The Italian Department is a window to the Florentine Community and world.
Studying a foreign language in the country of origins makes a student’s experience unique. Here in Florence, it is possible to include various activities that take advantage of the numerous local resources offered by the city itself and incorporate them in the Italian language curriculum. We at SUF have a reciprocal relationship with the city of Florence and our classrooms literally extend into the fabric of the city. Learning is active and takes place through real-life situations such as conversing with Italian students, visiting artisan workshops, hosting local speakers in the classroom or experiencing the lively flavor and atmosphere of outdoor markets. The city and its people become an integral part of our language classes, therefore making Florence both a classroom and a language laboratory. With the purpose of learning language in context while gaining greater insight into Italian life and society, Italian language classes engage Syracuse Florence students in a variety of cultural activities, conducted strictly in Italian, while contributing to and encouraging an ongoing and active exchange between SUF and the local community.
All the activities in which the Italian language students are involved are carefully orchestrated and supported by a pedagogical approach to enhance the target language acquisition on site. Each activity, outing or initiative is preceded by exercises designed to expose and interest the students to a new topic and vocabulary. During each activity, students are asked to take an active role by performing interviews, completing forms and questionnaires, asking questions, and engaging in conversation with the local people. Students typically work in teams, in pairs and also individually. Each activity, site visit or outing is followed by follow up oral and written exercises which aim to reinforce the new cultural aspect to which the students have been exposed and to fix their new vocabulary and expressions, while reinforcing the grammar structures.
Visits to artisan workshops in the unique Florentine neighbourhoods of Santo Spirito and San Frediano are an exciting component of the Italian language and culture program. These visits enable students to experience firsthand the character and charm of traditional *botteghe degli artigiani* and talk with artisans about their trades while observing the typical passion and skill with which they work.
Mecocci
Intaglio
Cecchi Metalli
Scuola del Cuoio
Artigiani Vari
Ippogrifo
Stampe
Cioccolateria Artigianale
Lastrucci
Mosaici
Tandem exchanges

The Italian department collaborates with over 30 schools, at the high school and university levels, located in Florence and the surrounding province. Each Italian language class is partnered with an English language class at a local school. The purpose of these encounters is to have American and Italian students work together on different tasks thereby motivating their interest in learning a foreign language and better understanding a different culture while improving communication skills in the respective target languages. This kind of activity creates also opportunities for our students to make new friends within the local community and continue the friendship outside of the school.
SUF students of Italian have the opportunity to visit a local high school, the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo of the University of Florence or a private language school and present to Italian students of English on a topic of choice related to the student’s own culture. Topics may include cinema, mass media, music, poetry, recreation, current events, or various other aspects of American life and contemporary culture. The purpose is to give SUF students the opportunity to engage with Italian schools and share an aspect of American life with Italian students, thus helping them to improve their language skills and reflect upon cultural differences and similarities. Following their visits, SUF students report on their experiences to their own classmates, this time in Italian.
Informal Guest Lectures

Guest speakers are invited to Italian language classes to share with small groups of SUF students their insights on various topics related to Italian life and society. Guests range from university professors to artists, writers, musicians or simply ordinary people who have expertise in a particular field. Students have the opportunity to hear firsthand the viewpoints of members of the local community and ask assorted questions on the topic at hand. Many *lezioni a tema* are organized in conjunction with the SUF Events Program.
La Canzone Italiana
Femmi delle canzoni in epoca fascista:
la guerra
la campagna
il lavoro
la vita quotidiana
Immigrazione e Musica
Site visits, local exhibits and outdoor markets

Students take guided tours of Museums of Civiltà e Cultura Italiana (such as Museo Ferragamo, Museo Bardini, muso di Firenze Com’era, Museo della Casa Fiorentina, ecc). Special group site visits are organized to locally famous institutions such as Il teatro La Pergola, la Farmacia di Santa Maria Novella, La casa della cioccolata artigianale, ecc. Other excursions may include visits to nearby exhibits which specialize in Florentine culture and civilization or to outdoor markets where residents shop for locally-produced fruits, vegetables and other staples of the Florentine diet.
Teatro
La Pergola
Museo Ferragamo
MUSEO
Salvatore Ferragamo
Villa Bardini
VILLA BARDINI

Museo Pietro Annigoni
Museo Roberto Capucci
Fondazione Parchi Monumentali Bardini e Peyron
Società Toscana di Orticultura
Giardino Bardini
Al mercato
In cucina
In connection with the celebration of the remembrance day for the victims of the Shoah, a group of students visited the Jewish retirement home of the Sinagogue of Florence. Students conversed with the guests hosted by La casa di riposo del tempio Israelita survived to the holocaust and they interviewed them to write an article which was published by the Villa Rossa Voice.
Summer Courses

The summer program integrates Italian language and cultural education in class and on site. Students have the opportunity to learn or refine their Italian through experiential lessons which will take advantage of the extraordinary cultural wealth of Florence: The city and its environs serve as real-life language laboratories. Local field studies include visits to markets, festivals, theatrical performances, exhibitions, and concerts. Other more remote field studies take students beyond the walls of Renaissance Florence.
One is to the Cinque Terre, five fisherman villages suspended in time between the azure Tyrrhenian Sea and grapevines climbing the mountainous Ligurian coast. Vineyards, Mediterranean bush, steep cliffs, and pastel fisherman’s houses lining the village piazzas provide the setting and subject for the lessons here. Before this fieldtrip, students research on different topics: the National Park of Le Cinque Terre, the food, the local wines, artists, poets and musicians who lived here or were inspired by this magic place. During the fieldtrip students present the topic they have researched on to their peers. Other activities on site are interviews, questionnaires, fill-ins, essays.