

Syllabus:

Italian for Reading

ITAL S999

Dr. Julia C. Pucci

julia.c.pucci@gmail.com

julia.pucci@yale.edu

Course Schedule & Structure.

The course will begin **Monday, May 26th** and end **Friday, June 27th**. All work must be submitted by **Sunday, June 29th**. You all should have been added to the course, but do note that the Canvas site will not be open until a few days before the start of Session A. If you have any difficulties accessing the course, please let me know.

Since the course is self-guided, you can mostly complete the assignments and quizzes at your own convenience. However, there are weekly deadlines that are set to **SUNDAY at 11:59pm Eastern Standard Time**. These deadlines ensure that you will not fall too far behind to finish the course.

Due dates:

Chapters 1-5: Sunday June 1st

Chapters 6-10 & Midterm: Sunday June 8th

Chapters 11-15: Sunday June 15th

Chapters 16-20: Sunday June 22nd

Chapters 21-23, Final, & Final Project: Sunday June 29th

If you split up the work evenly, you should do one chapter a day during the week. This will ensure that you meet all deadlines (and have the weekends off!). **Do keep an eye on the Canvas calendar — I have added a handful of discussion topics and quizzes that must also be completed.**

Regarding the translations, I have tried to compile as diverse a range of texts — both in terms of genre and content — as possible. You will be working through everything from song lyrics to encyclopedia entries. Topics range from talking marionettes on the lam to partisan resistance. As you progress through the course, pay attention to what interests you. It will make choosing your final translation text all the easier.

Nota bene: In order to translate Italian texts efficiently, a solid grasp of Italian vocabulary is essential. During the regular face-to-face class, I usually include several vocabulary quizzes. I have eliminated this component of the online course in favor of allowing you to compile your own relevant vocabulary lists. I still encourage you to memorize as much vocabulary as you are able as it will make the translation process significantly less painful.

Assignment Submission.

All translation assignments must be submitted through Canvas. I ask that you complete all of your translations (not including the final nor final translation project) in a

single google doc. To submit an assignment, just copy and paste the link to the google doc on the assignment page. I will grade and offer feedback directly on the doc.

To reiterate, please use the same google doc for all of your assignments – just add the most recent translation at the bottom of the page.

The assignments close a day or two after their due date. Make sure to plan ahead so you can meet the weekly deadlines. Exceptions to the deadlines are made only on very rare occasions.

Nota bene: Though it may seem redundant, please submit the link for each assignment so that I know you have completed the assignment. Be certain to give google doc editing access to: julia.pucci@yale.edu & julia.c.pucci@gmail.com

Resources.

As there is currently no adequate Italian-for-reading textbook (a very lamentable fact), I've developed this course to give you all the necessary grammar in a format completely self-contained to the Canvas site. That is to say, there is no need to purchase a textbook. However, if you do want a reference text, I suggest *Parliamo Italiano* (3rd edition or later). Its explanations are clear and concise, and it is filled with additional exercises, vocabulary, and other helpful materials. [Wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com) is also a spectacular resource, offering everything from vocabulary to full verb conjugation charts. [Reverso Context](http://www.reverso.net) offers translations in context (particularly helpful for idioms), and [Treccani](http://www.treccani.it) will be useful to discern the meaning of archaic words and phrases. Otherwise, pay close attention to the lessons on Canvas. I have uploaded all of the PowerPoints to the "Files" section of Canvas.

As you will all find, marshaling your resources is the key to speedy translation.

Navigating Canvas.

Once you are on the Canvas site, you will find some general information on the "Home" tab (navigation on the left-hand side). To navigate through the course, use the "Modules" tab. When you are ready, start with Capitolo 1 (chapter 1). When you click that page, you should find the video lesson for that chapter. After completing the lesson (do take notes!), you can go to the "Assignments" page to complete the corresponding "Compito" (homework). All chapters follow the same structure: *1) watch the video in which I explain the grammar 2) complete a quiz when applicable 3) complete the practice sentence/text translations 4) sometimes: complete a discussion forum post.*

Midterm & Finals.

In addition to the weekly assignments, you will also complete a **midterm, a final exam, and a final project**. You should take the midterm after you finish Capitolo 10. You can take the final after you finish Capitolo 23. To reiterate, the final exam, final project, and all other work must be completed by **Sunday June 29th**.

Expectations.

This course is the equivalent of a face-to-face course that would meet three hours a day, five days a week for five weeks. In addition to approximately 3 hours of homework time, you can expect to spend anywhere from 3-7 hours mastering the topics of each chapter. Don't be alarmed if you find yourself spending hours on the assignments — that is how the course is designed.

With this in mind, the first week is often painful for many students (I know... I've taken several for-reading courses myself). The best way to master these skills, though, is to learn by doing — and you will be doing a lot of translating!

Nearly all the exercises you will be completing are translations — quizzes will target the grammar that is absolutely necessary for understanding written Italian. You have near-unlimited time to complete your translations (barring the Sunday deadlines) and full access to Google Translate, Wordreference, or whatever other translation aid that works for you.

