

INTENSIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROSEMINAR FALL 2021 SYLLABUS

Instructor: Anna Maria Digirolamo

Office hours: Thursday, 3-4 pm and by appointment

Description. The Intensive Language and Culture Proseminar is a mandatory course designed to prepare students enrolled in the program to function well within the academic and social context of Bologna and to deepen their knowledge of the political, cultural and social environment in which they will be living for the duration of the semester.

The Proseminar includes four components:

- 1) Intensive Language and Culture (22 contact hours): (grade 30%)
- 2) *Discovering Bologna* (18 contact hours): (grade 30%)
- 3) A number of **activities organized by the program** throughout the semester (**see calendar below**) + a number of **individual mandatory activities (see below)** (grade 20%)
- 4) A **personal project** on a chosen theme or aspect of contemporary Italian society that you wish to explore due December 10th (grade 20%)

The Brown in Bologna resident director will meet you at the beginning of the semester to set up your **personal project** on a theme of your choice. Together we will establish a bibliography and a series of activities as well as a calendar.

The first **22 in-class hours** take place during the first three weeks of the program, prior to the start of university courses (point 1). The other **18 in-class hours** include sessions continuing throughout the semester (point 2). Students will receive separate grades for each component (except the excursions, which you are nevertheless expected to attend). The final grade will reflect a combination or average of all components. Completion of all activities is required in order to receive credits for the Proseminar (1 out of 4 credits for the semester).

Format: 40 in-class hours + 165 out-of-class hours (guided excursions + mandatory activities organized by the program + mandatory individual activities + final project + engagement within the Italian society + language partner activity + reading and studying). Total 205 hrs. equivalent to **8 ECTS**.

Estimate of in-class and out-of-class work: all advanced full credit courses at Brown require 180 hours of in-class and out-of-class time. Please note: the following are only estimates and can vary according to the time students effectively invest in each component. **The first 22 in-class hours** take place during the first three weeks of the program, prior to the start of university courses (Italian language classes, 11 meetings x 2 hrs. each for a total of 22 hrs.). **The other 18 in-class hours** include

12 lectures (12 meetings of 1,5 hours each for a total of. 18 hrs.). Additional work estimates: meeting with language partner, approx.4 hrs. weekly x 6 weeks, for a total of approx. 24 hrs.; reading and studying of the materials, approx. 4 hrs. weekly x 15 weeks, for a total of approx. 60 hrs.; Bologna guided tours (2 hrs. x 4) for a total of 8 hrs.; 2 day trips (6 hrs. x 2) for a total of approx. 12 hrs.; preparation of 4 short papers (4 x approx. 3 hrs.) for a total of approx. 12 hrs.; 2 mandatory activities x 2 hours, for a total of approx. 4 hrs.; 3 individual mandatory activities x 2 hours each, for a total of approx. 6 hrs.; engagement into Italian society, 3 hrs. a week x 10 weeks, for a total of approx. 30 hrs.; final paper (1 x approx. 8 hrs.). **Total additional hours: 165 hrs. Total 205 hrs.**

1) INTENSIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (all classes are taught in Italian by our instructors) (GRADE 30%)

This section meets **during the orientation** before the beginning of classes at the University of Bologna. This component is meant to reinforce students with a solid knowledge of the Italian language and equip them with the comprehension, writing and speaking skills they need when they enroll in regular classes at the University of Bologna. Upon arrival, each student will take a language placement exam, the results of which will determine the section to which the student is assigned (Intensive I and II). The exam will consist of a written section plus an oral test. The format includes lectures, discussions, reading of an Italian novel, viewing of Italian films, reading of Italian newspapers and magazines, weekly compositions, oral presentations.

Course calendar (11 sessions)

- September 1st
- September 2nd
- September 3rd
- September 6th
- September 7th
- September 8th
- September 9th
- September 13th
- September 14th
- September 15th
- September 16th

Assessment

- **3 compositions (30%)**
- **1 oral presentation (15%)**
- **Final exam (25%)**
- **Attendance and participation (30%):** **Attendance** of the course is mandatory. 1 unexcused absence: minus 50% participation. 2 unexcused absences: zeros for participation and any missed assignments. Excused absences: make-up assignment. The final evaluation will be based on the work done during the course, on the weekly compositions, on the attendance and on the active participation in the lesson. **Participation** will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: preparation and quality of interventions, language, listening skills.

N.B. A more detailed syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of class.

