

The Italian Language School, Italian Cultural Society Sacramento

Our classes are listed in numerical order, **but this is not a precise mathematical sequence**. Each class moves at a slightly different pace to respect the needs of the individual students. These descriptions offer a general view of our school's structure. The classes numbered from 1 to 16 use the textbook "Prego! An Invitation to Italian" as well as a vast array of teacher handouts and exercises. The "Da Capo" text is used in our Avanzato classes. If you already speak some Italian and are concerned about which class is best for you, please contact our director, Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti, at 916 4825900 or italy@italiancenter.net for assistance.

Introduction to Italian: (1) Students with no previous Italian will develop basic listening and speaking skills. They will learn the rules of pronunciation and master courtesy words, greetings, salutations, numbers, months and days of the week. They will be able to navigate common communicative situations, like meeting new people, asking for directions, and describing basic characteristics of persons, places and things. This class is conducted mostly in English. Italian is encouraged and spoken to introduce new vocabulary and grammar patterns. This class is ideal for students new to Italian who want to learn some basics.

Beginning Italian: (2,3) Students who have completed our introductory course or have acquired basic Italian will build on the fundamentals and learn new vocabulary. The focus is on learning verbs and understanding frequently used expressions. Students will learn how to speak about family, pastimes, food and drink, the weather and the time of day. Students will continue expanding vocabulary, practice speaking, and understand everyday Italian through interactive classroom conversations, targeted reading and writing. These classes are conducted mostly in English with progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns.

Advanced Beginning Italian:(4,5) Students will understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment, fashion terms etc.) Students will communicate routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Learn to describe in simple terms aspects of background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need. The grammar skills will include reflexive verbs and more past tense verb forms to communicate about events in the past. There will be an opportunity to practice and improve conversational skills. These classes use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used for clarification, and all grammar lessons are in English.

Intermediate Italian: (6,7) Students will be able to understand and communicate the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, and travel. They will produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. They will learn to describe experiences and events, health and body, travel destinations, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. Students will learn to compare and contrast and qualify. They will learn to communicate using a variety of verbs tenses including the future. They will learn to give and take commands and directions. This class will use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used for clarification and all grammar lessons are presented in English.

Advanced Intermediate Italian: (8,9,10) Students learn to understand the main ideas of more complex text on both concrete and abstract topics. They will learn to interact with more spontaneity and fluency to make regular interaction with native speakers possible. Students will be able to describe their dwellings, transportation, occupations, business, and personal goals. They will produce clear, detailed text on a range of subjects and issues giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options. They will learn to communicate using a broad variety of verbs tenses. This class will use progressively more Italian to grow vocabulary and grammar patterns. English used only for clarification, and all grammar lessons are presented in English.

Advanced Italian 1: (11,12,13) Students learn to understand a wider range texts, and recognize idiomatic phrases and implied meaning. They will practice expressing ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious assistance. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social purposes and can produce clear, well-structured, cohesive sentences. They will learn to communicate about a large range of topics including art, politics, the world of work, and express ideas and opinions. They will use a broad variety of verbs tenses including the remote past and begin to learn the subjunctive tense and its use. Italian is the classroom language. English is used only for clarification and grammar explanations.

Advanced Italian 2: (14, 15, 16) Students at this level are completing the course textbook and understand a wider range texts, they can recognize many idiomatic phrases and understand the implied meaning. Students at this level practice expressing ideas fluently and spontaneously without much assistance. They can use language flexibly and effectively for a variety of social purposes and can produce clear, well-structured, and cohesive sentences. They will learn to communicate about a large range of topics including art, politics, the world of work, and express ideas and opinions. They will use a broad variety of verbs tenses including the remote past and begin to learn the subjunctive tense and its use. Italian is the primary classroom language. English may be used only for clarification and grammar explanations.

CORSO AVANZATO: Students who will benefit from this class are already at an advanced level. They have completed all chapters in the course textbook. Students of this

course can understand most spoken Italian and can read in Italian. Italian film and literature are also accessible with little need for translation. Students can summarize information from different spoken and written sources and can reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. They can express themselves spontaneously, fluently and precisely on simple everyday matters. Students practice more complex linguistic constructions, grammar, idioms, and expressions. Teacher integrates multimedia, film, literature, internet and other media to increase vocabulary and fluency. Italian is the classroom language and the need for English translation is rare.

CORSO SUPERIORE: This is our most advanced level. Students of this course can easily understand virtually everything heard or read in Italian. Italian film and literature are also accessible with no need for translation. They can summarize information from different spoken and written sources and can reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. At this level, students can express themselves spontaneously, fluently and precisely. They are generally able to differentiate the finer shades of meaning even in complex situations. This fluency allows them to understand jokes, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions in Italian. Students master more complex linguistic constructions, grammar, idioms, and expressions. Teacher integrates multimedia, film, literature, internet and other media to increase vocabulary and fluency. Italian is the classroom language.

ITALIAN FOR TRAVELERS: Bring out your inner Italian with this class designed especially for travelers to “il Bel Paese:” Italy. Our Italian for Travelers class prepares you to experience the best the world has to offer art, history, food, wine, music, culture and spectacular beauty all await the traveler to Italy. This course will make your trip to Italy much more enjoyable! Students learn basic conversation skills, useful vocabulary and key phrases and begin using Italian at the first lesson. The focus is on Italian culture and customs, valuable travel tips and practical information which will prepare the traveler to confidently visit and enjoy the Italian Peninsula. Students return from Italy praising the usefulness of the course.

This special class is generally available only in January-April and is taught by our Travel Director and Italy Travel specialist Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti.