UMBR ITLN 211 S  
Intensive Italian through Culture - Intermediate

Credits: 8
Prerequisite: The equivalent of one year of beginning Italian (level A2+ of the Common European Framework for language proficiency). In addition, all students will take a placement exam on the first day of the semester. This exam is used solely for the purpose of verifying students’ linguistic proficiency.

The Intensive Italian through Culture Program Objectives

*Intensive Italian through Culture* combines intensive language instruction with a rich immersion in Italian culture, past as well as present. The program has two components: Italian language classes and speaking opportunities; and liberal arts cultural events conducted in Italian.

*Intensive Italian through Culture* students take Italian language courses at the Umbra Institute at the level that best suits them, from beginning to advanced Italian. In addition, the Umbra Institute organizes *Tandem*, a biweekly language exchange get-together with Italians, in order for students to have the opportunity of meeting Italians with whom they can practice Italian. In previous years liberal arts events have included tours of Perugia, Assisi and Rome conducted in Italian by Italian guides; a wine-tasting in Italian; instruction in Italian on the art of making ice cream; a guided tour in Italian of the famous Ubaldo Grazia ceramics showroom and factory in the nearby town of Deruta, and guided tours in Italian of local museums and galleries.

Most of our Italian guides have also been trained in teaching languages. At beginning of each cultural tour or event our guides pass out vocabulary sheets ordered according to the sequences of the event itself, so students can follow the words as the guide is going from one building or painting or statue (or piece of pottery, type of wine or flavor of ice cream!) to another.

The Italian language classes are intense: 5 hours a day Monday through Thursday for five weeks, from the last week of May through the end of June, for a total of 100 classroom contact hours.

On occasion Umbra instructors have hosted their students at local cafes and restaurants—with the understanding that only Italian be spoken during the meal! At the end of five weeks, *Intensive Italian through Culture* students will have put in over 100 hours of class time, the equivalent of two semester’s work in the States. The Italian teachers at the Umbra Institute are excellent. They are experienced in teaching Italian in Italian at all levels, from beginning to advanced, to people of all ages from all over the world.

From an educational point of view, *Intensive Italian through Culture* brings together an oral-proficiency pedagogy of language teaching, and a liberal arts commitment to broad, interdisciplinary learning. The liberal arts tradition, our oldest education tradition, has particular relevance today in our hurried age of specialized study. The liberal arts tradition sees reality as an ordered whole (“cosmos” in Greek), the individual as part of this whole, and all the intellectual disciplines as complementary ways of experiencing this whole. It emphasizes a balance between work and leisure,
public service and contemplative study. The experience of Italy can be a liberal arts experience of the highest order. Italy’s natural beauty, combined with her rich history and culture, embodies the interrelation between all the branches of learning, and between the fine arts and the liberal arts. The Umbra Institute’s commitment to the liberal arts tradition uses the beauty of Italy to inspire students to learn the Italian language, and uses their growing command of Italian to draw them more deeply into Italian life.

Method of Evaluation:
- 70% Italian language classes (ITLN 111S, 211S, 311S, 411S)
- 30% weekly journals and participation in cultural events

Course Description of UMBR ITLN 211 S
This course is specifically designed for students who have completed two semesters of Italian and wish to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Italian language. The goal is to equip students with the ability to speak the language with a certain degree of confidence, acquaint them with more complex grammatical structures, and introduce them to authentic texts as a way to enhance their lexicon. To achieve this goal, a three-fold approach is adopted: students work with Italian texts and audio-visual material of various types (e.g., narrative and literary excerpts, Italian songs, dialogues, and videos); engage in guided in-class group activities and write brief stories or racconti; and participate in out-of-the-classroom activities that require them to put into practice their in-class learning. Students will be exposed to various cultural aspects such as regionalism, festivals and traditions, social and political cultures, literature, cinema, style and fashion, music, and other characteristics that define Italian culture in a manner that fosters further understanding and practice of the language. By the end of the session, students will have gained the capacity for more complex written and oral expression, learnt to differentiate various social contexts, and built a vocabulary and socio-linguistic competence appropriate to each situation.