2) DISCOVERING BOLOGNA (GRADE 30%)

Sessions scheduled **during the semester** (classes will meet on **Thursday from 5.00pm to 6.30pm**). Through an active exploration of Bologna, students will discover its history, art, society and politics, identifying the elements that characterize it and make it unique. They will also gain a deeper understanding of the most representative elements of contemporary Italian society.

Course calendar (12 sessions)

- September 23rd
- September 30th
- October 7th
- October 14th
- October 21st
- October 28th
- November 4th
- November 11th
- November 18th
- November 24th (Wednesday)
- December 2nd
- December 9th

Homework Calendar

- September 23rd - Paper 1: Field Trips
- September 30th – Revision of Paper 1
- October 7th – Paper 2: Presentation of your neighborhood
- October 14th – Revision of Paper 2
- October 21st – Paper 3: Presentation and criticism of a personal cultural outing / personal project
- October 28th – Revision of Paper 3
- November 4th – Paper 4: Presentation of a personal activity within the community
- November 11th – Revision of Paper 4
- November 18th
- November 24th (Wednesday) – first version of the personal project
- December 2nd
- December 9th – final version of personal project

3 individual appointments to be scheduled during the semester

- Week of October 4th: discussion about your personal project
- Week of November 15th: discussion about your activity in the community and 2 cultural outings other the proposed by the program
- week of December 6th: discussion about your personal experience in Italy + exit interview

Assessment

- **3 Oral presentations**: your neighborhood / your activity in the community / a personal

- cultural activity and personal project **(30%)**, 10% each
- **4 papers (40%)**, 10% each
These papers will have between 800 and 1000 words, Times New Roman 12 double-spaced and illustrated with photos. They will include a presentation and analysis of:
 - Field Trips
 - Your neighborhood
 - A cultural outing of your choice proposed by the program
 - An activity within the community (volunteering, choir, conferences, etc.)The final grade for each paper will be assigned to the corrected version.
- **Attendance and appropriate in-class participation (30%)**
(they will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: attending class regularly and always contribute to the discussion by raising thoughtful questions, analyzing relevant issues, building on others' ideas, synthesizing across readings and discussions, expanding the class' perspective, and appropriately challenging assumptions and perspectives). 1 unexcused absence: minus 50% participation. 2 unexcused absences: zeros for participation and any missed assignments. Excused absences: make-up assignment.

Readings

- E. Galli Della Loggia, *L'identità italiana*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2010.
- E. Fatigati (a cura di), *La storia di Bologna dalla Preistoria ai giorni nostri*, Bologna, Roma: Typimedia Editore, 2019.

Students will choose other 2 books from the following bibliography:

BOLOGNA

Bologna yesterday and today

- E. Brizzi, *La vita quotidiana a Bologna al tempo di Vasco Rossi*, Bari: Laterza, 2008.
[Vasco Rossi, famous Italian rocker, is the pretext to talk about Bologna from the 80s and most of the 2000s: a city that in those years produced a lot of culture in the form of music, books, comics and films. Guccini, Dalla, Andrea Pazienza and his comics, the great movie director Pupi Avati, the writers Stefano Benni and Pier Vittorio Tondelli are just a few of the main protagonists of this season].
- G. Scandurra, *Bologna che cambia. Quattro studi etnografici su una città*, Junior, 2017.
[Bologna seen from four different ethnographic perspectives: a group of homeless people sleeping in the Bolognina neighborhood (2004-2006); a group of young people of foreign origins who train in a boxing gym in the outskirts of Bologna (2007-2010); the public space of Piazza Verdi, the heart of the university district (2008-2011); a group of Bologna football ultras (2012-2015)].

Students and Revolutions: Bologna in the Seventies

- G.P. Brizzi, P. Dessi, D. Negrini, *Bologna settantasette. L'incontro impossibile. Il movimento, l'Università, la città*, Bologna: Univ. Bologna Pubbl. Archivio, 2017.
[Politics, society, institutions, school and university in Bologna against the background of the '77 movement, a political movement born in Italy in 1977 as the development and transformation of youth and workers' movements that still existed in the country after 1968].
- V. Monteventi, S. D'Onofrio, *Berretta rossa, Storie di Bologna attraverso i centri sociali*, Bologna: Pendragon, 2011.
[“Berretta rossa” is the name of the first occupied social center in the city. Social centers have been laboratories of politics and culture, forges of struggles and alternative forms of

entertainment. A story of rebellion and creativity, marked by occupations, evictions, clashes and protests].

