Course Description:

This course will explore contemporary Italy from the perspective of its young generation. We will attempt to understand why today’s youth sees Italy as a country for old people. Through journalistic writings, songs, films, and a variety of other media, we will explore such themes as, family life, school life, adolescence, habits, trends, tastes, political engagement and generational conflicts. From time to time, based on availability, Italian guests will be invited to class to participate in class discussions and activities.

This is a Credit/No Credit class. A minimum grade of C- is required to receive credit.
Attendance and participation are extremely important in this class. Three short oral presentations are also required. You can choose your topics, but they must deal with one of the themes treated in this class. The presentations should be no longer than five to ten minutes, and include some minutes and include some form of quiz to be administered to the class. Creativity and originality are highly encouraged. Feel free to discuss your chosen topics with me at any time. A midterm, a final examination, and a final group project are also required. More detailed information on these requirements will be provided at appropriate times.

**Course objectives:**

This course is designed to help you improve your oral communication skills in Italian through participation in interactive tasks. Class activities will provide you with numerous opportunities to develop your oral proficiency. Vocabulary expansion, grammar, and strategies will be integrated as needed to help you develop various communicative functions such as describing, comparing, narrating, expressing and supporting opinions.

This course will be conducted entirely in Italian. At the beginning of the semester a MOPI will be administered to each student to determine his/her level of proficiency on the ACTFL OPI scale. Another MOPI will be administered at the end of the semester. All students enrolled are strongly encouraged to take an official OPI at the end of the semester.

**Prerequisite: ITA 220 or equivalent.**

**Class materials:** All relevant materials will be provided in class or posted on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Use of the Italian language in class at all times.

2. Preparation of all assignments.

3. Weekly attendance and active class participation, ie.

   a. **Speaking only and always in Italian in class.**
b. Using new acquired structures and vocabulary in class as much as possible.
c. Working in pairs and groups according to instructions given in class.
d. Helping other students while working together.
e. Speaking Italian with your classmates, even if you finish your assignment/task before the others.
f. Using appropriate communicative strategies to negotiate meaning and interact with other students.
g. Successfully completing your assigned task/assignment.

However, you should never be afraid of making mistakes. Always keep in mind that you are not expected to speak error free. Your accuracy will improve over time and through continuous practice.

4. In a communicative language class, vocabulary is extremely important. You will not be able to express yourself or understand others without a rich vocabulary base. However, memorizing vocabulary words in an alphabetical list or using flash cards with English translations are usually not very effective strategies. Also, unless you study vocabulary in context, you will not know how to use it correctly and appropriately. You should always study vocabulary grouped by theme and always in context. Use photos, drawings and other visuals rather than English translations to learn individual words and expressions. Also, making an attempt to use new words and expressions continuously in all your communicative exchanges will help you tremendously in expanding your vocabulary base.

5. Please try to attend the Tavola italiana, a weekly informal conversation hour that meets every Wednesday, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in Taper Hall, 170. Here you will be able to meet other learners of Italian in an informal setting and practice your language skills over cookies and coffee.

6. Be sure to also attend the screenings of our Italian Film Club. This schedule will be posted on Blackboard and the Language Center’s Web site.

7. Please join the USC Italian Club and try to participate in all its activities.

8. Try to attend Italian-themed activities at USC or in other venues. For example, you can attend events organized by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura: ww.iiclosangeles.esteri.it).

Policy for Make-Ups

There will be no exam make-ups. If you miss a test, you will receive a “0” that will average with the others, thus bringing down your grade. There are, however, some exceptions to this rule.
General USC policies state that students who can verify that they were prevented from completing assignments and/or taking exams due to illness or religious holidays are permitted to make up the work they missed. Students who miss class because of their performance in university-sponsored events, such as athletic competitions, fine-arts performances, ROTC activities, etc. are also allowed to make up the work they missed. The other valid reason for making up work is a death in the immediate family. Personal reasons for missing class cannot be excused. These include personal trips to attend university-sponsored events as a spectator, to visit family, to attend weddings (and similar events), to attend court (except for jury duty), and other personal reasons, even when plane tickets have been purchased.

In order to make up any work (assignments, quizzes, exams, etc.) that you miss, you must present valid, original documentation to your instructor. For illness, a medical excuse from a doctor or other appropriate health-care provider is required and is subject to confirmation. Students using the University Park Health Center should have a valid release on file at the UPHC with their instructor’s name on it. For university-sponsored events, an original memo from the appropriate advisor must be provided. Documentation from a newspaper, funeral, memorial service, etc., must be provided in the event of absence due to a death in the immediate family.

The same university rules apply in case a student misses the final exam. If the final exam cannot be re-scheduled before the end of the semester, the student must request a grade of “I” (Incomplete) and complete the missing portion(s) of the course within one academic year. **Please note: a grade of Incomplete cannot be assigned by the instructor without an official request from the student.**

**Important Dates**

- Jan. 31: Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit.
- Jan. 31: Last day to drop a class without a mark of “W”.
- Apr. 11: Last day to drop a class with a mark of “W”.

**Grades**

| 93-100  | A   |
| 90-92   | A-  |
| 87-89   | B+  |
| 83-86   | B   |
| 80-82   | B-  |
| 77-79   | C+  |
| 73-76   | C   |
| 70-72   | C-  |
| 67-69   | D+  |

Italian 120 – Spring 2014 - University of Southern - California
63-66  D
60-62  D-
0-59  F

Components of Your Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations (3)</td>
<td>Throughout the semester</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Midterm</td>
<td>Thursday Feb. 27\textsuperscript{th} by appointment</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Group Project</td>
<td>April 22\textsuperscript{nd} – 29\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>May 1\textsuperscript{st} by appointment</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: [http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/). Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty.

Academic Accommodations Based on Disability

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability will need to make arrangements with the office of Disability Services and Programs (DSP) at the beginning of the semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is located in the Student Union, Room 301. Their telephone number is (213) 740-0776.

Tentative Schedule and topics:

January 13 & 14
Introduzione al corso.
Conosciamoci meglio.

Jan. 21 & 23
Strategie di lettura
I giovani americani oggi: identikit
I giovani e la società italiana oggi

Jan. 28 & 30
Giovani italiani: Nord vs. Sud

Feb. 4 & 6
I giovani migranti
Presentazioni orali

Feb. 11 & 13
I giovani e la famiglia
Presentazioni Orali

Feb. 18 & 20
I giovani e la scuola
Presentazioni orali

Feb. 25
Il tempo libero
Presentazioni orali

Feb. 27
Oral Midterm by appointment
March 4 & 6
Il linguaggio dei giovani
Divisioni sociali
Presentazioni orali

Mar. 11 & 13
Problemi e insoddisfazioni
Divisioni sociali
Presentazioni orali

Mar. 17-22
Spring Recess

Mar. 25 & 27
Il mondo del lavoro
Giovani donne fra famiglia e lavoro
Presentazioni orali

Apr. 1 & 3
Il mondo giovanile nel cinema contemporaneo e in letteratura
Presentazioni orali

Apr. 8 & 10
Giovani e impegno sociale e politico
Presentazioni orali

Apr. 15 & 17
Giovani e studio
Scambi culturali in Europa
Presentazioni orali
Apr. 22 & 24

Ideali e incertezze
Giovani e futuro
Group Projects

Apr. 29
Final Group Projects

May 1
Final Oral Exam by appointment

*PLEASE NOTE: YOU WILL BE INFORMED IN CLASS OF ANY CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS.*