Course Structure
ITLN 211 S meets four days per week (Mon-Thur) and consists of a morning program of three hours of in-class grammar study, followed by two hours of exercises and conversation in the afternoon. In the evenings and on Fridays, cultural activities and lectures in Italian are scheduled. For details of these events, please see the accompanying description of the liberal arts cultural component to the program at the end of the syllabus.

Main Grammar Points
The course will begin with a quick review of ITLN 111 grammar and thereafter cover the following grammatical points:
- Uso dell’imperfetto, del passato prossimo e del trapassato prossimo
- Pronomi diretti, indiretti, doppi e relativi
- Particelle NE e CI
- Accordo dei pronomi con il participio
- Gradi dell’aggettivo: comparativo e superlativo
- Il futuro semplice e composto
- Verbi impersonali
- Imperativo diretto, indiretto e con i pronomi
- Verbi riflessivi e particelle pronominali riflessive
- Il condizionale presente e passato
- Il congiuntivo presente e passato e il congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato
- Concordanza dei tempi con il congiuntivo
- Cenni sul periodo ipotetico
Course Objectives and Outcomes
At the end of the session, students should reach the level B1+ of the Common European Framework in the four basic competencies: listening, speaking and interacting, reading, and writing. In practice, the student will be able to:

- Interact with a native speaker on familiar, everyday topics and topics of personal interest when clear, standard speech is used.
- Produce relatively simple texts on everyday topics and understand texts containing concrete and relatively simple abstract topics.
- Express opinions on current affairs, familiar topics and topics of personal interest, describe personal experiences, and provide brief explanations.
- Understand the main points of radio and television announcements, advertisements, news items, and talk shows when the speech is relatively slow and clear.
- Build a basic vocabulary of 750-1000 words and start to develop a small, specialized vocabulary tied to one’s personal interests and to the specific activities covered in class.
- Write simple texts based on familiar topics, personal experience and on certain aspects of culture and contemporary society (in the form of brief compositions, summaries, and informal and formal letters).
- Develop a more sophisticated understanding of Italian culture and contemporary society.

Course Guidelines and Policies

- Attendance. Attendance is essential for learning a language, and, therefore, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class session. Missing more than one day of classes will result in a lower final grade. (Please remember that a day’s worth of classes is roughly equivalent to four days of instruction during a typical semester.) A student missing more than the equivalent of two daily sessions will run the risk of failing the course.

- Homework. Students will be regularly assigned exercises, including short essays, and are expected to complete all assignments on time. It is important that students complete the readings assigned for each class in advance of the class meeting. Students are welcome to bring questions about the readings to class in preparing for discussion of the material. Essay assignments will include compositions, summaries, short articles, personal letters and “mock” emails, each of which will be written for a different audience. It will be important to complete a rough draft and set time aside for revising the draft before turning in the final version to the instructor for grading. Please remember that late homework cannot be accepted.

- Exams. There will be a midterm and final exam. Both exams will include vocabulary and grammar exercises (in the form of multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions and sentence transformation exercises), a reading comprehension exercise, and a short writing and/or listening comprehension activity. In addition, an exit proficiency exam will be administered at the end of the course.

- Quizzes. Two quizzes will be given during the five weeks and will be announced in advance by the instructor. The purpose of the quizzes is to help students maintain a steady pace in their acquisition of both written and oral skills.

- Oral Presentation. Each student will be asked to prepare and deliver a short presentation in Italian on a topic of their choice addressing some aspect of Italian culture, everyday life in Italy, or a subject of personal interest to the student. The presentation may be based on interviews, personal experience, and/or library research. Students are encouraged to discuss their possible topics with their instructor as early as possible but no later than the time of the second exam. Students may work on their own or in pairs for their oral presentations.