Bologna and the Food Tradition

- M. Montanari, *Bologna, l'Italia in tavola*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2021.
[Why is Bolognese cuisine so famous? For its specialties, mortadella or tortellini, which have established themselves over the centuries? Since the Middle Ages, the city owes its qualification as "fat" not so much to specific foods, but to a marked disposition for hospitality and its function as a great commercial hub].

Bologna and the Arts

- E. Riccòmini, *Aprilocchio, le cinquanta cose più belle di Bologna*, Bologna: Edizioni Tipoarte, 2000.
[Discover Bolognese art with a guide to the major works of art in Bologna from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century by one of the best scholars of local history of art].

ITALY

Stereotypes, gender prejudices, racism, LGBTQ+

- S. Alliva, *Fuori i nomi! Intervista con la storia italiana LGBT*, Roma: Fandango Libri, 2021.
[Founded in 1971, "Fuori"! was the first Italian sexual liberation movement. Fifty years after its birth, the community and its protagonists are told in a unique collection, made up of stories and words of those who have resisted the deadly plague of AIDS, the violence of the religious right, homotransphobia political and social which still does not allow full equality of rights.]
- A. Casarico, P. Profeta, *Donne in attesa. L'Italia delle disparità di genere*, Milano: Egea, 2010.
[Italian women now outnumber men in the number of graduates. But they are waiting: not so much for children, but to find spaces for employment, professional growth, to have power and decision-making roles in businesses, in politics, in science].
- Oiza Queens Day Obasuyi, *Corpi estranei. Il razzismo rimosso che appiattisce le diversità*, People, 2020.
[The debate on racism in Italy is often childish, linked to aggression against individuals of different ethnic groups, or to media cases involving migrants, only to subside immediately afterwards. The bodies of black people are therefore evanescent figures, the monopoly of someone who uses them as a shield to avoid reflecting on the society in which they live, permeated by different levels of discrimination and racism].

Politics

- C. Guarnieri, *Il sistema politico italiano*, Bologna: Il Mulino, 2016.
[The ways in which Italian unification took place meant that the new state had to face challenges in rapid succession that have been diluted elsewhere over the centuries. This left evident marks on the subsequent political development and on institutional architectures. The book gives an updated account of the nineties to the financial crisis of 2008 and its impact on institutions, up to the recent reforms of the Renzi government].

Food and Culture

- M. Montanari, *Il cibo come cultura*, Bari: Laterza, 2004.
[Food is culture because it has invented and transformed the world. It is culture when it is produced, when it is prepared, when it is consumed. It is the fruit of our identity and a tool to express and communicate it].
- C. Petrini, *Buono, pulito e giusto*, Slow Food-Giunti, 2016.
[The author, founder of the Slow Food movement, outlines a way to build a sustainable future and embrace a new lifestyle. It tells us that our food must be good, clean and fair. Good as it is

pleasant, according to different cultures, clean as it is respectful of the Earth and everything around us, just as it is socially fair and participates in a wealth redistribution project].

Suggested Movies and Documentaries:

- *Ius Soli*, Fred Kuwornu, 2012. [Right of citizenship for so-called second generation immigrants]
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMCpHOjSTMU>, Fred Kuwornu, [Diversity and Film Industry]
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbyCfr9aqEY> Fred Kuwornu [Black Lives Matters in Italy and the Legacy of Colonialism]
- *Jack Frusciante è uscito dal gruppo*, Enza Negroni, 1996. [Bologna in the 90s: a small "Italian" fresco on the passage from adolescence to adulthood]
- *La febbre del fare*, Michele Mellara, Alessandro Rossi, 2010 [Bologna 1945-1980. Documentary]

Useful links:

- <http://www.razzismobruttastoria.net> [Racism]
- <https://www.cassero.it> [Lgbtq center-Bologna]
- <https://www.casadonne.it> [Women shelter-Bologna]
- <https://mit-italia.it> [Trans Identity Movement-Bologna]
- <https://bibliotecadelledonne.women.it> [Italian Women Library-Bologna]
- <https://www.blackitalia.info/blackhistory> [Black Italy]

The content of the syllabus and dates are subject to change

3) MANDATORY ACTIVITIES (GRADE 20%)

MANDATORY ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY THE PROGRAM

- a) **Orientation period:** 2 field trips + guided tours of Bologna. (Excursions: The Bologna staff will organize guided tours of Bologna and of the neighboring towns of Ravenna and Ferrara. Excursions take place on a Saturday (September 14 and 11). This component is designed to familiarize students with Italian art history and local culture. A more detailed program for each excursion will be provided during orientation in Bologna.
- b) **Throughout the semester:** participation in 2 cultural outings proposed by the program.

