

**Kingsborough Community College  
Of  
The City University Of New York**

## Italian 1 Syllabus

(3 hours/3 credits)

### Prerequisites

The prerequisite for Italian 1 is at least one of the following:

- A- Student must not have a significant prior knowledge of the language;
- B- Appropriate score on Italian Placement Test (available on our department's website);
- C- Departmental permission.

### Statement of Philosophy

Interaction through language is one of the most basic elements of the human experience. School systems and institutions have a responsibility to educate students so as to prepare them to be linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate effectively in a pluralistic American society and in the global village. This crucial task must envision a future in which ALL students in the United States will develop and maintain proficiency in at least one language other than English. Students whose heritage language is not English should also be afforded ample occasion to broaden proficiencies in their first language.

### Course Description

This is a course in Italian grammar and syntax designed for students without a significant understanding of the language. It will prepare students for further work in Italian, and will provide them especially with the background necessary for more advanced courses in level 2 of the Italian language. While some of the focus will be on knowledge of Italian grammar, the course will strive to present the spoken language as a communicative tool, making ample use of material that exposes the students to Italian culture. This course will not provide a monolithic set of rules to be memorized.

### Tasks/Grading

Quizzes (25%): There will be five (5) quizzes during the semester; all will count towards the final grade. Note that it is not possible to drop a quiz that is not taken. A missed quiz counts as a zero. Quizzes will cover material from readings and lectures.

Homework (20%): Homework will be assigned at least once a week and will be due at the beginning of the next class period. Assignments will deal with material covered in readings and lectures.

Class activities (5%): These daily activities are based on lectures and homework assignments, and cannot be made up for any reason.

Exams (50%): There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination. These are cumulative, given that a mastery of prior concepts is absolutely necessary for those concepts that follow.

### General Course Goals

- Provide students with the basic tools necessary to communicate correctly in Italian at an elementary level, using the tools and methods of Italian grammar presented in the course.
- Provide students with intensive practice of basic grammatical concepts in Italian.
- Provide students the opportunity to practice their Italian language skills in a structured environment where they become acquainted with Italian culture, history and civilization.

### Specific Course Goals

The purpose of this course is twofold: (a) to further develop students' communicative abilities in Italian, that is, speaking, listening, reading and writing, as well as to improve their knowledge of the workings of the Italian language through an exposition of its rules of grammar and syntax, and (b) to increase their awareness and understanding of Italian culture and society. Homework and classroom activities are designed to help students build their oral proficiency, expand and perfect their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures, improve their reading and writing skills, and develop their critical thinking abilities. The material for this class includes short stories, newspaper articles, poems, songs, cartoons, and video clips. At the completion of this course students will feel confident in speaking in simple sentences of

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a variety of contemporary issues (cultural and religious practices, family relationships, gender stereotypes, political events, immigration to the USA, etc. that are important in the Italian-speaking world).

**General Cultural Outcomes of Italian 1**

Students will be able to speak about major figures in Italian American and Italian cultures. The ability to discuss cultures other than their own will enable the students to distinguish between fact and opinion or between means and ends in his/her own social and political environment. It also will help the student to clarify responsibilities such as those between personal and public responsibilities or those between elected or appointed officials and citizens.

**Specific Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcomes/Expected Results

1. Students will acquire and demonstrate listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills at an elementary level of Italian consistent with ACTFL National Standards for foreign language education.
2. Students will acquire and demonstrate skills necessary to identify the cultures and social/political practices of Italy. Thus, students will acquire and demonstrate ability to talk about cultural artifacts such as short stories and news articles from Italy. Students will form simple sentences in Italian to give informed opinions on cultural subjects covered in class.
3. Students will be able to identify major historical events of Italy and will be able to discuss their views through the use of a basic vocabulary and apposite grammatical and syntactical structures.
4. Students will demonstrate basic competence in Italian.
5. Students will demonstrate familiarity with technologies allowing them to access sources in the following areas: current news from Italy, bibliographical and other sources related to coursework, contemporary culture sources and interactive communication sites.
6. Students will recognize the major cultural figures of Italy and major trends in its culture.

