



## **SYLLABUS**

### **CROSSCULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS/ CROSSCULTURAL PERSPECTIVES & SURVIVAL ITALIAN LANGUAGE**

**Dott. Silvia Minucci**

**Seminar Contact Hrs: 20**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**SIENA, ITALY**

**WINE MARKETING SUMMER 2018**

**(GROUP A)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Living in Siena offers you two important learning experiences. The first (most obvious) one concerns Italian life and culture, specifically as it is lived out around you in Siena day by day. What is important to people here? What patterns are woven into their lives? What about their history, their hopes, their daily dilemmas? The second learning opportunity involves coming to understand the cultural baggage that you have (inevitably) brought with you to Siena and the implicit assumptions that you use in understanding Siennese life. The juncture of these two learning experiences for students living and studying in Siena, together with basic “survival” Italian language is the focus of this course. The survival language course is designed to develop the necessary language skills to handle everyday situations while staying in Siena.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course has been designed to develop skills in observing cultural life, interpreting the meaning of interactions, and challenging your own interpretations. Students should reach a level of integration and understanding of the host culture, their home culture, and of themselves. Cross-Cultural adaptation is, in fact, a continuing process that involves the evolution of insight, knowledge, and emotional skills. Meeting local people gives our students the opportunity not only to learn how the locals behave in different situations but also to be able to understand why. This is why students should avoid making definitive, prejudicial judgments that may stem from their own cultural responses, but rather stay open-minded and receptive to different ideas, concepts, and behavior.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Most of the topics dealt with in class are introduced with some historical background that explain cultural transformation from generation to generation. Reporting personal stories and showing photographs, we discuss changes in Italy, comparing them to those in American culture. Other class activities include films, local fieldtrips, small group tasks, short cultural skits, guest speakers and cultural interpretation by the instructor.

### **GRADING AND EVALUATION**

- Attendance and active participation (30%).  
Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Promptness is essential.  
Active participation in activities and discussions. You are expected to engage with the topic of each session and contribute to discussions and assigned tasks. Suggested readings provide important background information keyed to each weekly topic.
- One observational/ethnographic exercise, a weekly journal and Italian language exercises (50%).
- ICC & Survival Language: Final Power-Point Presentation & Italian Presentation (20%).

### **Suggested reading for ICC:**

Handout. Refer to each specific topic for titles.

### **Survival Italian Language:**

Handouts will be distributed at the beginning of each class.

## ***TOPICS:***

### **MEETING 1**

- **PALIO Lecture**

#### **(Community and Mobility)**

How is community created and maintained in Siena? Visit to a *contrada*, followed by discussion and questions. Learn how *contrada* membership shapes social interactions and opportunities for Sienese people, lifestyle by lifestyle. (Short video on the *Palio*). What role does the *contrada* play in community organization and services?

#### **ICC Readings:**

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, “Il Bar” (pp.5,6); “Il Campanilismo” (pp.16, 17); “Il Palio” (pp.77 - 79); “La Piazza: The Center of Daily Life” (pp. 80, 81) in *The Italian Way*.

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, “Campanilismo” (p.7) in *Cultural Shock!*

Stewart Edward C., Bennett Janet M., Chapter 4: Form of Activity (pp 61-87); “Perception of the Self” (pp.129-136) in *American Cultural Pattern – A Cross-Cultural Perspective*.

“Our little Paris” from *The Passeggiata and Popular Culture* (pp. 14 -19)

### **MEETING 2**

- **Survival Italian Language**

### **MEETING 3**

- **Non-Verbal Communication**

Overview of course organization and expectations. Introduction to some of the subtleties of Italian interpersonal style.

