A New Approach to Videos in Intermediate Italian Courses

University of Southern California
Italian Language Teachers’ Workshop
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ITAL module #4
“Raccontami una Storia di Roma”

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ITAL
Intercultural Transmedia Approach To Learning
www.italchannel.tv
ITAL Goals

- Transcultural competence
- Local Italian community
- Listening comprehension
- Current Italian culture
- Media literacy
ITAL Module 1  *A Day in the Life of An Italian*  
&  
ITAL Module 2  *Toward the South*

- **Center Piece** (video length average 12.5 min)
- **Culture Bits** (video length average 7.5 min)
- **Cooking With An Accent** (video length average 6 min)

Plus additional videos as listening comprehension exercises
Clip from Center Piece - “Mia zia Flavia”  a)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALpusrjbKKQ
Clip from Center Piece - “Mia zia Flavia” b)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALpusrjbKKQ
Clip from Culture Bits “Anche Jovanotti”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJr_GlygGUU
Clip from Cooking with an Accent
“Catania & Napoli”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtILNpXwkzc

7. Cucinate la pasta per 10 minuti e poi giratela e cucinatela dall'altro lato per 10 minuti
ITAL Module 3 – *I Love Italy*

- **Center Piece:** *Why is Italy relevant today?*
- **Culture Bits:**
  “Ragione 1: Biz all’italiana”
  “Ragione 2: Il cibo è fatto a mano”
  “Ragione 3: L’Unione Europea”

Plus additional videos
Translingual: the ability to navigate from one language to another one.

Transcultural: the skill to compare attitudes and traditions of two different cultures, and embrace both differences and similarities.
A few observations with which you may agree:

- MLA was right: TC is crucial for succeeding in today’s society
- It is extremely hard to increase levels of TC when there is so much else to cover in a typical intermediate semester
- Effective TC training requires customized, localized solutions

*Transcultural Competence provides students with the ability of walking in someone else's shoes.*
The ITAL project:
- Educational video modules
- Transcultural documentaries
- Community events/news
- Transcultural entertainment

ITAL was specifically designed to increase levels of transcultural competence in intermediate students of Italian

Quotes from students of Intermediate Italian and users online:
“ITAL was the perfect component for my class. No book would have made me understand Roman life better than ITAL”

“The videos are absolutely gorgeous and the stories are extremely entertaining. There’s nothing like ITAL on the web.”
“I was able to share my learning process with my parents who originally had disagreed with my choice to learn Italian”
The Goals of ITAL Module 4

Make the experience more interactive by utilizing Google Maps

Use English to provide context, while keeping content in Italian

Focus on only one Italian city

Use engaging and diverse media that resemble social media feeds

Put high emphasis on local community involvement
Module 4

http://www.italchannel.tv/copy-of-module-3

Module 4 - Raccontami una Storia di Roma

Explanation Video
Proviamo insieme!

Story # 29 – Altare della Patria
https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1_-kGeRe9STJa_27QYpDBP8nXjVk

Story # 9 – Dolce Maniera
https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1_-kGeRe9STJa_27QYpDBP8nXjVk

Story # 27 – Taking the bus in Rome
https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1_-kGeRe9STJa_27QYpDBP8nXjVk
Implementing ITAL Module 4

Step 1: Split into Groups –
Each group chooses one of the themes suggested by ITAL - Build Group Identity - Create blog accounts

To the Students: To make the best out of Module 4, create a team of storytellers with peers in your classroom. Discuss the type of stories in which you are interested. Write an Editorial Post: a presentation of your team. Each team member will state why your team will win the Final Video Story Challenge and answer the following questions: What makes Rome fascinating to you? What attracted you to study Italian? This blog post is entirely in English, but you are welcome to write it in Italian.
Editorial Post (sample)

Mar 26, 2016

Ciao! My name is Patrick Hillery, and I am estatic to call myself a member of the prestigious Spaghetti-Os, the team soon to win the UT Italian Department's digital story contest with our presentation of Italian culture through a People Story. I am confident that our team spirit and willingness to work hard will lead us to victory. Rome is fascinating to me because of its long and rich history. I look forward to seeing first hand the city that has been at the center of Western Civilization, which is mostly why I chose to study Italian. That and my love of Italian food.
Raramente prendo l’autobus. Io non vivo in una città con un buon trasporto pubblico, ma penso che sia importante che il trasporto pubblico sia intuitivo. Quando uso l’autobus, non so l’orario. Temo di non potere usare l’autobus correttamente perché l’orario non è intuitivo e il mio senso dell’orientamento non è buono. Non voglio perdere mi quando viaggio da sola, così guido invece.
Implementing ITAL Module 4

Step 3: Create a **Digital Story**

Each Digital Story must answer all the questions displaced under each one of the 60 stories of Module 4. The video story is a group effort where each team member is expected to participate in the production process, including voiceover or onscreen talent.

At the end of the semester each class will pick the best video story. The winners will then battle it out at the grand final screening event, where a panel of judges from the community will crown the winning digital story of the semester and it will become part of the ITAL map.
Implementing ITAL
Module 4

Step 4: Share Digital Story –
Student achievements with local Italian community

BRB Street Art Roma 611
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JW7R3pM0zE

Il cibo d’Italia – Food and Hospitality – Module 4
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRFc3L-njag
special guest judges
from the TX ITALIAN community
UT & Rome
acclaimed Italian film director
Giorgio Serafini

BATTLE of the STORYTELLERS
5 teams competing for the best ITALIAN Digital Story

Prizes & more!

May 9th - 6pm
CAL 100 - Calhoun Building
located on UT campus
Parking: Dobie Mall

presented by
ITAL
italchannel.tv
Circolo Italiano

The University of Texas at Austin
Department of French & Italian
What will be happening today?
Watching 5 video stories
Judging these stories
Conclusions – ITAL Module 4

Students embraced Module 4’s technology and established a more personal relationship with Italy in general, Rome in particular

Students' work exhibited high levels of transcultural competence in creating digital stories and blog posts

Community involvement was both engaging and inspiring
Tiramisu For Two

Dark comedy feature length film in Italian & English.

Filmed in both Rome, Italy and in San Marcos, Texas