

**Italian 100 | Fall 2014**  
**Department of Foreign Languages**  
**Moravian College**

**Instructor: Barbara Rasi Jensen**

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Office: Comenius Building 4th floor - Office n. C409

Office Hours: Monday 10:30 - 11:30 and by appointment

Course meeting times and place: MWF 8:55 - 10:05 - Comenius Building n.101

**Course Description**

*Italian 100*

This course is the first in a three-semester language sequence designed to help you achieve basic proficiency in Italian by developing skills in reading, writing, conversation, and comprehension; you will also gain a greater understanding of Italian culture.

The course will be conducted entirely in the target language and will cover chapters 1-4 of *Sentieri*. This course falls under the F 3 category.

**Textbook and Required Materials**

- *Sentieri with Supersite* (2011) from Vista Higher Learning. Please note that this course **requires online access**: only buy books that include the technology access either through the **Moravian College bookstore** or directly at <http://vistahigherlearning.com/students/store/>  
Sentieri technical support for students: 1-800-248-2813  
Sentieri comprises 12 units (*unità*) and lends itself for the duration of three semesters. We will cover the first 4 units in this course.
- The main tool for this course is the book.
- Teacher will provide notes with specific explanations and exercises.
- The online material is for you to practice.
- Students need to prepare (in writing when indicated by the professor) the assigned pages before coming to class.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will have developed solid competencies in each of the five goal areas: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Main objectives include:

- Ability to comprehend and respond to basic conversational patterns
- Proficiency and knowledge of basic grammatical structures and terminologies

- Proficiency knowledge in reading and writing the language
- Knowledge of significant cultural practices

### **Time Commitment**

Students are expected to dedicate *at least* two hours of work outside of class per hour of class, for a *minimum* total of 7 hrs./wk. You may need to spend more time than that to adequately prepare for class and complete assignments.

### **Attendance:**

- Just like playing an instrument or practicing a sport, language learning occurs best through active participation. Being present is the first step.
- You need to come to class and be on time. 0-3 absences will not be penalized, but may affect class performance. If you will miss class for a religious holiday, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for missed work.
- Every absence over three (3), for any reason, will result in a lowering of the final grade by one point for every additional absence. Exceptions may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances such as prolonged illness or family emergency; these situations may require additional documentation and are not automatically guaranteed. Travel plans are not considered extraordinary circumstances. The student would need to make arrangements to complete missed work.
- Arriving late (10 min or more) to class more than three times will equal one absence. Being late or absent will also adversely affect your participation grade.
- Please do not eat, do not drink, do not wear hats that prevent eye contact
- Please turn off your cell phone and place it in your bag before entering class.

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

Note that as a general rule for this class late assignments will be penalized and make-up exams or other work will be given only in extremely unusual circumstances. If accepted, late work will lose 10 points per day, starting at the time of class. Late homework will only receive half credit.

### **Online Practice Exercises**

The workbook and audio exercises, as well as the video and extra tutorials are available through the *Sentieri Supersite* online site. <http://www.vhlcentral.com/> This daily preparation is important for solid language learning as well as forming the basis for informed class preparation and understanding.

To register, please follow the link:

[http://www.vhlcentral.com/section/student\\_instructions](http://www.vhlcentral.com/section/student_instructions)

### **Learning Assistance and Accommodations for a Disability**

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Eliane Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Academic and Disability Support. The office is located at the Academic Support Center on the First Floor of Monocacy Hall. You can access the office directly through the BLUE door on the southeast side of the building (facing the back of Comenius Hall). You may also reach her by phone at (610) 861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic and Disability Support Center.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. They will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty. If you cheat you will be given a grade of zero for that assignment or a failing grade in the course. You will also be reported to the Dean of Students and “a copy of the record [will remain] in the Division of Student Affairs until the student completes the degree or certification program.” Also, please note that, “When writing creative or research papers in a foreign language, Students may not use electronic translation services. Utilizing such tools without express permission of the instructor constitutes plagiarism. The use of electronic dictionaries for single-word inquiries or short idiomatic expressions is permissible at the discretion of professors in the Department of Foreign Languages.” For detailed information please see the Student Handbook:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

### **Evaluation Guidelines**

#### **Participation**

Active participation in class is crucial for increasing conversational competence in Italian. Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in all class activities by having studied the topics to be covered and having completed all assigned homework. Simply being present and taking notes does not constitute active participation.

Active participation involves speaking and collaborating in paired and group activities, in-class writing assignments, short oral presentations, doing online preparatory work, and volunteering answers in class discussions. A positive attitude is also expected and it makes a difference in your participation.

Participation should be in Italian, even when speaking with another student. Chatting in English may be considered “negative participation” and will result in a very low participation grade. Speaking in Italian, even when you make mistakes, get frustrated, or

have trouble communicating, helps your brain learn how to learn Italian. It's like a sport or playing an instrument practice is key. The participation grades will be assigned as follows:

A= 95 Excellent participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments without the need of the professor or the debate leader calling on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has thoroughly prepared the reading and has done the necessary background research to understand the reading).

B= 85 Good participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments whenever the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. Sometimes, the student participates without being asked. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the reading and has done the necessary background research to understand the reading quite well).

C= 75 Fair participation (the student answers questions and offers comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the reading, but has not done much necessary background research to understand the reading).

D= 65 Poor participation (the student answers questions and offers very brief comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has a poor preparation of the reading and has not done the necessary background research to understand it).

F= 55 Lack of participation (the student does not answer questions and does not offer any comments in the class or group discussion. The lack of comments and answers, as well as incorrect answers, show that the student has not done the reading or, if he/she has done it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way).

No attendance, no participation at all (when a student is not in class, he/she gets a 0 for that day regardless of the reason for that absence).

### **Overall Grade Distribution For Italian 100**

Exams (4, one exam per chapter)	50%
Mid-point Oral Evaluation	5%
2 Compositions	10%
Final Oral Evaluation	10%
Class Participation	10%
Homework (includes online)	15%

**\*Mid-point oral evaluation** is a 3 minute small individual presentation in class about a topic given by your professor. The presentation cannot be read. Students should receive constructive feedback, especially on pronunciation and fluency.

**Composition guidelines:** Students have to write 2 compositions, one paragraph each (8-10 lines) in class. Topics will be given by the professor.

**Exams:**

No final written exam. Chapter tests will be cumulative, keeping the previously learned material fresh.

**Elements to be included on exams:**

- Short answer/short essay questions
- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Specific vocabulary and grammar questions, producing the language not just identifying/choosing.

**Letter Grades**

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

***Babel***

Interested in poetry? I encourage you to write a poem in Italian for *Babel*, the literary journal of the Department of Foreign Languages. For more information send an email to Dr. Claudia Mesa at: [mesac@moravian.edu](mailto:mesac@moravian.edu)

## **Class Calendar for Fall 2014**

*Please note that this calendar is tentative and it is subject to change.  
I will announce any modifications in advance.*

### ***Exams Calendar***

Exam n. 1 : September 12 (Unit 1 including 8 lessons )

Class presentation: September 26 - October 1 (including 2 lessons)

Exam n. 2 : October 3 (including 8 lessons)

*Mid term : October 3rd*

*Fall vacation: October 11-14th*

Exam n. 3 : October 28 (including 9 lessons)

*Thanksgiving : November 25 - 30*

Exam n. 4 : December 1 (including 10 lessons)

The final exam date for this course is Tuesday, Dec. 9, 8:30AM, in the same room as you normally have class.

For the current academic calendar, see

<http://www.moravian.edu/default.aspx?pageid=6025>

Classroom assignments will be available soon on AMOS.