COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Liberal Arts

Programme: Standalone course not associated with a degree programme

***FHEQ* Level:**   4

Course Title: **Elementary Italian Language and Culture (Intensive)**

Course Code: ITL 4805

Course Leader: Monica Giovannini   (Florence)

Student Engagement Hours: 240
Lectures: 86
Seminar / Tutorials: 4
Independent / Guided Learning: 150

Semester: Fall/Spring

Credits: 24 UK CATS credits
12 ECTS credits
6 US credits

Course Description:
ITALIAN STUDY CENTRES ONLY. This is an introductory course to Italian language, with an integrated approach to the Italian language and culture. The course teaches essential vocabulary and grammar, developing students' ability to communicate in an authentic linguistic context – key to making the most of the experience of their stay in Italy. The course introduces cultural and linguistic knowledge associated with the use of the language.

Prerequisites:
N/A

Aims and Objectives:

In accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Languages of the Council of Europe level A1/A2, this course aims to:

- develop students' ability to use phrases and high frequency vocabulary related to areas of immediate personal relevance;
- enable students to read and understand very short, simple texts taken from everyday material, such as advertisements, menus and timetables;
- acquire basic grammar structures through the analysis of sentences in context;
- give students the necessary skills to carry out routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities;
- give students the ability to write short, comprehensible notes and messages and simple, personal letters;
- develop awareness and analytical knowledge of the basic language structures and of cultural differences and similarities concerning intercultural communications. Students should be able to communicate with a good awareness of cultural differences in the use of the language, integrating the learning of fundamental language structures and vocabulary with an understanding on how the language is related to Italian culture.
- It encourages students to develop their own language learning strategies so as to be able to conduct basic communication functions confidently in a limited range of topics concerning daily life situations.

Programme Outcomes:

This is a standalone course not associated with a degree programme

A1/A2 (based on CEFR indicators)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- demonstrate an ability to use appropriate phrases and vocabulary related to areas of immediate personal relevance

- demonstrate an ability to read and understand very short, simple texts taken from everyday material, such as advertisements, menus and timetables

- demonstrate an ability to carry out routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities

- demonstrate an ability to write short, comprehensible notes and messages and simple, personal letters.

- acquire an awareness and analytical knowledge of language based cultural differences and similarities concerning intercultural communications.

Indicative Content:
Expanding basic grammar and vocabulary in context

Receptive skills:
- Understanding simple conversations at regular speed
- Understanding uncomplicated statements
- Expanding on basic reading comprehension

Oral communication skills:
- Exposure to authentic materials, both audio and visual, encouraging oral interaction with the use of the language and its cultural context.

Communicative functions:
- Using the present and the past tense in conversation
- Using acquired grammar and vocabulary in context
- Thematic and practical activities which require the students to interact with each other with the language, also encouraging team work.

Written skills:
- Writing short reports
- Describing past events, using appropriate grammar and vocabulary
- Use of authentic text materials for the written communication to contextualize the language and its cultural background.

Assessment:
This course conforms to the Richmond University Language Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/

Teaching Methodology:
Classes are conducted mainly in Italian and take a functional approach to language learning. Students are not expected to understand every word but to attempt to grasp the key points and the overall meaning. Participation based on task oriented exercises in various forms (e.g. pair work, group work, discussion, role play and presentation) is encouraged to maximise interactive communications. The instructor not only guides and corrects, but also challenges students to immerse themselves in the linguistic and cultural experience. Guided language exchange with locals are aimed at developing independent   intercultural   and   interpersonal   communication   skills   both   in comprehension and language production. Feedback is provided in a timely manner to facilitate the learning.

Independent learning
Students are expected to spend the same amount of time of class hours both studying and practicing outside the class. Guidance and resources are provided to facilitate their learning and to help them develop their confidence and skills as an independent language learner. Homework and practical on-site assignments should consolidate the learning of Italian vocabulary and structures, help students develop personal learning strategies for effective communication and stimulate reflection on cultural differences.

Bibliography:
See syllabus for complete reading list.

Indicative Text(s):
FLORENCE:

- La Grassa M., 2013, *L'Italiano all'Università 1: a multimedia Italian course For English Speakers.* Roma, Atene: Edilingua Pantelis Marin

- Various contemporary short articles.

Online resources/Web sites

- **ALMA TV – Alma Edizioni**

www.almaedizioni.it

Alma edizioni is a publisher that provides a lot of linguistic and cultural material on line too (video clips, grammar explanations, web series).

- **Edilingua – YouTube**

www.youtube.com/user/Edilingua

The YouTube channel of the publisher Edilingua provides video courses, clips, linguistic and cultural quizzes.

- **Noi parliamo italiano**

http://parliamoitaliano.altervista.org

This website provides videoclips, grammar and vocabulary exercises, explanations of proverbs and idiomatic expressions, readings on Italian geography, history, art history and lots of games too.

- **BBC Learn Italian**

The BBC site provides a very good introduction to Italian language and culture and a range of learning materials, with sound and video clips. It is good supplementary material to use to consolidate what is provided in the classroom.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry