

***NEW* ONLINE INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS WITH ITALIAN (BEGINNERS) MLT120 10 CREDITS**

New unit for 2009/2010

Pre-requisites

None

Course fees

There will be no fee for students counting this module towards unrestricted credits at any level (subject to departmental agreement). For students who wish to take this unit in addition to their degree programmes, the course fee this year will be £100.

Aims

This new unit has been developed by the Modern Languages Teaching Centre in order to provide you with the opportunity to study beginners Italian, whilst at the same time improving your wider communication skills and “cultural agility”. The unit can be taken by any student at the University, undergraduate or postgraduate. The knowledge and skills gained in the unit will be useful during your studies and social activities here at Sheffield, as well as in your future career. The unit will also be particularly relevant for students who will be entering the job market in the following year as employers are increasingly looking for evidence of language ability and intercultural skills.

This unit can be counted towards unrestricted credits at any level (subject to programme regulations and requirements). Students may also take the unit in addition to their degree programmes: the fee for this will be £100.

Intended Outcomes

By the end of the unit, students should be able to

- use productive language skills in order to accomplish straightforward speaking and writing tasks in everyday situations
- demonstrate the development of intercultural awareness and reflexivity
- synthesise the above in order to evolve the attitudes and skills necessary to engage successfully with the target language culture and by extension with other cultural communities at local, national or international level.

Methods and Materials

The unit has been designed with flexibility in mind to avoid timetable clashes. Delivery is through online interactive learning, supported by three face-to-face language evening sessions.

Part 1: Beginners Italian

The aim is to provide an introductory grounding in the practical language skills a learner would be likely to deploy during a brief visit to a foreign country where the selected language is spoken or a short meeting here with a person from that country. Primary emphasis will be placed on understanding and using the spoken language, but students will also be expected to perform straightforward reading and writing tasks. Basic aspects of grammar will also be introduced. Areas covered will include greetings, talking about oneself and everyday situations. Students will use

specially-designed online language materials and activities to consolidate the class-based language learning. There will be weekly online tasks which will be denoted as 'essential topic/vocabulary', 'essential grammar' 'desirable' and 'cultural information'

Part 2: Intercultural Awareness

It is important to be able to recognise, respond appropriately towards, and live and work comfortably with people from different cultures and nationalities both at University and beyond. Whilst gaining an introduction to the theory of intercultural communication, students will be encouraged to consider their own values and behaviours and reflect on how these may affect other people. This part of the unit will include online tutorials, reading materials, video clips and activities. Over the semester there will be 6 reflective tasks to aid development of intercultural awareness.

Assessment

1. The language component will be assessed by
 - Speaking test with MLTC tutor (5 minutes)
 - Writing test (30 minutes)
2. The Intercultural Awareness component will be assessed by a **small project** (500-750 words) based on a portfolio covering the development of the individual's intercultural awareness and reflexivity informed by reflection and research.

For enquiries or to sign up for the unit, please contact...

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