**Signora Durand 2017-18**

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| Introductory Italian 11 |
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop skills in all four aspects of language learning:

LISTENING SPEAKING READING

WRITING

1. To provide students with an authentic Italian curriculum and enable them to COMMUNICATE realistically and effectively in Italian in meaningful situations.
2. To help students gain insight into the Italian language and culture.

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PHILOSOPHY AND OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM

Welcome to Introductory Italian 11! I am very happy to have you in my class. I am looking forward to working with you this semester.

The method I use to teach Italian in my classroom is called TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling). It is exactly as it sounds. My lessons are centered around telling stories to our class with student actors. There is also a reading, acting, writing and holistic grammar component to each week.

The philosophy is based on research that shows that a language is learned and mapped onto the brain through high exposure to understandable language. It is also based on a belief that learning a language needs to be fun and natural in a low stress environment where you feel free to take risks and generally BE GOOFY and playful. In fact, the more outrageous, participatory, and extroverted our class is, the more you learn.

Grammar will be covered naturally with the goal of improving your writing and speaking!

It is important to be patient with yourself. Some students progress very quickly in the beginning while some need more time to map structures into their long-term memory. The goal is to learn a language; it is not a race!

This class will most likely not be like any other class you have right now. First of all, there is almost never any homework …other than the weekly comic!! ☺

However, I have an expectation of 110% of your focus during story telling time. This is crucial and non-negotiable. It is a bit exhausting, but the results will greatly impress you! Because I require such intense focus from you, I never allow cell phones or other devices in class. If there is a family emergency, and your parents need to get in touch with you on very short notice, then of course I make exceptions for this. Otherwise, if your parents really need to reach you, they can call the office and the secretaries will page the classroom directly.

The one challenging aspect of this course is that it is difficult to make up my classes if you are absent. If you know your family is planning a family holiday, please let me know. I usually assign readings to do as an alternative to being in class.

**ORGANIZATION**

My class usually runs on a 6 day cycle.

**Day 1**: This day involves establishing meaning. You will learn vocabulary for the first 15 to 20 minutes and then we are onto the crazy story. This is followed by 1 to 2 more days of storytelling.

**Day 4**, You will prepare and present a skit based on the story of the week. It is an intense day. You will have 40 minutes to write and learn a skit and then present it to the class.

**Day 5**: You will be doing extended readings, completing an in-class write and beginning comprehension questions and the weekly comic.

**Day 6**: You will be completing a structure quiz based on the story read the day before. We also read a chapter of our novel on this day. This is also the day we do informal grammar based on your writing.

Your Italian folder on your device needs to be organized into 5 sections. This is crucially important so that you are able to keep organized. You will need all of these sections to prepare skits, complete comics and prepare for weekly writes and the movie you will be preparing for the final exam.

The five sections include: **Embedded Readings, Vocabulary, Comics, Comprehension questions, and Worksheets**.

EVALUATION

Your grade is based on the following:

1. **Assignments** – **10%** (comics and comprehension questions)
2. **Writing in class** - **30%** (100 words and working up to 500 words at the end of the term)
3. **Oral – 15%** (oral skits presented in groups)
4. **Quizzes** – **15%** (quizzes based on stories)
5. **Midterm** - **(10%)** oral interview based on personalized questions. In class write with a visual prompt.
6. **Final project – 5%** Movie based on one of the stories told throughout the year. Subtitles need to be included.
7. **Final (15%)**
   1. **Final Oral** :interview based on personalized questions
   2. **Story talk**: listening comprehension assessment
   3. **In-class write:** based on a picture prompt
   4. **Grammar:** grammar based on structures learned this year

SPEAKING POLICY

If Signora Durand asks a question in Italian, you must answer in Italian. If she asks a question in English, you may answer in Italian or English. If you MUST say something in English, you must first ask, ***“In inglese, per piacere?”***

RULES FOR STORYASKING

1. Listen with the intent to understand.
2. One person speaks, EVERYONE else listens.
3. Sit up straight with squared shoulders and clear eyes.
4. Speak Italian.
5. Use the time out or over your head gesture to show you don’t understand.

j0423834ATTENDANCE/ ABSENCES/ FIELD TRIPS

1. You are expected to be on time and attend class every day.

**YES**, we did something important the day you were away!

1. If you have an excused absence, have your parents/guardian contact the school.

1. If you will be going on a field trip or participating in a sporting event with a school team, you must **notify me IN ADVANCE**. **YOU are RESPONSIBLE** for all missed work.
2. If you are planning on taking an **extended holiday** of 5 or more days, you must **notify me well in advance**. You will have to come in **prior** to your trip to copy down any notes that you will need and I will provide you with work to do while you are away. You will be expected to complete all missing assignments and tests **outside** of class time within **one week** of your return.

TUTORIALS/MAKE-UP DAYS

You may come in for extra help most days before school or after school. If you miss a test, quiz, exam or assignment due to an **excused absence**, it is your responsibility to make it up the **first** day upon your returnto school.