

ITL 328 COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION (Unique 37020)

Spring 2012
T TH 11:00-12:30
PAR 206

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Office hours: T TH 9-10:30, 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.

Compositions 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.

Oral presentations Students will give one oral presentations in class. This will be a group presentation. Each group will comprise three students and each presentation is expected to be 20-25 minutes long 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 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	20%
Quizzes	15%
Two exams	20 % each
Oral performance	15%

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.

Tutors Please refer to the French and Italian Department's web page or visit the French and Italian Department's Undergraduate Office in HRH
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/frenchitalian/student-resources/Tutors-Translators.php>

Be aware that tutors ARE NOT ALLOWED to do homework for you rather give you individual attention in mastering complex grammatical structures and oral skills. Moreover, if the professor deems – due to a discrepancy with your oral and written performance in class – that your homework has been done with the help of a computer translation-program or a tutor, you will receive a ‘no-grade’ for that paper; the ‘no-grade’ will neither lower nor raise your overall grade average. Please read carefully the policy on Scholastic Dishonesty.

IL CIRCOLO ITALIANO

Throughout the semester, the Italian Club shows six Italian movies (Adria Frizzi) and offers the Tavola Italiana, weekly meetings where students can practice Italian in an informal setting (Antonella Olson). The Tavola meets every Friday, 3:00-4:00, at the Cactus Café (Texas Union). Additional events sponsored by the Italian Club will be announced in class.

ROME STUDY PROGRAM - DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN

The Rome Study Program gives students of all majors the opportunity to spend six weeks in Rome, Italy during the first summer session. Italian families host students providing an in-depth experience of Italian life-style and language. Please visit our website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/romestudyprogram/Home>

and/or contact Program Director: Antonella D. Olson, HRH 2.106 B, phone: 471-5706/5531, ad.olson@mail.utexas.edu

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 20, 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 1, 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.)
- April 2, 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.