

## Italian Linguistics: Syntax and Pragmatics of Spoken Italian (A005734)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)	Italian	Gent	lecture	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

Palmieri, Maria Giuseppina	LW06	staff member
Crocco, Claudia	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Italian)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Italian)	5	A

**Teaching languages**

Italian

**Keywords**

Italian, linguistics, spoken language, syntax, semantics, pragmatics

**Position of the course**

This advanced course wants to familiarize the student with the linguistic structure of the simple sentence in contemporary Italian.

The course focuses on:

- Syntax of the simple sentence, from theoretical point of view.
- Syntax in the spoken language

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Knowledge of Italian is required.

**Contents**

The course aims to complete, develop and deepen the linguistic knowledge of the fundamental Italian language structures. The course will focus on the study of syntax, especially in the spoken language (dialogue).

The course covers the following topics

- Syntactic analysis of the sentence: X-bar theory, semantic roles, transitive, intransitive and reflexive sentences

- Analysis of syntax in the spoken language (dialogue): sentence structure, discourse markers and disfluencies

The students will listen to and transcribe authentic audio clips from dialogues from corpora (CLIPS, API etc.). The excerpts are in standard language or in a regional standard language. The fragments are analyzed on the level of syntax and pragmatics/discourse.

During this course, students will also further develop their language skills.

- Reading skills: reading the syllabus and the presentations
- Listening skills: listening to the lessons and to the authentic audio fragments
- Writing skills: transcription of audio fragments; exercises / tests with open questions
- Speaking skills: oral discussion of fragments / exercises

### Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course Italian Language proficiency I, II and III or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means. Expected language proficiency level: B1

### Final competences

1 The student reaches the language proficiency level B1+

The student can understand the main idea of a complex text, including technical discussions of linguistics. He / she can respond spontaneously in a normal exchange with native speakers. He / she can produce clear, structured (oral and written) texts on a linguistic topic. Can compare various points of view and options in an argumentation.

- Reading skills: independent reading of the syllabus; reading the presentations (self-study; lectures)
- Listening skills: listening to dialogical audio clips; understanding the questions during the seminars / permanent evaluation moments (seminars; self-study)
- Writing skills: transcription of audio clips; exercises with open questions (tutorials; guided exercises; written permanent evaluation and exam)
- Speaking skills: oral discussion of exercises (seminars, oral continuous assessment)

2 The student correctly uses the linguistic terminology

3 Insight into the theory: The student understands the most important points from the content of the lesson and the syllabus

4 Insight into the theory: The student can recognize the syntactic structures that are discussed in the lessons (transitive, intransitive and reflexive sentences

5 Application of the theory: The student can independently analyze a dialogical fragment and can explain the most important syntactic/pragmatic properties of the fragment

6 Research skills: students can work independently and in groups around a research topic. Students transcribe a text and identify the relevant syntactic phenomena. They summarize the results and organize them e.g. in tables. They present the results and discuss specific cases.

### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

### Extra information on the teaching methods

*No lecture recordings are provided for this course (interactive teaching format).*

### Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Carlo Cecchetto, 2002, Introduzione alla sintassi. La teoria dei principi e dei parametri, Milano: LED.

Indicative price: € 30

Optional: no

Language : Other

Author : Carlo Cecchetto

Number of Pages : 196  
Oldest Usable Edition : 2002  
Available in the Library : Yes  
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Slides

Name: Slides of the course  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Other  
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Reader

Name: Scientific articles  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Other  
Number of Pages : 80  
Available on Ufora : Yes

## References

### *Dictionaries*

- Nicola Zingarelli, *lo Zingarelli 2015, Vocabolario della lingua italiana*, a cura di Mario Cannella, Beata Lazzarini, Bologna, Zanichelli, 2015 (or more recent edition).
- Tullio de Mauro, *Grande dizionario italiano dell'uso*, Torino, UTET, 2008.
- *Vocabolario Treccani. Il Vocabolario Treccani*, Roma, Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana: <http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/>
- *Il Sabatini-Coletti: dizionario della lingua italiana*, Milano, Rizzoli Larousse, [http://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario\\_italiano/](http://dizionari.corriere.it/dizionario_italiano/)

### *Grammars*

- Giuseppe Patota, *Grammatica di riferimento della lingua italiana per stranieri*, Firenze, Le Monnier (Società Dante Alighieri), 2003.
- Lorenzo Renzi, Giampaolo Salvi, Anna Cardinaletti (a cura di), *Grande grammatica italiana di consultazione*, Bologna, il Mulino, 2001, 3 voll.
- Maurizio Dardano, Pietro Trifone, *La nuova grammatica della lingua italiana*, Bologna, Zanichelli, 1997.
- Giampaolo Salvi, Laura Vanelli, *Grammatica essenziale di riferimento della lingua italiana*, Novara - Firenze, Istituto Geografico De Agostini - Le Monnier, 1992.
- Luca Serianni, con la collaborazione di Alberto Castelvechi, *Grammatica italiana. Italiano comune e lingua letteraria*, Torino, UTET, 1988.

## Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during the lecturer's office hours (by appointment)

## Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

## Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

## Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Assignment

## Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

## Extra information on the examination methods

**Combination of continuous assessment and end-of-term assessment:**

**Continuous assessment: exercises (50%)**

**End of term assessment: written exam (50%)**

**Second examination period:**

In the second examination period, students take only the part of the evaluation for which they did not pass in the first examination period (transfer of passed partial marks).

In the second examination period, the "continuous assessment (50%)" is replaced by additional exercises and by the oral exam.

#### Calculation of the examination mark

**Combination of continuous assessment and end-of-term assessment:**

**Continuous assessment: exercises (50%)**

**End of term assessment: written exam (50%)**

***Students who eschew one or more parts of the assessment can no longer obtain a pass mark for the course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 7/20, it will be reduced to the highest non-passable mark (i.e. 7/20).***

*Students who are legitimately absent on certain days of the practical need to catch up the exercises they missed out on at a different time.*

#### Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is recommended to successfully complete the course.
- Class attendance needs to be discussed with the teacher.
- No online/digital facilities (lectures take place on campus, without recordings).
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to make an appointment for feedback.