take a significant break during the program or to leave before its official conclusion. Official written approval must be received by the Director.

Academic Advice

The Director serves as the head of the faculty and as academic advisor. The Director is available on an appointment basis to assist students with academic issues. For academic advice regarding students' home institutions' policies and transfer credit information, non-Boston students should also contact their school's academic advisors.

Tutorials

BU faculty are available by appointment for students who may need support in the learning process. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this resource. Students in the past found it very useful to succeed. Students who receive a C on a test must seek support from faculty.

Calendar

During the course students will write 1 sentence in Italian every day on a mini-notebook. At the beginning of each class, we will read the sentences, appreciate the thoughts of each one, and eventually ask for specific needs. No evaluation on this task, fun and experimentation only.

Core phase – 10 weeks of bi-weekly appointments

- **Week 1 – Work on UNIT 1 and 2.**

You will learn:

Introducing yourself; greetings; saying *thank you*; using verbs *essere, avere*; verb *chiamarsi* (*my name is*); adjectives of nationality (*italiano/a, americano/a, coreano/a, etc.*); alphabet; numbers; interrogative words: *Come? Di dove? Quanti?*; the formal “Lei”.

- **Week 2 – Work on UNIT 2 and 3.**

You will learn:

Saying how are you; describing simple actions; asking for something; ordering food (bar and restaurant, market); regular verbs + *fare, andare, potere, stare*; interrogative words: *Come? Dove? Perché? Quando? Quanto? Che cosa?*; definite articles + nouns (gender and numbers); conjunctions: *e, quando, mentre, perché, infatti*.

Oral presentation 1– Dialogue: introduce yourself.

- **Week 3 – Work on UNIT 4 and 5 (p. 65).**

You will learn:

Describing simple places, actions and facts; possessive adjectives and expressing property; the house; verb *preferire* and other verbs in *-isco*; nouns + adjectives (gender and number); *c'è/ci sono*.

Video “Noi siamo” Unipd + vocabulary (in couples with a different cloze)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNJQfU0sz80>

- **Test 1**

- **Week 4 –Work on UNIT 5 (p. 70-74).**

You will learn:

Telling the time; describing activities happening during the day, the week and in general; time prepositions and adverbs (*sempre, qualche volta, mai*); expressions like *stare + gerund*; time; vocabulary: parts of the day, days, months, seasons oral practice* (attività tedesco). **On site lesson** (in the *piazze*): observe and describe what people do “Cosa fa!/Cosa sta facendo?”

- **Week 5 – Work on UNIT 6 e 7.**

You will learn:

Describing activities happening during the day; reflexive verbs; expressing likes, dislikes and preferences; making questions about preferences; verbs *piacere/non piacere; preferire*; conjunction: *invece, al contrario*; irregular verbs: *-isco (finire, preferire, capire), uscire, bere*; le stagioni.

Oral presentation 2 - Dialogue: Talk about your daily activities in Padua and in the US, what is different and why?

- **Week 6 – Work on UNIT 8.**

You will learn:

Describing activities of different people; speaking about habits and hobbies; writing a short card or a short emails.

Reading: Cristina Bellemo e Gioia Marchegiani, *Tipi* (excerpts) + **On-site and writing activity**

- Week 7 – Work on UNIT 7 and 8.

You will learn:

Recognizing the past tense and tell simple actions in the past (*passato prossimo*); verbs *essere* and *avere*+ *past participle* to make the Italian past; make a list of actions in the past.

- **Test 2**

- Week 8 – Work on UNIT 7 and 8.

You will learn:

Describing places and people habits; greetings before leaving; saying thanks and goodbye+ writing activity; using the past for daily needs and specific events. Telling/referring facts and experiences vocabulary: action verbs; place prepositions, frequency adverbs (*sempre, mai, a volte*); past tense: *passato prossimo*.

Oral presentation 3 – Dialogue: Talk about your intercultural experiences in Italy (Basic use of the past tense)

- Week 9 – Work on UNIT 8.

You will learn:

Telling about your youth and about your family (if you feel comfortable); vocabulary of the family and year celebrations; giving suggestions (10 things to do...).

Instruction for the final oral exam.

- **Test 3**

Week 10 - Review of the entire course and Q&A.

You will learn:

Culturally appropriate interactions in a formal work environment.

Internship phase – 3 class appointments of 2.5 hours each

Tutorial 1

Reading assigned by Professor and conversation in small groups:

Italy and the U.S.: Cultural differences at your job placement in Italy and in the U.S.

Tutorial 2

Reading assigned by Professor and conversation in small groups:

Social interaction with work mates: formality and informality in an Italian business context

Tutorial 3

Reading assigned by Professor and conversation in small groups:

Social management of time and space at the workplace in Italy

Final oral exam. Final oral presentation in class and PowerPoint due, final reflections and discussion on study abroad experience