



Department of Humanities

Academic Year 2023/24

ITALY FOR BEGINNERS. AN INTRODUCTION TO ITALIAN CULTURE

Course objectives and learning outcomes

Basic knowledge of Italy's geography and history; in-depth knowledge of some aspects of Italian culture and society, with some regional and local elements.

Entrance requirements

Proficiency in English.

Contents

1. Introductions and course overview.
2. Italy 101: maps and basic data.
3. Italy through time: from Prehistory to the Middle Ages.
4. Italy through time: from the Early Modern Age to Unification.
5. Italy through time: the early decades of unified Italy (1861-1914).
6. Italy through time: the "European Civil War" (1914-1946).
7. Italy through time: the Republic (from 1946 on).
8. Another Italy: Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and the Alpine region.
9. Students' presentations: language(s) and local cultures, and Italy seen by foreigners.
10. Students' presentations: art, architecture, design, and fashion.
11. Students' presentations: cinema and television.
12. Students' presentations: literature and music.
13. Students' presentations: food, sports, and leisure.
14. Students' presentations: politics, economy, and society.
15. Review and conclusions.

Teaching and learning methods and activities

Lectures, discussions, class exercises, and students' presentations.

Tests and assessment criteria

Students' assessment is based on:

- active participation in class;
- presentation to the class on one of the course topics;
- final written exam.

Students who cannot attend classes on a regular basis for valid reasons should contact the instructor to arrange alternative assignments.

Bibliography / study materials

Articles, book chapters, and additional material made available online by the instructor.