

The University of Vermont  
Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics  
Elementary Italian 001  
sample syllabus

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Italian 001 is the first course in a two-semester sequence of beginning Italian. It is designed for the student with little or no prior knowledge of the language. The course emphasizes all four skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing with a special focus on speaking. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to use their newly acquired skills in order to communicate in Italian in a realistic and culturally appropriate manner. All classes will be taught in Italian.

The University of Vermont respects the Department of Education's definition of a credit hour: for every hour spent in a classroom, a student is expected to complete approximately 2 hours of coursework outside of it. Thus, in ITAL 001, a 4-credit course, a student should expect to work at least 8 hours a week outside of the classroom.

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of ITAL 001, you will be able to:

- describe yourself and others
- initiate and maintain a basic conversation
- compare and contrast people and ideas
- speak and write about current activities
- express likes and dislikes
- fill out simple forms and documents, and provide basic biographical information
- engage in the reading of short, simple texts
- have a broader cultural knowledge of the Italian-speaking communities and countries of the world today

**III. COURSE MATERIALS:**

Janice M. Aski and Diane Musumeci. *Avanti! Beginning Italian*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, McGraw Hill (ISBN-13: 9780073386263), with the accompanying workbook (ISBN-13: 9780077595661) In ITAL 001, besides supplementary materials distributed in class, we cover six chapters of our textbook. This textbook will be used in ITAL 002 and 051 as well (the remaining four chapters not covered in Elementary Italian 001-002).

**IV. GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

Partial exams	30%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	20%
Class participation	15%
Homework	10%
Quizzes (number open)	10%
Oral exam (open)	10%
Compositions, journals, special projects, etc.	<u>5%</u>
	100%

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*This is just an example of a grade breakdown. Instructors may tailor the grade breakdown to their own courses and are not limited to these classifications or percentages.*

1. Partial exams (30%)

The scheduled partial exams in this class will be given on the following dates:

There will be no make-up exams in this class without an official excuse.

*Official excuses may consist of: religious holidays (during the first 2 weeks of classes, you should submit a letter to your instructor with the dates and reasons for your absences); UVM-sponsored events (during the first 2 weeks of classes, you should submit a letter to your instructor, on UVM letterhead and signed by your supervisor or coach, with the dates and reasons for your absences); Dean's excuse (contact your Dean's Office if you have a serious reason to miss classes or tests and they will email your instructor).*

2. Final Exam (20%)

The final exam for this class is comprehensive and is scheduled for:

No make-ups will be given without an official excuse.

3. Class participation, absences, and late arrivals (15%)

Participation: In the ITAL 001 classroom, active and constructive class participation is a requirement. Speaking a foreign language with proficiency is an acquired skill that entails consistent practice and self-discipline. In this class, active participation includes volunteering answers, answering questions accurately, staying on task in pair and group work, and respecting the classroom environment rules.

Absences: More than four (4) unexcused absences (i.e., absences for which you do not have an official excuse) will lower your final grade. Unexcused absences may include light illness, faulty alarm clocks, and delayed flights.

Late arrivals: Three (3) late arrivals equal one absence in this course.

4. Homework (10%)

You must respect your instructor's homework guidelines. Please use high-quality dictionaries, avoid automatic translators, and carefully review your work. Late homework will not be accepted.

5. Quizzes (10%)

The missed quiz policy for this section of ITAL 001 is the following:

6. Oral exam (10%)

Oral exams are designed to evaluate speaking and listening skills; please refer to the course schedule for the oral exam dates. No make-ups will be given without an official excuse.

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7. Compositions, projects, journals, etc. (=other homework, 5%)

Grading scale used in all Romance Languages and Linguistics courses at UVM:

97% – 100%	=	A+
94% – 96%	=	A
90% – 93%	=	A-
87% – 89%	=	B+
84% – 86%	=	B
80% – 83%	=	B-
77% – 79%	=	C+
74% – 76%	=	C
70% – 73%	=	C-
67% – 69%	=	D+
64% – 66%	=	D
60% – 63%	=	D-
0% – 59%	=	F

**V. VARIA:**

1. Academic integrity: It is plagiarism to present another's ideas or words as your own. In a foreign language classroom, this includes computer-based translations. If you have questions when preparing a composition or other graded assignment, please ask your instructor. Do not have someone else correct your writing for you before turning it in for a grade. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and can result in a failing grade or worse.

(<http://www.uvm.edu/sconduct/?Page=ah.html&SM=menu-programs.html>)

2. Student learning accommodations: In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Students Accessibility Services on campus ([www.uvm.edu/access](http://www.uvm.edu/access)).

3. Religious Holidays: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to your instructor in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

4. Resources for language students:

- The Language Resource Center at the University of Vermont: <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmlrc>
- Free tutoring at the Tutoring Center: [www.uvm.edu/learnco](http://www.uvm.edu/learnco)
- Bailey Howe Library Media Collections

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- UVM has a subscription to SCOLA, the international television service:  
[www.scola.org](http://www.scola.org)

*Tentative course schedule to follow*

SAMPLE