GL/LIN 2515 6.00
A Journey into the World of the Italian Language

Instructor: Dr. Jerzy KOWAL
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Office hours: To be announced

Course meets: To be announced
Classroom: To be announced

Course offered in English

Course website: **eclass.yorku.ca**

Prerequisite: none

CAS: Open to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students
LIN students: This course counts towards *Category VII* in your Linguistics Program

Course description:

This course offers a contemporary view of Italian, possibly with a study component in Italy. Students explore language structure and delve into historical, social, and political factors that have shaped modern Italian.

Additional information about the course:

This course offers students the opportunity to participate in engaging, interactive lectures focused on the structure of contemporary Italian language. Furthermore, the Italian segment of the course will delve into the historical, social, and political factors that have played a significant role in shaping modern-day Italian. Additionally, the course's objective is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of how languages structure their grammar, how this grammar is applied in real-world contexts, and how history, society, and government policies influence human language.

Learning outcomes:

By the conclusion of this course, students will possess the capability to: (**1**) recognize, describe, and elucidate the phonetic, phonological, morphological, and syntactic principles and characteristics of the Italian language, (**2**) comprehend the historical, social, and political factors that have played pivotal role in the development of contemporary Italian, (**3**) distinguish between the Italian language and Italian

dialects, (4) assess the importance of the Italian lexicon as a contributor to European-based languages, and (5) cultivate a profound understanding of the organizational structure of grammatical systems across various human languages and appreciate how language communities and governments policies can influence these systems.

The course structure:

This course boasts a distinctive format, encompassing two hands-on learning components: one at Glendon and the other at the University of Pisa in Italy.

The *Glendon component* comprises 12 classes, occurring twice a week over six-week period (May 7 - June 13, 2024). To accommodate students residing at a distance from the campus, this component will be available in a *Hyflex* format, allowing remote participation.

The *University of Pisa component* will also consist of 12 classes, scheduled from Monday to Thursday over a three-week span (June 24 - July 12, 2024) during the morning hours. Moreover, for those students interested, there is an option to enroll in an Italian language course offered by the University of Pisa during the afternoon hours.

Course outline

○ **The Glendon component**

Discovering miracles of the human language: The structure of the Italian Language

Class 1 (May 7, 2024)
    Introduction to the course, defining the object of study, general ideas about the Italian language

Class 2 (May 9, 2024)
    Phonetics and phonology (**1**)
        Italian sound inventory

Class 3 (May 14, 2024)
    Phonetics and phonology (**2**)
        Stress, intonation, and rhythm in Italian
            Due date for: Initial paper on the Italian language

Class 4 (May 16, 2024)
    Phonetics and phonology (**3**)
        Writing and pronunciation; Weak points of the Italian phonological system

Class 5 (May 21, 2024)
  Morphology (**1**)
    Inflectional morphology
      Due date for: Assignment #1

Class 6 (May 23, 2024)
  Morphology (**2**)
    Derivational morphology

Class 7 (May 28, 2024)
  Syntax (**1**)
    The structure of the simple sentence in Italian
      Due date for: Assignment #2

Class 8 (May 30, 2024)
  Syntax (**2**)
    The structure of the complex sentence in Italian

Class 9 (June 4, 2024)
  Syntax (**3**)
    Syntactic features and agreement in Italian / Text and syntax

Class 10 (June 6, 2024)
  Lexicon (**1**)
    The vocabulary of the Italian language (Basic, common, extended)
    Typology of linguistic borrowing
      Due date for: Assignment #3 due

Class 11 (June 11, 2024)
  Lexicon (2)
    Historical stratification of the Italian lexicon / Types of Italian dictionaries

Class 12 (June 13, 2024)
  Midterm

○ The University of Pisa component

Looking at today's Italian language from its historical, geographical, social, communicative, and globalized community perspective

Class 1 (Juny 24, 2024)
> *The Italian language through the ages* (**1**)
>> Origins of Italian

Class 2 (June 25, 2024)
> *The Italian language through the ages* (**2**)
>> Tuscan as a standard language and its role in literature, philosophy, and the arts

Class 3 (June 26, 2024)
> *The Italian language through the ages* (**3**)
>> Italian language during the Age of Enlightenment and National Unification

Class 4 (June 27, 2024)
> *Language varieties of the Italian Peninsula* (**1**)
>> Dialects of the Italian Peninsula
>>> Due date for: Assignment #4

Class 5 (July 1, 2024)
> *Language varieties of the Italian Peninsula* (**2**)
>> Regional Italians

Class 6 (July 2, 2024)
> *Language varieties of the Italian Peninsula* (3)
>> Historical and new Linguistic minorities

Class 7 (July 3, 2024)
> *Italian language in its social and communicative space* (**1**)
>> Italian as a written, spoken, and transmitted language / Varieties and repertoire
>>> Due date for: Assignment #5

Class 8 (July 4, 2024)
> *Italian language in its social and communicative space* (**2**)
>> Standard Italian (System, norm, and usage)
>> Movements within the Norm: Re-standardization (= *L'italiano neo-standard*)

Class 9 (July 8, 2024)
> Italian language in its social and communicative space (**3**)
>> Specialized languages
>>> *Midterm exam*

Class 10 (July 9, 2024)
> *Italian language in the globalizing community* (**1**)
>> Italian language in the world
>>> Due date for: Assignment #6 due

Class 11 (July 10, 2024)
> *Italian language in the globalizing community* (**2**)
>> Italian language and the new immigrant communities in Italy

Class 12 (July 11, 2024)
> Final reflections on the course

Final Reflection Paper is due by **July 15**, 2024
To be submitted to the course instructor by email

■ Marking scheme:

● **50%** Glendon
> Initial paper on the Italian language 4%
> 3 Assignments 21% (3x7%)
> In-class exam 15%
> Active participation in for a and journals on eClass 10%

● **50%** Italy
> 3 Assignments 21% (3x7%)
> Practical works (dialects, Italian and the media, langue policies, etc.) 10%
> Midterm exam 14%
> Reflection on the Italy component of the course 5%

○ Experiential learning

This course aims to engage students from the linguistics program at the University of Pisa with our own linguistics students. The idea is to pair them with Italian students who are studying (English) linguistics. This arrangement will provide an opportunity for the Italian students to practice and improve their English, while also fostering a mutual exchange of knowledge in both Italian and English linguistics between our students and theirs."