

ITAL 101

Elementary Italian

General Description

Introduction

ITAL 101 is designed to give you a foundation in basic grammar, some essential vocabulary, and an introduction to Italian culture. The assignments will encourage you to develop your speaking, writing, reading, and listening comprehension skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to use the present and past tenses, ask questions, describe yourself, talk about what you do during the day, and tell time in Italian. You will be able to talk about your home town, your family, university life, travel, and your hobbies. You will have a great basis for continuing with ITAL 102!

ITAL 101 requires no previous language experience. You may find the assignments difficult at first, but remember that everyone who is learning a foreign language for the first time makes mistakes. You will soon develop study habits and skills that will help you cope with new material. If at any time you have questions or need extra support, feel free to e-mail your instructor.

Each lesson requires several hours of preparation. This includes reading the manual *and* the textbook, studying new grammar and vocabulary, and writing out and recording the assignments.

Throughout this course manual you will find grammatical explanations that supplement those in the text. These explanations are meant to reinforce your growing knowledge of Italian grammar.

Required Materials

You will need the following materials for each lesson:

Riga, Carla Larese, and Chiara Maria Dal Martello, *Ciao!*, 6th edition, 2007 (referred to in the lessons as “text”); accompanying CD

- Riga, Carla Larese, and Chiara Maria Dal Martello, *Ciao! Workbook and Lab Manual*, 6th edition, 2007 (referred to in the lessons as “workbook”)
- Riga, Carla Larese, and Chiara Maria Dal Martello, *Ciao! Audioscript and Answer Key*, 6th edition, 2007
- Lab Audio CDs (a set of six audio CDs for workbook assignments) and access to a CD player
- Two blank audiocassette tapes and access to a cassette recorder.

You may purchase the text, workbook, and CDs from the Higher Grounds bookstore at the Friday Center using the book order form in this manual, or online at <https://s4.its.unc.edu/HigherGrounds/>. (Note: All of these materials are also used for ITAL 102.)

Optional Materials

Dictionary

Although your textbook has a glossary, you may want to purchase an Italian-English dictionary as well, especially if you plan to continue studying Italian after this course. *Cassell's Italian Dictionary* and *Webster's New World Italian Dictionary*, both published by Macmillan, are good ones that you can find at bookstores.

Films/Videos

You might find watching Italian films and videos enjoyable. They provide a visual and linguistic introduction to the culture of Italy! Don't be alarmed if you can't understand the dialogues immediately. If you watch these films regularly, your comprehension will improve fast! Some famous films include *La strada*, *L'avventura*, *Cinema paradiso*, *Il postino*, *Caro diario*, and *La vita è bella*.

Book

The Italian Way: Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes and Customs

of the Italians by Mario Costantino and Lawrence Gambella (Lincolnwood, IL: Passport, 1996) is a book that gives a humorous overview of many aspects of Italian culture, from sports to food to swearing.

Organization of the Text

Ciao! is a beginning Italian textbook divided into eighteen chapters. In addition to the eighteen chapters that are organized in the format outlined below, *Ciao!* has two special chapters at the beginning of the book. The **Capitolo preliminare** (“preliminary chapter”) covers Italian pronunciation, while the **Primo incontro** (“first encounter”) focuses on common greetings and introductions. *Ciao!* also contains appendices, a glossary, and an index.

Each chapter’s title is a clue to its cultural content; generally, the vocabulary and exercises relate to the theme.

Each chapter is divided into the following sections:

- **Punti di vista** (“points of view”). This section consists of a dialogue that introduces vocabulary and grammar in a concrete, realistic situation. You will find brief definitions of unfamiliar words in the margins. The **Studio di parole** (“word study”), which lists vocabulary, and the **Ascoltiamo!** (“let’s listen”) sections amplify the chapter’s theme while providing practice with previously learned concepts. These sections are all accompanied by exercises that reinforce reading, speaking, and listening skills. The **Informazioni** box provides information about Italian culture that may also be relevant to the themes of the chapter.
- **Punti grammaticali** (“grammar points”). This section explains the grammar topics introduced in **Punti di vista**. Each grammar point is introduced with drawings and captions. Explanations are offered in English, and the numerous examples demonstrate appropriate use of the grammar. Exercises for each **Punto grammaticale** can be found under the heading **Pratica** (“practice”).

- **Per finire.** This is a reading section that challenges your mastery of the chapter. More vocabulary is introduced.
- **Attualità.** This section includes follow-up activities that provide additional opportunities for creativity and practice. They include reading sections (**Vedute d'Italia**), discussion topics, and writing topics.
- **Vocabolario** (“vocabulary”). This list contains the words introduced in the **Studio di parole** section, as well as other new words found throughout the chapter. You will study this list when preparing for your exam.

Ciao! opens with several physical and political maps detailing Italy’s geography and its relation to Europe. Feel free to refer to these whenever you wish!

Take some time to become familiar with the text before starting the lessons. You will find it a worthwhile effort.

Organization of the Lessons

Each lesson in this course manual is divided into sections corresponding to the grammar in a given chapter of *Ciao!* One chapter is covered by two lessons so that the information is broken up into manageable pieces.

Text and workbook exercises are assigned in each lesson following the explanation of a particular concept in English. The assignments are then summarized under the section **Da fare** (“to do”) **Assignment Summary**. You are required to submit for grading only those items marked by a ★; the others are for your own practice. When writing out exercises to be submitted, always write out the question and the answer and always write in complete sentences.

No *workbook* exercises should be submitted to the instructor because you can find the answers to these in the *Audioscript and Answer Key*. The extra text and workbook exercises not assigned in this course manual are still useful for reviewing the material, either as you go along or in preparation for the final exam.

Most of the lessons are organized so that you progress from basic exercises to more difficult ones. For that reason, sometimes you will have to complete text exercises, then workbook exercises, and then go back to the text, or vice versa. The **Da fare Assignment Summary**, included at the end of each lesson, reiterates the exercises that you must turn in for grading. Remember: You need only submit for grading the exercises identified by a ★.

Some lessons contain an additional homework assignment called **Amplificazione** (“amplification”) that is designed to challenge you and give you the opportunity to apply your new knowledge creatively. Finally, there are two extra review lessons (“Midterm” and “Final Exam Review”) included in the course manual that contain original material not found in the text. These are intended to give you extra *cumulative* practice on grammar, to help you prepare for the final exam.

Study Hints

1. Review the previous lesson before you start studying new material. Learning a language is a cumulative process!
2. Don't hesitate to take notes, make flash cards, read aloud, and create your own examples.
3. As you study, write down your questions, so that you may include them when you send in your homework to be graded. If you need a question answered *before* submitting your work, you may e-mail your instructor. **NEVER** hesitate to ask a question!
4. Use visual cues such as pictures, drawings, and symbols to help yourself understand a sentence or memorize vocabulary.
5. Avoid translating word for word.
6. Study **EVERY DAY**; this will help you retain vocabulary as well as grammar and will help you prepare for your final exam as you go along.

Grading and Final Examination

You will often be required to submit a two-part assignment for each lesson: an oral component and a written component. Both will determine your grade for the assignment.

Your final grade will be distributed as follows:

Lesson assignments: 60 percent (both written and oral)

Final examination: 40 percent

The final exam is cumulative and requires reading *and* writing. **You must pass this supervised final examination in order to receive credit for the course.** The purpose of the final exam is to see how well you have mastered the content of the lessons. The entire exam is in Italian. Please bring pens (or pencils if you find it helpful to erase) and scrap paper to the final exam. You will not be permitted to use a dictionary or any other supplementary materials.

Buona fortuna e buon lavoro!