

NYU – Department of Italian  
Summer in Florence 2019

**Course Title:** Conversations in Italian

**Level:** Undergraduate

**Course description**

This course has a thematic approach to the Italian language. Applying the topics of the contemporary Italian media and popular culture, focusing on Italian print and broadcast media in terms of their impact on Italian culture and society.

Students will apply and develop their language skills by actively engaging in conversations and research with these themes such as the effect of Italy's regional character on sports, use of language, gastronomy; popular expressions of religious traditions and life habits (Carnival, Passion Plays etc.)

(All could be accompanied by field trips, case-studies and example texts.)

**Textual Resources:**

*Allora: Corso di Italiano. Livello intermedio.* Department of Italian Studies, NYU 2013. [AE]

*Parole per Oggi.* Department of Italian Studies, NYU, 2013. [PO]

**Online Resources (all available within NYU Classes):**

*Allora:* [Grammar Guide](#) [G]

*Allora:* [Glossario & Flashcards](#)

*Allora online* [Video](#) and Audio files.

**Additional Resources:**

*Allora Review Charts: Grammar and Lexicon* to be distributed in class.

Handouts

Italian News papers, Repubblica tv.

**Course Learning Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes**

1. Use only the target language to communicate and interact in class
2. Demonstrate the ability to use the Italian Language to talk about topics of contemporary expressions as they relate to development of popular culture.
3. Conduct a critical (complex) conversation of a wide range of texts and cultural items identifying key issues and themes, style and form.
4. Develop vocabulary and written skills by carrying out individual or team research

projects on Italian social rituals and behavior. They will further their oral presentation skills by exposing their findings to the class. They will refine their written skills through a research paper.

### Course Learning Activities

- Weekly readings in Italian and weekly approach to different medias topics
  - Lectures
  - Personal or team task
  - Oral presentation
  - Essay
  - Quizzes
  - Site visits downtown Florence related to the weekly content:
    - *Culinary Culture*: Mercato di sant’Ambrogio and Mercato di San Lorenzo , *Italian print media*: Biblioteca delle Oblate (more than once), *The Italian family today/Cultural differences*: Museo degli innocenti, *Italian cities and contemporary culture*: Palazzo Strozzi and Murate, *Craftsmanship and Fashion*: Ponte Vecchio, Farmacia di S.M.Novella and piazza Santo Spirito, *Sports*: Piazza Santa Croce.
- \*The dates of the visits are scheduled according to the progress of the classes. Other visits might be added if relevant to the class content.*

### Assessment tools

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Quizzes                       | 10% |
| Participation in class        | 10% |
| Research Project/Task         | 25% |
| Final Exam (oral and written) | 35% |
| Homework                      | 10% |
| Attendance                    | 10% |

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| Week   | Topic and vocabulary  | Activity  |
|--------|---|---|
| Week 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to the course.</li> <li>- Lecture and discussion:</li> <li>- Local Identities: dialects and regionalism</li> <li>- The role of media in the Italian Society</li> <li>- The Italian family today/Cultural differences</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Italian verbs</li> <li>• Vocab: Crosswords in Italian</li> </ul>   |
| Week 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Italian cities and traditions</li> <li>- Religious expressions: Catholicism and Paganism. The social role of religious festivities and pilgrimages.</li> <li>- Vocabulary: Class discussions on Carnival, Passion Plays, Nativity scenes (role of St. Francis)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare a presentation on one Italian region.</li> <li>- Activities related to the Rome field trip.</li> </ul>   |
| Week 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italian print media</li> <li>- Class discussion: various examples of easily understood Italian print media: <i>I giornali italiani piu' famosi</i></li> <li>- Development and contemporary role/impact of radio and television</li> <li>- Class discussion: I canali radio e la musica.</li> <li>- Music. Popular and Folk music, il cantautore</li> <li>- Class discussion: contemporary Italian music, Il Festival di San Remo, global influences</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watch a TV program and analyze it for class discussion</li> <li>- La figura della donna in tv.</li> <li>- Watch il festival di San Remo.</li> <li>- <i>Una canzone italiana</i></li> </ul> |
| Week 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Culinary Culture: la cucina regionale</li> <li>- Food and wine</li> <li>- Lo sport: Football/soccer. Local identities, politics and the media. Analysis of a mass sporting event (soccer match).</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find examples of soccer fandom in Rome (interviews, bars, banners, graffiti etc)</li> <li>- Handout on typical products</li> </ul>   |
| Week 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Craftsmanship and Fashion. Local textile and craft traditions, and their relationship to high fashion</li> <li>- Class discussion of relationship between popular craft, local identities and high fashion</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Find the most important fashion brands of Italy. The fashion week in Italy. What does Italy produce today?</li> </ul>  |
| Week 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deadline for research project outlines</li> <li>- Conclusions and review</li> <li>FINAL EXAM</li> <li>- Fieldwork presentations</li> </ul>   |   |

SAMPLE