- Co-curricular Activities. We encourage you to participate in optional activities that help to develop your conversational skills outside the classroom and offer an opportunity to socialize with others in Italian. The language exchange, Tandem, will be offered on two different Wednesday evenings during the summer program. It is a social gathering amongst Umbra,
Italian and international students, and it is a wonderful way to meet new friends and practice your Italian in exchange for tips on English.

**Course Evaluation**
The final grade in the course will be calculated based on the following exercises and weights:
- Class Participation: 15%
- Homework: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Oral Presentation: 15%
- Exit Proficiency Exam: 5%
- Final Exam: 25%

**Grading Scale**
Letter grades for student work are based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 – 93</td>
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<td>A–</td>
<td>92 – 90</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>89 – 87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86 – 83</td>
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<td>B–</td>
<td>82 – 80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>79 – 77</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>76 – 73</td>
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<td>C–</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>66 – 63</td>
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<td>D–</td>
<td>62 – 60</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 – 0</td>
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**Course Materials**
- **Required Text:** a *Course Reader* that contains the majority of the reading materials, grammatical units and vocabulary to be covered in the course will be made available.
- **Supplementary Text:** selected exercises and readings from various sources will be handed out periodically.
- **Dictionary:** students are strongly recommended to purchase an English/Italian, Italian/English dictionary. The library in via Mazzini also has a number of dictionaries available for consultation.
## Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities:</th>
<th>Grammar Objectives</th>
<th>Themes &amp; activities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Presentare, presentarsi</td>
<td>• Ripasso dei principali elementi grammaticali:</td>
<td>• La famiglia italiana (aspetti in comune e differenze con quella americana)</td>
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<td>• Parlare di sé e delle proprie abitudini</td>
<td>• presenti irregolari</td>
<td>• Interviste a giovani italiani sul tempo libero: differenze e aspetti in comune con i giovani americani</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Parlare della propria famiglia</td>
<td>• verbi riflessivi e pronominali</td>
<td>• La casa: descrizione del proprio appartamento di Perugia</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Raccontare una storia</td>
<td>• aggettivi e pronomi possessivi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• passato prossimo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Uso degli ausiliari.</td>
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<td>• Accordo del Partecipio Passato.</td>
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<td>• preposizioni semplici e articolate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reader:</strong> pp 6-24</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong> Esercizi 6, 8-9, 11, 21-24.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Esercizi in fotocopia.</strong></td>
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**Tuesday Evening Cultural Event:**
Historical Walking Tour of Perugia
## Week Two

### Activities:
- Descrivere l’ultima vacanza
- Ricordare qualcosa di personale
- Parlare di cambiamenti
- Chiedere e dare informazioni
- Chiedere ed esprimere pareri
- **First Quiz (6 June)**

**Reader:** pp 31-49; pp 51-58

**Homework:**
- Esercizi pp. 35-41, 48-9; pp. 55-58
- Esercizi in fotocopia

### Ripasso dei tempi passati:
- Uso dell’imperfetto e del passato prossimo
- Uso del trapassato prossimo

### Pronomi (I):
- Pronomi diretti
- Particelle NE e CI
- Accordo dei pronomi con il participio

### Themes & activities:
- Raccontare i primi giorni in Italia
- L’introduzione alla letteratura italiana: Un brano da “Lessico familiare” di Natalia Ginzburg
- Fare le spese: l’abbigliamento e la moda in Italia

