Beginning Italian

Benvenuti!!!

Che cosa impariamo in questo corso?

- How to pronounce Italian
- How to make simple conversation
- Some phrases to get by in your travels
- Some Italian culture
- Your interests?
- **Required text**: *Italian Now!* by Marcel Danesi, ISBN: 0764130730
  - **available**: in UNCW Campus Bookstore

Com'e' una lezione tipica?

- We'll learn some vocabulary and grammar
- We'll practice together
- We'll learn some culture
- We'll listen to some music

Perche' imparare l'italiano?

- Why would you like to learn Italian?
- Do you have any particular interests?
  - Art
  - Food
  - Cinema
  - Literature

Chi siete?

- Your name
- Why you're taking this course
- What you'd like to get from this course
- email address or phone number
- Occupation
- Interests/Hobbies

Che cosa impariamo oggi?

- What is Italian?
- La pronuncia (pronunciation)
- **Unit 1** "Come si chiama" (greetings)
- Very brief history of the Italian language

Che cos'e' la lingua italiana?

- Italian is official the language of Italy, spoken by about 55 million people (comparison: English has about 380 million native speakers).

- It is also spoken in parts of Switzerland, parts of Slovenia and Croatia, in Monaco, in Malta and in some African countries such as Somalia.

- It is spoken by many immigrant groups in countries such as the United States, Argentina, Germany and Canada.

Com'e' la lingua italiana?

- Italian is a Romance language: it is derived from Latin, as are languages such as French, Spanish and Portuguese.

- If you have studied another Romance language, you will find many similarities with Italian.
  - Italian "quando" Spanish "quando" French "quand" (when)
  - Italian "la casa" Spanish "la casa" (house)
  - Italian "come" Spanish "como" French "comme"

La pronuncia

- Words are pronounced as written (no silent letters)
- No accent marks to indicate stress (unlike Spanish)
  - Most words are stressed on 2nd to last syllable: am**o**re
  - Some words are stressed on another syllable: t**a**vola

La pronuncia

- Compare Italian words to some English words:
- *piede*   foot
- *mano*   hand
- *faccia*   face
- *amore*   love
- What distinguishes the Italian words?
- Why do they sound different from the English words?

La pronuncia

- **Vocali**
  - a as in "p**a**sta"
  - i as in "p**i**zza"
  - e as in "spagh**e**tti"
  - o as in "gn**o**cchi"
  - u as in "z**u**ppa"
  - i before a vowel as in "G**ia**nni"
  - i after a vowel as in "m**ai**"
  - u before a vowel as in "b**uo**no"
  - u after a vowel as in "p**au**sa"

La pronuncia

- **Consonanti**
    - c (before a,o,u) as in "**c**alamari"
    - c (before a e,i) as in "**c**ello"
    - g (before a,o,u) as in "**g**usto"
    - g (before e,i) as in "**g**iorno"
    - ch/gh (before e,i) as in "spa**gh**etti"
    - z as in "pi**zz**a"
    - sc (before e,i) as in "pe**sc**e"
    - r as in "amo**r**e"
    - gl as in English "mi**ll**ion"
    - gn as in "**gn**occhi" or "si**gn**ore"

Unit 1: "Come si chiama?"

- Opening Dialog
- Vocabulary
  - Come si chiama (Lei)?
  - Mi chiamo _____ _____.
  - Di dov'è Lei?
  - Sono di _____.
  - Molto lieto/a
  - Piacere. Il piacere è mio.

Breve storia della lingua italiana

- Developed from spoken Latin
- Many words are quite similar:
    - Latin: *facere*   Italian: *fare*   "to do"
    - Latin: *vitam*   Italian: *vita* "life"
    - Latin: *piscem*   Italian: *pesce* "fish"
    - Latin: *octo*   Italian: *otto*   "eight"

First literature: Il Duecento

- Sicilian School of poetry in court of Frederick II (1194-1250): love poetry in the style of the Troubadours

- Development of Italian language shifted to Tuscany

- Dolce Stil Novo: Tuscan poets who continued in the tradition of the Sicilian School

Il Trecento

- Dante Alighieri: *La Divina Commedia*: most famous poem in Italian literature

  - Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita

  - mi ritrovai per una selva oscura

  - ché la diritta via era smarrita.

- Francesco Petrarca: *Canzoniere*: famous love poetry

- Giovanni Boccaccio: *Il Decameron*: Collection of stories, similar to Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

Search for Italian: 14th–19th centuries

- Renaissance: *La questione della lingua:* what should Italian be like?

- After much debate, the Tuscan dialect was settled on the as basis for standard Italian language

- Standard Italian is closest to the dialect spoken in Florence

Italian and dialects

- Each region (and sometimes each city) has its own dialect

- One region's dialect can be unintelligible to another region

- Examples:

  - Neapolitan: *'O sole mio* would be *Il sole mio* in standard Italian

  - Tuscany: standard Italian *la casa* is pronounced *la hasa*

Italian

- Italians learn Standard Italian in school

- We learn Standard Italian

- In some regions people may still speak a dialect at home or with friends

- Each region has a distinct pronunciation of Standard Italian

- Some dialect words have entered Standard Italian
  - *Ciao*: from Venetian dialect

La pronuncia: un po' di pratica

Penso **che** un **so**gno così non ritorni **ma**i più
Mi dipin**ge**vo le mani e la fa**cci**a di blu
Poi d'improvviso venivo dal vento rapito
E incominciavo a volare nel **cie**lo infinito

Volare, oh, oh!
Cantare, oh, oh, oh, oh!
Nel blu, dipinto di blu
Feli**ce** di stare lassù
E volavo, volavo felice più in alto del sole ed ancora più
su
Mentre il mondo pian piano spariva lontano la**ggiù**
Una musica dol**ce** suonava soltanto per me

Volare, oh, oh!
Cantare, oh, oh, oh, oh!
Nel blu, dipinto di blu
Felice di stare lassù

Conversazione

- say hello:
  - "Ciao"
  - "Buongiorno"
- say it's a pleasure to meet them.
  - "Molto lieto/a"
  - "Piacere"
- say what your name is: "Mi chiamo ____"
- ask their name: "Come si chiama?"
- Present the last person you meet with to the class. "Vi presento _____."