American University  
Department of Language and Foreign Studies  
Italian 318-001: Conversation and Composition I  
Fall 2009; McKinley 207, Mon & Thu, 2:10-3:25 PM

Instructor  Ranieri Moore Cavaceppi  
Office  Sports Complex Annex 174  
Office Hours  Tuesdays 10-11 AM, Wednesdays 10-11 AM & 12:30-4:30 PM  
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Textbooks  

Course Description
The aim of this course is to provide students with advanced skills in speaking, reading and writing comprehension. Students will be exposed to a variety of contemporary cultural topics about Italy. By the end of the semester students will be able to converse proficiently in Italian about these cultural topics. Students will also be able to write essays in a clear and concise manner. Students and teacher will converse and write only in Italian (with possible exceptions for grammatical/textual explanations).

Grading
4 Essays  40%  
Midterm  10%  
5 Quizzes  10%  
Attendance and Participation  20%  
Final Exam  20%  
*(7 December, McKinley 207, 2:10-4:40 PM)*

Attendance and Participation
The student’s performance in class is part of his/her work. Students should be fully prepared before coming to class. Specific written and oral assignments will be given for dates specified by the instructor. Each student’s attendance and participation grade will be based on the quality of his/her homework throughout the semester. **No late work will be accepted.** Attendance will affect the final grade. Students are expected to attend all sessions and participate actively during each class meeting. An absence does not excuse missed work. The student is responsible for contacting the instructor or a classmate if an assignment is missed. **Each absence over 3 will result in a reduction in your attendance and participation grade, e.g., if your attendance and participation grade is an A, a 4th absence will drop it to a B; a 5th to a C; a 6th to a D, and 7 absences or more will result in a 0 for attendance and participation.**
Grading Scale
A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 88-89
B 83-87
B- 80-82
C+ 78-79
C 72-77
C- 67-71
D 60-66
F 59 and below

The Final Exam must be taken on the date specified. Do not book flights conflicting with the exam date.

Academic Integrity
I take plagiarism and academic dishonesty very seriously, and I am required to report cases to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, whose policy is to fail students for the course.
Please read the university's Academic Integrity Code closely, and be sure to ask me if you have any questions. The code is available online at http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/index.htm.

Academic and Disability Support Services

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. In addition to the resources of the department, a wide range of services is available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements.

Academic Support Center (x3360, MGC 201) offers study skills workshops, individual instruction, tutor referrals, and services for students with learning disabilities.

Counseling Center (x3500, MGC 201) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources.

Disability Support Services (x3315, MGC 206) offers technical and practical support and assistance with accommodations for students with physical or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability and might require accommodations in this course, please notify me with a letter from DSS or LS early in the semester so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner with a letter from the Academic Support Center or Disability Support Services so that we can make arrangements to address your needs.
Class Schedule

24 agosto
Introduzione, sillabo
Compiti: Italia, pp. 17-28; domande p. 28.

27 agosto
Fascismo, seconda guerra mondiale
Compiti: Italia, pp. 38-41; domande pp. 39 e 41.

31 agosto
Umberto Eco, Lorenza Mazzetti
Compiti: Italia, pp. 48-54, 57; domande pp. 50, 51 e 54; Quiz#1.

3 settembre
Quiz #1
Primo Levi, Alberto Moravia, Vittorio De Sica
Compiti: Italia, pp. 66-75.

7 settembre
Vacanze

10 settembre
Secondo dopoguerra, boom economico
Compiti: Italia, pp. 76-80; domande p. 78.

14 settembre
Consumismo
Compiti: Italia, pp. 81-82, 86-88; domande p. 88.

17 settembre
Ciclismo, Federico Fellini, Italo Calvino
Compiti: Saggio #1.

21 settembre
Film: La meglio gioventù
Compiti: Italia, pp. 89-93, 96-98, 101; domande pp.90, 93 e 98.

24 settembre
Natalia Ginzburg, Italo Calvino, Vittorio De Sica
Film: La meglio gioventù
Compiti: Italia, pp. 111-125; domande p. 122; Quiz #2.
28 settembre
**Quiz #2**
Fine degli anni sessanta, anni di piombo
Film: *La meglio gioventù*

1º ottobre
Giuseppe Culicchia, Andrea De Carlo, Ettore Scola
Film: *La meglio gioventù*

5 ottobre
Fine Novecento, Tangentopoli
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
Compiti: **Saggio #2**.

8 ottobre
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
Compiti: Midterm.

12 ottobre
**Midterm**

15 ottobre
Centro destra v. centro sinistra
Film: *La meglio gioventù*

19 ottobre
Giampaolo Rugarli, Giorgio Bocca, Bianca Stancanelli
Film: *La meglio gioventù*

22 ottobre
Immigrazione e disoccupazione
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
Compiti: *Italia*, pp. 244-249, 252-254; domande pp. 247, 249 e 254; Quiz #3.

26 ottobre
**Quiz #3**
Giovanni Sartori, Marco Gasperetti, Massimiliano Melilli
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
29 ottobre
Mezzogiorno, mafia
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
Compiti: **Saggio #3**.

2 novembre
Lettura
Film: *La meglio gioventù*
Compiti: *Io non ho paura*, pp. 5-46.

5 novembre
Lettura
Compiti: *Io non ho paura*, pp. 47-72; Quiz #4.

9 novembre
**Quiz #4**
Lettura
Compiti: *Io non ho paura*, pp. 73-96.

12 novembre
Lettura
Film: *Io non ho paura*
Compiti: *Io non ho paura*, pp. 97-123.

16 novembre
Lettura
Film: *Io non ho paura*
Compiti: *Io non ho paura*, pp. 124-162; Quiz #5.

19 novembre
**Quiz#5**
Lettura
Film: *Io non ho paura*

23 novembre
Lettura
Film: *Io non ho paura*

26 novembre
**Vacanze**
30 novembre
Lettura
Film: Io non ho paura
Compiti: Saggio #4.

3 dicembre
Ripasso finale, valutazioni

7 dicembre
Final Exam: McKinley 207, 2:10-4:40 PM

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
In the event of a declared pandemic (influenza or other communicable disease), American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU e-mail and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any absence due to illness. Students are responsible for checking their AU e-mail regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of a declared pandemic or other emergency, students should refer to the AU Web site (www.prepared.american.edu) and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean’s office for course and school/college-specific information.