Final Thoughts.

I am always available if you have any concerns or need help, so please reach out to me with any questions, no matter how big or small. Since we are all scattered across the world, my office hours are by appointment via Zoom.

Finally, I would like to re-emphasize that this is a learn-by-doing course. Translations may be painful and slow at the beginning, but this course will give you the tools necessary to translate Italian efficiently and accurately.

I hope you will enjoy the course and I look forward to working with you! Again, please don't hesitate to e-mail me if you have any questions.

Syllabus

Week 1

Monday Nouns and Articles

Text(s) for Translation:

- Cronologia degli eventi: Firenze

Tuesday Subject Pronouns

Wednesday “Essere e Avere”

Text(s) for Translation:

- Cronologia degli eventi: Napoli

Thursday Plural Nouns, Adjectives

Text(s) for Translation:

- Frasi assortite
- Canzone: “Il conformista” di Giorgio Gaber

Friday *Indicative Verbs (Introductions due!)*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Trafiletto: *Le ultime lettere di Jacopo Ortis* di Ugo Foscolo

DUE DATE FOR WEEK 1 TRANSLATIONS & WEEKLY REFLECTION: June 1st

Week 2

Monday *Prepositions*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Frasi assortite
- Trafiletti: *Inferno (Canto I, Canto II, Canto III)*

Tuesday *Past Tense: Present Perfect*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Prefazione: *Fiabe italiane* di Italo Calvino
- Prefazione: *L'idea del teatro* di Giulio Camillo

Wednesday *Direct/Indirect Object Pronouns; Relative Pronouns; Stressed Pronouns*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Canzone: "La pansé" di Renato Carosone
- Brano: *Notturmo* di Gabriele D'Annunzio

Thursday *Remote/Literary Past*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Racconto: "La fuga di Pulcinella" di Gianni Rodari

Friday *Adjectives cont.; Modal Verbs*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Brano: "Mia nonna Natalia Ginzburg e la sua casa perduta" di Francesca Angeleri

DUE DATE FOR WEEK 2 TRANSLATIONS & WEEKLY REFLECTION: June 8th

Week 3

Monday *Past Tense: Imperfect; Past Perfect*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Frasi assortite
- Brano: "Ndrangheta" (Treccani)

Tuesday *Reciprocal/Reflexive Verbs*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Articolo: "Riflessivi, Verbi"

- Poesia: “Casa mia” di Giuseppe Ungaretti
- Trafiletto: *Il candelaio* di Giordano Bruno
- Articolo: Riassunto scelto

Wednesday *Future Tense; Conditional Tense*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Frasi assortite
- Brano: “Cosa succederà nel 2023?” (*Corriere della sera*)

Thursday *Imperative Verbs*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Poesia: “La foglia” di Umberto Saba
- Brano: “Il ruolo delle antiche migrazioni di popolazioni” (*Corriere della sera*)

Friday *Stare + Gerundio*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Frasi assortite
- Brano: “Le scarpe rotte” di Natalia Ginzburg

DUE DATE FOR WEEK 3 TRANSLATIONS & WEEKLY REFLECTION: June 15th

Week 4

Monday *Comparativi; Superlativi*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Proverbi scelti
- Brano: *Conversazioni in Sicilia* di Elio Vittorini

Tuesday *The Subjunctive (Part I)*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Canzone: “Io non mi sento italiano” di Giorgio Gaber
- Brano: “Il riflesso della controstoria: Adua di Igiaba Scego” di Luca Montesi

Wednesday *The Subjunctive (Part II)*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Brano: “La giara” di Luigi Pirandello

Thursday *Past tense: Imperfect Subjunctive & Past Perfect Subjunctive*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Brano: “Prime scritture letterarie” di Alfredo Schiaffini
- Brano: *L’isola di Arturo* di Elsa Morante

Friday *Hypotheticals and Conditionals with the Subjunctive*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Brano: *L'eloquenza volgare* di Dante Alighieri
- Final Project

DUE DATE FOR WEEK 4 TRANSLATIONS & WEEKLY REFLECTION: June 22nd

Week 5

Monday *Impersonal & Passive Constructions; Passive Voice*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Fiaba: "Il pastore che non cresceva mai" raccontata da Italo Calvino
- Final Project cont.

Tuesday *Indirect Discourse*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Brano: "Mio nonno, un partigiano: Le storie che ci avete inviato" (*Corriere della sera*)
- Final Project cont.

Wednesday *Tense Agreement*

Text(s) for Translation:

- Final Project cont.

Thursday *Final Project/Final Exam*

Friday *Final Project/Final Exam*

DUE DATE FOR WEEK 5 TRANSLATIONS, WEEKLY REFLECTION, FINAL, & FINAL PROJECT: June 29th

Grading.

Translations 50%

Homework 10%

Exams 30%

Quizzes 10%