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**Tuesday Evening Cultural Event:**
“San Francesco e la bellezza del mondo: il Cantico delle creature”
<table>
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<th>Week Three</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Activities:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Fare previsioni</td>
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<td>• Fare progetti</td>
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<td>• Fare promesse</td>
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<td>• Esprimere giudizi, gradimento e non gradimento</td>
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<td>• Esprimere i propri gusti</td>
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<td>• Fare paragoni</td>
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<td>• Midterm Exam (11 June)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reader:</strong> pp 65-69, 12-16 + handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Homework:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Esercizi pp. 12-15, 66-69; esercizi in fotocopia</td>
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| **Il tempo futuro:** |
| • Futuro semplice (morfologia) |
| • Futuro anteriore (morfologia) |
| • Futuro semplice e anteriore (uso) |

| **Pronomi (II):** |
| • Uso dei pronomi diretti e indiretti |
| • Il verbo piacere |
| • Verbi impersonali |
| • I gradi dell’aggettivo: comparativo e superlativo |

| **Themes & activities:** |
| • Ascolto ed analisi di una canzone dei Lunapop |
| • Confronto tra i generi musicali italiani e quelli americani |
| • Parlare degli aspetti positivi e negativi di Perugia |
| • Il caffè italiano |
| • Visita a un bar della città |

**Tuesday Evening Cultural Event:**
“La Fontana Maggiore di Perugia: un’opera come riflesso della cultura medievale a Perugia”
Week Four

Activities:
- Esprimere un desiderio, un’opinione e fare una stima
- Chiedere qualcosa con cortesia
- Dare consigli
- Esprimere il futuro nel passato
- Dare un consiglio o chiedere a qualcuno di fare qualcosa
- Second Quiz (20 June)

Reader: pp 71-90; pp 93-103

Homework:
Esercizi pp 72-4, 78-81, 85-6, 89-90; pp. 96-97, 100-103
Esercizi in fotocopia

Condizionale
- Condizionale presente (morfologia)
- Condizionale passato (morfologia)
- Modo condizionale (uso)
- Pronomi combinati
- Imperativo diretto (morfologia e uso)
- Imperativo diretto con i pronomi (morfologia e uso)

Themes & activities:
- Lettura sulla storia della Perugina e del Bacio
- Concorso letterario: scrittura a coppie di un messaggio da inserire nel cartiglio del Bacio
- Analisi di alcuni slogan pubblicitari su riviste italiane
- L’introduzione alla cucina italiana: le ricette tipiche umbre

Tuesday Evening Cultural Event: “Gli affreschi del Perugino nel Collegio del Cambio: la rinascita della cultura greco-romana nel mondo cristiano”
### Week Five

#### Activities:
- Esprimere le proprie opinioni e idee
- Esprimere i propri sentimenti
- Esprimere desideri
- Dare istruzioni, ordini, indicazioni, consigli
- Dare un permesso
- Formulare ipotesi possibili e impossibili

- **Exit Proficiency Exam**

- **Final Exam**

#### Congiuntivo
- Congiuntivo presente e passato (morfologia)
- Congiuntivo imperfetto e trapassato (morfologia)
- Modo congiuntivo (uso)
- Pronomi relativi
- Imperativo indiretto (morfologia e uso)

#### Themes & activities:
- Feste tradizionali e folkloristiche italiane
- Confronto con le tradizioni e le feste popolari americane
- Alcuni cenni sul cinema italiano
- Visione di un film italiano

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading:</th>
<th>handouts</th>
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<td>Homework:</td>
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**Tuesday Evening Cultural Event:** Test on memorization of *Cantico delle creature*

**Cultural Events**

Nescire autem quid ante quam natus sis acciderit, id est semper esse puerum. Quid enim est aetas hominis, nisi ea memoria rerum veterum cum superiorum aetate contexitur?

Not to know what happened before you were born is always to remain a child. For what is a human being’s life if through the memory of things past it is not woven into the lives of those who came before?