**Outcome Guarantees**

Department of Foreign Languages course work and testing address all aspects of the learning outcomes and mission statements that are common in prevailing national and college standards:

1. Oral/aural testing as well as written is required in all courses. Students will improve their proficiency in these areas.
2. Completion of Kingsborough Foreign Language courses guarantees that students have achieved appropriate level fluency in the target language.
3. Completion of Italian 1 guarantees that students have achieved skills necessary to use in speaking of the cultural practices of Italy, using basic Italian as the vehicular language.
4. Completion of Italian 1 guarantees that students are able to recognize the history of the culture associated with the Italian language.
5. Required acquisition of skills at the Italian 1 level guarantees Italian language competence at an elementary level.
6. Completion of Italian 1 requires students to recognize technology and current events from Italy.
7. Research activity in Italian 1 requires that students identify such competencies as are needed to analyze the literary texts and cultural artifacts/practices of Italian culture.
8. Completion of Italian 1 guarantees that students will be able to identify the most important cultural figures of the Italian-speaking world.
9. Completion of Italian 1 requires the attainment of familiarity with Italian culture and civilization.
10. Completion of Italian 1 guarantees that students recognize key approaches to cultural appreciation.

**Italian in Class**

The class will be taught in Italian, giving the student maximum exposure to the language. Students will make every effort to communicate to the instructor and to other students in Italian. In those cases when you do not understand the instructor or your peers, ask for clarification. In order to meet this course's communication objectives, students must: Study outside of class (daily preparation/ homework/exams); Attend class regularly; Come prepared to class; and participate fully in class activities

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**Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is defined as any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of Kingsborough Community College or subvert the educational process. All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported as required by College rules. Such instances include, but are not limited to: plagiarism (representing as one's own work anything done by another), cheating on assignments or examinations, collusion, falsification of excuses, submitting work from a previous course without explicit permission of your instructor, and violation of course rules contained in the syllabus or provided in class. For example, for a written or oral report you should use the vocabulary, grammar structures, and strategies you've learned. When using researched material, paraphrase your information and DO NOT "cut and paste" whole paragraphs from the web or other sources. Work submitted must be in your own words. "Borrowing" materials without citing sources is plagiarism. Students are also required to behave in a civil manner in the classroom, both in their relations with the instructor and with their peers. If you do not plan to attend this course regularly and on time, you should de-register immediately: anything above six (6) hours of absence will get you a grade of unofficial withdrawal (WU), an administrative grade that eventually turns into an "F." Three (3) latenesses of ten minutes and one (1) lateness of more than ten (10) minutes constitute an absence.

Textbook: Larese Riga, Carla. *Ciao*. Special Edition with Lab/Work manual designed for Kingsborough Students.

**Topical course outline**

**Primo Incontro –(page 10)**

Greetings, levels of formality,  
the alphabet, pronunciations, numbers, days of the week, months.

**Capitolo 1 - (page 18)**

The articles, gender, the verb Essere, c'e, ci sono, The City.

**Capitolo 2 – (page 38)**

"Com e'?" Adjectives, Buono e Bello, The verb avere", idiomatic expressions with avere.

**Capitolo 3 –(page 59)**

Regular verbs ending in -are: il presente. Prepositions. Qual'e` e che.

**Capitolo 4 – (page 80)**

Verbs ending in ere and ire: il presente.  
The partitive ( some and any); alcuni, qualche, un po` di  
Quanto?. Molto, tanto, troppo , poco, tutto ogni.

**Capitolo 5 – (page 103)**

Irregular verbs with -are and -ere.  
Days of the week. Quanto and cardinal numbers.

**Capitolo 6 – (page 123)**

Adjectives and possessive adjectives. Irregulars verbs ending in (\_ere) and (\_ire). The verbs Sapere and Conoscere (to know). Direct-object pronouns.