- **Survival Italian Language**

#### **ICC Readings:**

Althen Gary, “Chapter 2: The communicative style of Americans” (pp. 42-51) in *American Ways*

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, “Physical Distance and Contact” (pp. 80,107, 108) in *The Italian Way*

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, “The Languages of Italian” (pp. 40-49) in *Cultural Shock!*

Hall Edward T., “Chapter 1: The Voices of Times” (pp.1-19) in *The Silent Language*

Bennett. Janet M. “Cultural Adaptation”(pp. 24-31)in *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication*

Stewart Edward C., Bennett Janet M. “Chapter 3: Language and Nonverbal Behavior” (pp 56-60) in *American Cultural Pattern – A Cross-Cultural Perspective*

### **MEETING 4**

- **Gender and Sexuality**

What are the general expectations for men and women in Italy? What about sexuality? Are behaviors and expectations changing? What differences are there with the U.S.? How are these gender roles manifested in the workplace?

- **Survival Italian Language**

#### **ICC Readings:**

Althen Gary, “Chapter 12: Male-Female Relationships” (pp.173-186) in *American Ways*

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, "The Latin Lover" (pp.110-111); "Women" (pp. 112-113); Work (pp.113-114) in *The Italian Way*

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, "The Italian Lover" (pp.82-83) in *Cultural Shock!*

Stewart Edward C., Bennett Janet M., "Chapter 4: Perception of the Self" (pp.142-147) in *American Cultural Pattern – A Cross-Cultural Perspective*.

Coppolaro Annalisa, "Sex: Do Italians still Do it Better" (pp 98-110) in *How to live like an Italian: A user's guide to La Dolce Vita*.

Tobias Jones, "Chapter 5: The means of Seduction" (pp. 136-152) in *The Dark Heart of Italy*

## **MEETING 5**

- **Family & Discipline**

What does "family" mean to Italians? What are Italian children taught? How are they encouraged to "behave properly"? Disciplined if they don't? What role does family play in the work place? What are the labor laws around family leave, etc.?

- **Survival Italian Language**

### **ICC Readings:**

Althen Gary, Althen Gary, "Chapter 6: Family Life" (pp. 85-99) in *American Ways*.

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, "Family and Friends" (pp.36-38) in *The Italian Way*.

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, "Home Life and Attitudes" (pp. 68-71) in *Cultural Shock!*

Krause L. Elizabeth, "Population Politics, Cultural Struggles" (pp.1-10) in *A crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making Italy*, Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.

Coppolaro Annalisa, "The Italians and their families: A love-hate relationship" (pp 9-20) in *How to live like an Italian: A user's guide to La Dolce Vita*.

## **MEETING 6**

- **Social Status, Values and Display**

How is social ranking demonstrated and maintained? How are certain classes of people or certain individuals able to prevail in some situations? What are the important symbols of social status in Siena? Are these different in the rest of Italy?

- **Survival Italian Language**

### **ICC Readings:**

Althen Gary, "Equality" (pp. 14-17) in *American Ways*

Bennett. Janet M. Social Relationships (pp. 160-165) in *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication*

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, "Professional and Civil Titles" (pp.83-84); "Gallantry" (pp.41-42-43); "La Raccomandazione" (pp. 85-86) in *The Italian Way*.

Falassi A., Raymond F., "Dress Code" (pp.73-74); "Visiting Cards" (pp.81-82) in *Cultural Shock!*

Stewart Edward C., Bennett Janet M. "Chapter 4: Form of Activity" (pp. 61-87) and Chapter 5: Form of Social Relations" (pp.89-100) in *American Cultural Pattern – A Cross-Cultural Perspective*.

*Racism, Italy and Mario Balotelli (Article)* (pp.1-16)

Krause L. Elizabeth, "Population Politics, Cultural Struggles" (pp.1-11), "Displaying Class, Consuming" (pp.68-79) in *A crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making Italy*.

Krause L. Elizabeth, "Chapter 7: Demographic Alarms, Racial Reverberations" (pp.161-183) in *A crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making Italy*.

## **MEETING 7**

- **Watch a video on the Bottini (underground tunnels).** "There is a hidden underground town beneath Siena. 25 km of tunnels lie below the city and its surroundings. In the Thirteenth Century, the underground tunnels (known as *bottini*) were dug from the tufa to collect rainwater to supply public fountains. These tunnels were used as aqueducts until the First World War".

- **Visit the Water Museum and Bottini di Pescaia: The class will be splinted into two groups: 1<sup>st</sup> group (10:30 -11:30); 2<sup>nd</sup> group (11:30-12:30)**

## **MEETING 8**

- **Relationships**

What relationships are central to Italian life? What are the traditional power institutions of Italy, and how is power displayed and maintained? What rewards does it offer, at all levels? How have students experienced this in their service learning placements?

### **ICC Readings:**

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, "Politicians" (pp.81-83) in *The Italian Way*.

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, "The Mafia" (pp. 83-84) in *Cultural Shock!*

Schneider Jane C. & Peter T., "The Genesis of the Mafia: Interpreting the Mafia - Contested meaning" (pp. 39-43); "The Cultural Production of Violence" (pp.81-102) in *Reversible Destiny: Mafia, Antimafia, and the Struggle for Palermo*.

- **Survival Italian Language**

- Grocery Store Ethnography Exercise is due at the start of class.

## **MEETING 9**

- **Survival Italian Language**

- **Religion**

What does it mean to have a "national religion," both personally and politically? What role does Catholicism play in Italian life? What role does religion or religious organizations play in community organization and groups? A tour of Saint Domenico Basilica will be held by Father Alfred. Father Alfred today can help answer these questions and all the others that you have on this complex topic:

### **ICC Readings:**

Althen Gary, "Chapter 8: Religion" (pp. 119-127) in *American Ways*

Costantino Marco, Gambella Lawrence, "Religion" (pp.86-87) in *The Italian Way*.

Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, "Houses of Worship" in *Cultural Shock!* (p

Krause L. Elizabeth, "Catholics and Communism" (pp.79-83) in *A crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making Italy*.

"Catholic Culture" in *Italian Cultural Studies(article)*

## **MEETING 10**

- **Some Tentative Conclusions**

What insights have you gained during your sojourn in Siena? Class discussion will process observations and experiences.

### **ICC: Final Presentation**

### **Survival Italian Language: Final Presentation**

Storti, C., "Coming Home" (pp. 13-51), "The Stages of Reentry" (pp.53-72) in *The Art of Coming Home*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1997

## **SURVIVAL ITALIAN LANGUAGE SYLLABUS:**

- **Week 1**

Communication objectives: Greeting someone. Introducing yourself and others. Asking and saying name, age, nationality, and place of residence. Saying address and telephone number. Grammar: Personal pronouns. Verbs in the present indicative tense of the First Conjugation: verbs ending in –are. Present indicative forms of *essere, avere, stare, chiamarsi*. Numbers. Adjectives concerning nationality. Sentences: affirmative, interrogative and negative. Prepositions: *da, a, in*.

Vocabulary: Nouns, nationality, greetings, numbers, and countries.

- **Week: 2**

Communication objectives: Expressing likes and dislikes. Placing an order. Asking about prices and the bill. Offering something to someone: accepting or rejecting. Understanding menus and recipes. Expressing quantity.

Grammar: Gender of nouns, indefinite and definite articles. Verbs in the present indicative tense of the Second and Third Conjugation: verbs ending in –ere, –ire. The irregular verb *bere*. Prepositions: *di, da*.

Vocabulary: Shops and food. Prices and money.

- **Week 3**

Communication objectives: Asking and telling the time of day. Saying the days of the week and the parts of the day. Booking a hotel. Talking on the phone.

Grammar: Present indicative modal verbs: *volere, potere, dovere. C'è/ci sono*.

Vocabulary: Daily activities. Parts of the day. Weekdays. Time.

- **Week 4**

Communication objectives: Asking and giving directions. Maps. Asking and giving information about schedules and prices. Purchasing tickets. Reading a train ticket. Booking a hotel room.

