

University Courses

History of Italian language

Duration

45 hours of lesson given both in English and Italian.

Prerequisites

Sufficient understanding of morpho-syntactical structures of the Italian language and a fair level of conversational skills are required.

Materials

Students will be provided with reading materials. Audio-visual and multimedia materials will be utilized in the classroom.

Objectives

To guide students through the historical development of the Italian language. Special attention will be given to the texts, such as direct expression of ideas and different cultural practices throughout the ages. Attention will also be given to the comprehension and use of language specific to the discipline. Students will have the opportunity to analyze, interpret and discuss linguistic structure and content of various works and make correlations and comparisons.

Methodology

Lectures as well as interactive group activities will be utilized. Optional visits to place of particular historical and artistic interest will be scheduled

Contents

The course will be divided into 12 units according to the historical chronological sequence. At the end of each unit, an oral test will be given. Furthermore, throughout the course additional quizzes may be given to verify retention of the materials presented. A written final exam will be given at the conclusion of the course. The exam may be in the form of multiple choice, true or false, short answer and essay questions.

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No.	Title	Contents	Duration (hrs)
1	The origins	The name <i>Italia</i> , ancient inhabitants, the Roman language, the Christianity, contact with the Germanic peoples, the west and the east, the barbarian domination, the Byzantines, the 8th and 9th centuries, the Veronese riddle, The 10 th and 11 centuries, The didactics in Vulgar in the church of S. Clemente in Rome	3
2	The 13 th century	The poetry of the provençal court, the Sicilian School, S. Francesco, The University of Bologna, Brunetto Latini, The term <i>Italiano</i> , The <i>Stil Novo</i> , The realist poetry, writings of notary publics, public discourse, Guittone d'Arezzo, the <i>Novellino</i> , phonetic, grammatical and lexical peculiarities; The Arabic influence	4
3	Dante	Distinction between Latin and Vulgar, The <i>De vulgari eloquentia</i> , and the <i>Vita nuova</i> , The Vulgar of the <i>Commedia</i> , effects of the <i>Commedia</i> on the Italian civility, Dantean vocabulary and expression	4
4	The 14th century	The religious literature, Vulgar as a means of social emancipation, Italian merchants in Europe, prose and poetry in the various regions, grammatical and lexical peculiarities, Petrarca and Boccaccio	4
5	The 15th century	Humanism, The formalization of Vulgar of Florence, L. B. Alberti, Lorenzo de' medici, cultural exchange between Florence and Naples, printing and editing, provincial texts from various regions, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4
6	The 16th century	Things and words from overseas, The Spanish in Italy, The French influence, Italianism in Europe, The Counter-Reformation, the importance of the Italian abroad, the question of the language (Castiglione, Trissino, Machiavelli, Tolomei, Bembo), The return of the dialect, the humorous language, grammars and lexicons, the academies, The Academy of Crusca, attempts at orthographic unification, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4
7	The 17th century	Hispanicism and Gallicism, Italian voices in Europe, new Italian words, the <i>Vocabolario della Crusca</i> , The <i>Anticrusca</i> , The Baroque fashion, G. B. Marino, G. Galilei, works in dialect, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4
8	The 18th century	The <i>Arcadia</i> , The rationalism, the French influence, first contacts with the English culture, The 4th edition of <i>Vocabolario della Crusca</i> , new debates on the language (Cesarotti, C. Gozzi), the neologism of the 18 th century, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4

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9	From 1796 to the unification of Italy	Napoleon in Italy, The French Revolution and post-revolution, Purism (Cesari, Giordani), V. Monti, A. Manzoni, anglicisms, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4
10	Italy United	Structural uniformities of the new reign, school institutions, urban speech, regional words, Gallicisms and anglicisms, overseas emigration, florentinism, anti-florentinism, linguistic choices of some writers (Verga, Carducci, D'Annunzio, Pascoli, Gozzano, Marinetti), the language of correspondence, grammatical and lexical peculiarities	4
11	The "Grande Guerra", Fascism, World War II	The Society of Dante Alighieri, the first world war, the language at the front, G. Ungaretti, the first post-war, fascism, the political language of the regime, the language of the duce, E. Petrolini, the rational question, Hebraism, the radio transmission, new models of pronunciation, lexical peculiarities	4
12	The Republic	The freedom of expression, the linguistic minorities, migration within Italy and throughout Europe, games and pastimes in Italian, the language of Totò, other comedians, comic strips, newspapers, the radio and the songs of the 1950's, Neo-realism, the dialects in the Italian culture, the new pronunciation, the television, Carosello, M. Marchesi, 1968, <i>il tossichese</i> , ecological, anti-sexist, euphemistic tendencies, the 80's look, the language of sport, publicity, computers, internet, politics, the influence of English, the Italian of foreigners, regional pronunciations and orthoepy	2