Mandatory activities organized by the program – Calendar

- Guided tours of Bologna: city center, Aug.31; Pinacoteca, Sept. 3; Medieval Museum, Sept.7; University Museums, Sept. 9; Music Museum, Sept.14.
- September 4th / 11th: fieldtrips to Ferrara and Ravenna
- Opera - TBD
- Theatre/Concert – TBD

INDIVIDUAL MANDATORY ACTIVITIES

- a) Participation in **3** cultural activities other than those offered by the program (museums, films, theatre, concerts, conferences, etc.).
- b) An activity that will allow you **to get involved** in Italian society such as:
 - Volunteer work
 - Be part of a sports team, orchestra, choir, student association, club, etc.
 - Helping the elderly
 - Attend conferences or workshops (in art history, sociology, political science, at the University, the *Cineteca*, or any of the Bologna cultural centers such as libraries, cultural associations, ...).
 - Explore your neighborhood (activities proposed by the town hall, interviews with residents and shopkeepers, history of the neighborhood, participation in special projects, etc.)
 - Discover the contemporary cultural scene (e.g. art, film, literature or theatre) by participating in a literary circle, festivals, readings, exhibitions, etc.

Attendance and participation

Students are expected to participate to all the mandatory activities. Mandatory activities' grading is based on attendance and participation (i.e. attendance at all excursions and guided tours individual or organized by the program, as well as all cultural outings. Volunteering and other activities of engagement into Italian society: the assessment will be on the base of the contact person's feedback, that will be checked weekly. Otherwise, it will be weekly checked by the course instructor). 1 unexcused absence: minus 50% participation. 2 unexcused absences: zeros. Excused absences: make-up assignment.

Objectives

At the end of the Proseminar course students should be able to:

- Improve / enhance the abroad experience through contact with local organizations, associations, and sections of society beyond the university setting
- Attain an in-depth and **experiential knowledge** of the Italian society
- Take advantage of the sojourn to carry out a comparative research, through which they will also increase their awareness of their own country
- Increase their immersion in local surroundings
- Obtain a knowledge of Bologna and Italy through on-site exploration and an urban experience

Attendance Policy

As stated above, unexcused absences for each of the Proseminar section will result in a reduction of your final grade. Examples of unexcused absences are those caused by previously announced transportation disruptions due to strikes or predicted weather, oversleeping, family visits, friend's visits, trips in Italy or abroad or any other reason. It will thus be the students' responsibility to let us know when they have an excused absence. If they don't tell us anything, or they don't supply the necessary documentation (i.e. doctor' certificate), the absence must be notified as "unexcused" until proven otherwise. **All the Proseminar activities are mandatory and have priority on the Unibo**

classes. In case of necessity the program can provide a justification.

Inclusion and Diversity Statement

- Brown-in-Bologna embraces Brown's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Respect and sensitivity are particularly important when it comes to race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, religion, and disability.
- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official Brown records, please let me know!
- You are encouraged to consider that studying abroad really means experiencing diversity. Due to its history, Italy has a different sensitivity to the American one on the issues of diversity and inclusion. I encourage you to take advantage of this new perspective, to recognize Italian diversity and to practice cultural humility.
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it. (Anonymous feedback is always an option).

Hybrid Course Meetings During AY21-22

For students meeting in-person in a hybrid course, please remember that you signed an attestation that you will follow required public health practices. These practices include wearing a face mask at all times in university facilities, maintaining social distancing from others, and refraining from eating during class. If you do not have a mask, I will ask you to leave so that you can retrieve one before rejoining class. Disregarding these practices is a Student Code of Conduct violation. Please note that instructors are required to abide by the same guidelines, and I look forward to working with you together this term to keep our community safe and healthy.

Use of Technology to Support Your Learning in This Course

This course will use the following technological platforms: Google Drive and Canvas. I am committed to ensuring access to online course resources by students. If you have any concerns or questions about access or the privacy of the platform, please reach out to me.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Brown University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Please inform me early in the term if you may require accommodations or modification of any of course procedures.