Grammar: The present indicative tense of irregular verb: *andare*. The present indicative tense: *prendere*. Simple and articulated Prepositions.

- **Week 5**

Communication objectives: Expressing tastes and preferences. Shopping. Communicating what one wants.

Grammar: *Piace/piacciono*.

Vocabulary: Clothing, accessories, and sizes. Shops, payment methods, store signs.

- **Final Presentation.**

### **ICC: Books You Might Find Interesting**

- Abbott, C. *Culture Smart! Italy*, Kuperard, Graphic Arts Center Publ., 2004.
- Althen, G. *American Ways: A Guide for Foreigners in the United States*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 2003.
- Barzini Luigi, *The Italians*. Athenaeum, New York. 1977.
- Bennett, M. J., ed. *Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communication: Selected Readings*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1998.
- Brislin, R. W., Cushner K. Cherrie C., Yong M. *Intercultural Interactions: A Practical Guide*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications Inc. 1986.
- Costantino M., Gambella L., *The Italian Way - Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes, and Customs of the Italians*. Passport Books 1996.
- Edward C. Stewart, Milton J. Bennett, *American Cultural Patterns- A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Intercultural Press, Inc. 1991.
- Falassi Alessandro, Raymond Flower, *Cultural Shock! Italy*. Kuperard, 1999.
- Fisher, Glen (1997) *Mindsets – The Role of Culture and Perception in International Relations*. Yarmouth ME. Intercultural Press.
- Fowler, S. M., and M. G. Mumford, eds. *Intercultural Sourcebook: Cross-Cultural Training Methods* Vol. 1. Yarmouth ME: Intercultural Press, 1995.
- Fowler, S. M., and M. G. Mumford, eds. *Intercultural Sourcebook: Cross-Cultural Training Methods*. Vol. 2. Yarmouth ME: Intercultural Press, 1999.
- Hall, E. T. *Beyond Culture*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 1981.
- Hall, E. T. *The Hidden Dimension*. Anchor Books. 1990.
- Hall, E. T. *The Silent Language*. Anchor Books. 1990.
- Hofstede, J., P. B. Pedersen, and G. H. Hofstede. *Exploring Culture: Exercises, Stories and Synthetic Cultures*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 2002.
- Kohls, L. R., and J. M. Knight. *Developing Intercultural Awareness: A Cross-Cultural Training Handbook*. 2nd ed. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1994.
- Kohls, L.R., *Survival Kit for overseas living*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Yarmouth, ME: The Intercultural Press, 2001.
- Krause L. Elizabeth, *A crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making Italy*, Thomson Wadsworth, 2005.
- Raeleen D'Agostino Mautner, *Living La Dolce Vita: Bring the Passion, Laughter and Serenity of Italy into Your Daily Life*. Sourcebooks, Inc. 2003
- Seelye N. H., *Experiential Activities for Intercultural Learning*. Intercultural Press. 1996.
- Serino Vinicio, *Siena e l'acqua, storia e immagini della città e delle sue fonti*, nuova immagine editrice, 1998.
- Stewart, E. C., and M. J. Bennett. *American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1991.
- Storti, C. *Figuring Foreigners Out: A Practical Guide*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1999.
- Storti, C., *The Art of Coming Home*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1997
- Storti, C. *The Art of Crossing Cultures*. 2nd ed. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 2001.
- Storti, C., *Cross-Cultural Dialogues: 74 Brief Encounters with Cultural Difference*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1994.
- Summerfield, E. and Lee Sandra, *Seeing the Big Picture – A Cinema Approach to Understanding Cultures in America*. The University of Michigan, 2006.
- Summerfield, E., *Survival Kit for Multicultural Living*. Intercultural Press. Inc. 1997.
- Zanobini Folco,, *What Do You Think of Italy?* Bulgarini Ed., 2000.
- Zollo M., Aust D., *World Cultures: Italy*, Teach Yourself, 2004.