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## **PREPARING FOR THE AP® ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM**

**Virtual classes meet on Saturdays from January 23 to May 7, 2016 (15 Saturdays)**

There will be no class on March 26th

Instructor: Simona Cavadini Meroni  
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Class Location: Online course + virtual classes  
Class Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm (PST)

This is an online/blended course that is offered by **Fondazione Italia** under the auspices of the **Consulate General of Italy**. Students will meet one day a week by video conference for a total of 15 class meetings/30 hours of virtual class time. Additionally, students will be expected to devote an additional 3-5 hours per week to complete weekly homework and assignments. We look forward to a productive and fun session. Here's some information about the course, and what you'll need to know before we start:

### **ABOUT THE COURSE:**

This is an intermediate-to-pre-advanced level course geared towards motivated high school students who are planning to take the AP® Italian Language and Culture exam in May 2016. The course focuses on the integration of authentic resources, including online print, audio, and audiovisual resources, as well as traditional print resources such as literature and magazine and newspaper articles. Students will communicate using advanced vocabulary and linguistic structures as they build proficiency in all modes of communication toward the advanced level. Class is conducted entirely in Italian and includes weekly assignments. Advanced organizational and analytical strategies are taught, and students will complete the course feeling better prepared to take the AP exam.

### **WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:**

- Strategies for interpreting written and audio texts in Italian, even if you don't understand every word;
- Strategies for starting, continuing and ending a conversation in Italian;
- The formal conventions of letter/e-mail writing;
- How to make cultural comparisons between the U.S. and Italy and how to make an effective and concise oral presentation;
- How to write a well-argued and organized persuasive essay;
- To familiarize with the six themes and sub-themes recommended by the College Board;
- To familiarize with the exam structure and rubric by taking practice tests.

### **PREREQUISITES:**

Must be heritage speaker or have 3 years of high school Italian or equivalent, i.e. intermediate-level proficiency. Students are expected to be tech savvy and to have a reliable internet access.

**HOMEWORK - WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS:** Please be aware that I will assign homework weekly. Our lessons will not be effective unless you work on the assigned material outside of class. It is recommended that you devote at least 3 hours each week to review the material and complete the assigned homework.

**WORKBOOK – CLASS MATERIAL:** We will use the workbook *Ace the AP® Italian Language and Culture Exam, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*, published by Edizioni Farinelli. You can purchase the book from Edizioni Farinelli at <http://www.edizionifarinelli.com/>

We will use **Schoology** to post and submit homework assignments, to share any additional course material and to communicate about the course. If you have not used Schoology before, please create a free student account on [www.schoology.com](http://www.schoology.com) before the beginning of the course. We will e-mail you individually the access code to join our class.

**EXAMS:** We will do at least three complete AP Italian practice tests.

**COURSE COMPLETION AND GRADING:** Upon completion of the course, students can request a certificate of completion including the grade obtained.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% Practice tests
- 30% homework
- 20% Class Participation

**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT:** Please note that the home school Principal/Counselor must grant permission for the course to be listed on the student's transcript, along with credits granted and grades earned. Policies and procedures regarding this vary by high school. We recommend that you contact your school counselor as soon as possible.

According to the University of California A-G Guide, "Earning a satisfactory score on a SAT Subject, AP or IB exam, or a proficiency test administered by a UC campus or other university can demonstrate a student's proficiency in a language other than English. (Please see <http://ucop.edu/agguide/a-g-requirements/e-language/index.html>.)

**ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY:** Please aim for 100% attendance. We have much material to cover in very little time. If you miss a class, find the assignments and material covered on Schoology and contact me if you have any questions.

**Please log in to class on time. We will start our lesson at 2:00pm sharp!**

**HONOR CODE:** By taking this course you commit to standards of academic integrity and promise that all homework, essays, exams will be your own work and that you will not make solutions available to anyone else unless explicitly permitted by the instructor. You also acknowledge that the ICoN online course is designed in such a way that the course instructor can monitor the students' use of the course, such as units completed, correct answers and number of attempts at getting the right answer, among other usage statistics.

I look forward to getting to know all of you. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or the course coordinator, Elisabetta Engler at [bengler@fondazione-italia.org](mailto:bengler@fondazione-italia.org).

A presto,

*Simona Cavadini Meroni*