*Cicero, Orator 120*

**Overview**

The highest goal of the liberal arts tradition is to guide human beings in their life-long search for truth and beauty. The phrase *artes liberales* appears for the first time in the writings of Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 – 43 B.C.), Rome’s greatest statesman and philosopher, and a much admired writer and thinker during the Renaissance and the Founding of the United States of America (Cicero was John Adams’s personal model). Cicero, following Greek thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle, believed that human beings have an insatiable desire to learn; their reason propels them to search for the meaning of their lives and their place in the universe. Cicero also wrote that only human beings can perceive beauty. The desire to learn, and to find beauty in one’s life, are closely related. In the
liberal arts tradition, meaning and truth are synonymous with beauty, because beauty is order, harmony, and symmetry. Modern science agrees. As the Noble Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman put it, “You can recognize truth by its beauty and simplicity.” Beauty, furthermore, enraptures the mind and makes us feel, if only for a brief moment, that we are part of a much greater whole. The Greeks called this whole “cosmos”, the universe understood as a beautiful and ordered whole which can be grasped by human reason. Our word “cosmetic” comes from the original Greek meaning of κόσμος, “order,” “ornament,” in the sense of beauty made by order.

In addition to the universe, another whole in which we participate is our human community. Cicero, as a good Roman, believed that we serve our fellow citizens better when we recognize that we are part of a community of citizens across time. The Romans venerated their ancestors, especially those who helped to found Rome and preserve her republic. You’ll actually meet some of them in works of art in Perugia, especially in the Collegio del Cambio.

One of the goals of Intensive Italian through Culture is to encourage you to think about beauty, and, since much of the beauty you will experience here was created by human beings centuries ago, to perceive your life, in Cicero’s words, as “woven into the lives of those who came before through the memory of things past.” We hope that you can leave Perugia with some new life-long friends, both from the present and from the past!

In order to help you think about beauty, we will discuss three different works from Umbria’s rich artistic past. It will be helpful for you to approach these works as little “sermons,” so that you can ask yourself, “What is this work of art trying to say about human existence, and man’s place in the universe, and in time?” These three works are Francis of Assisi’s Cantico delle creature, a sermon in words about the sun, moon, stars, air, earth, fire and water; the Fontana Maggiore’s sermon in stone on the history of Perugia and the meaning of life in the Middle Ages, including a depiction of the months of the year and the seven liberal arts; and the Collegio del Cambio’s sermon in fresco on the Renaissance’s understanding of itself as a synthesis of the moral truths of classical antiquity and the revelations of the Judeo-Christian tradition. These three works of art address questions of beauty and truth still relevant today. As all great works of art, they not only attract; they are also inexhaustible. You can revisit them during all the seasons of your life.

On Tuesday evenings you will attend a series of lectures delivered in simple Italian by the professor of the course on aspects of the cultural heritage of Western Civilization present in Perugia and Assisi: Sguardo sulla cultura occidentale in Umbria nel Medioevo e Rinascimento: Francesco d’Assisi, la Fontana Maggiore di Perugia, e gli affreschi del Perugino del Collegio del Cambio di Perugia. Italian – English vocabulary sheets of key terms will be distributed at the beginning of each lecture.

You will memorize Francesco d’Assisi’s beautiful poem Il cantico delle creature, one of the first works of Italian literature, and visit the Fontana Maggiore and the Collegio del Cambio, either on your own, or with Professor Proctor or an Italian guide, during the week following his lecture. Depending on your level of written proficiency in Italian, you will submit to Professor Proctor one – two page journal entries containing you reflections on each lecture and your personal experience of the work of art it discusses. The goal for you is to try to express a big idea in grammatically correct Italian at the novice, intermediate, or advanced level.

**Lecture Topics and Journal Assignments**

1. “San Francesco e la bellezza del mondo: il Cantico delle creature”
2. “La Fontana Maggiore di Perugia: un’opera come riflesso della cultura medievale a Perugia.”
   Journal entry due on Saint Francis (lecture and trip to Assisi)
Journal entry due on the Fontana Maggiore
4. Test on memorization of Cantico delle creature
Journal entry due on the Collegio del Cambio

All cultural trips, events, and lectures are conducted in Italian. These events include historical walking tours of Perugia and of Assisi.