

## INTERCULTURAL LEARNING IN THE ITALIAN CLASSROOM: NOVICE ITALIAN 2 (ITAL 102)

In this Module we will continue the intercultural learning started in ITAL 101. We will participate in the experiential activities that will help us learn and practice the 21st century skills, such as intercultural communication, global awareness, collaboration, flexibility and adaptability, which are becoming essential, both personally and professionally, in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world. Intercultural learning can help you build your intercultural, communicative, and other transferable soft skills so you can become a more competitive job candidate, a more effective leader and teammate, and a more competent global citizen.

This Module's content will prepare you to:

1. Develop your curiosity and openness by discovering and investigating Italian worldview and culture, and by critically comparing them to your own
2. Practice the intercultural attitudes of curiosity and openness by engaging in the experiential activities during the Intercultural Labs
3. Process and integrate what you have learned by reflecting on the Intercultural Labs and on your intercultural experiences

This Module's objectives are directly connected to the Course Objectives:

Italian 102 will help you cultivate your intercultural communicative competence (ICC) and your global awareness.

ICC development is intrinsic to language learning but it is not an automatic outcome of language learning or of study abroad immersive programs. Scholars agree that the most effective approach to developing the ICC is to teach it intentionally and to offer learners opportunities to practice it and reflect on their experiences.

In order to help you in your intercultural learning, this course comprises three Intercultural Labs in which you will actively practice the intercultural skills throughout the semester.

As an overview, this Module will include:

1. **An Introductory sub-module:** you will watch a video explaining the idea of Intercultural Communicative Competence (ICC) and providing an overview of what you have learned in ITAL 101, and how the ICC is embedded in ITAL 102
2. **Lab Interculturale 1 "Investigatori Interculturali":** this lab contains multi-step activities that will help you understand and practice intercultural openness
3. **Lab Interculturale 2 "Disegniamo una casa - Draw a House":** this lab contains multi-step activities that will help you understand and practice intercultural openness, cultural self-awareness, and knowledge of worldview frameworks - two intercultural competencies that you will continue to develop in Intermediate Italian classes
4. **Lab Interculturale 3 "Gettiamo un ponte verso l'altro - Bridging Behaviors":** this lab contains multi-step activities that will help you understand and practice intercultural curiosity and openness.

In bocca al lupo! Good luck!

# ITALIANO 102:

## PATHS TO INCREASING OUR INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (ICC)/ COMPETENZE COMUNICATIVE INTERCULTURALI



All materials adapted from the  
Purdue IPG Workshop series

# WHAT IS INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE?



- **A set of skills that enable you to effectively and appropriately interact with people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds**

# INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE INCLUDES:

## ◊ Knowledge:

**Cultural self-awareness:** the ability to recognize your own cultural rules and biases; understanding how your culture has shaped your identity and worldview

**Cultural knowledge of other people's worldviews:** the ability to understand the complexity of other cultures' worldviews

## ◊ Skills:

**Empathy:** the ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group; the ability to interpret intercultural experience from more than just your own perspective and worldview

**Verbal and non verbal communication:** ability to understand cultural differences in verbal and nonverbal communication and to negotiate a shared understanding based on those differences

## ◊ Attitudes:

**Curiosity & Openness**

# IN ITAL 101 LAST SEMESTER WE FOCUSED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF:



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Curiosity/**curiosità**:



- ◇ the ability to ask complex questions about different cultures and to seek out complex answers
- ◇ viewing difference as a learning opportunity



Openness/**apertura**:



- ◇ the willingness to initiate and develop interactions with people from different cultures
- ◇ suspending criticism and judgment of other cultures

# TI RICORDI? DO YOU REMEMBER? COSA HAI IMPARATO?

- Different cultures have different naming practices that reflect their cultural values and beliefs
- What are some naming practices in Italian culture?



- How has this activity stimulated your curiosity about your own name and culture?
- Has it stimulated your curiosity about your classmates' names and their cultures?

- What resources other than the Internet can you use to find answers to intercultural questions?

## Derivazione / Origine

- **qualità fisica:**
  - Ricci perché una membro della famiglia aveva i capelli ricci.
  - Mancini, Bruni, Calvi o Calvino, Magri, DeGrassi, Biondi, Basso
- **carattere e personalità:** di un membro della famiglia era così con le persone
  - Bravi, Villani, Gentili, Cortesi, Sgarbi, Bruschina,



## Derivazione / Origine

- **professioni o ceto sociale:**
  - Barbieri perché un membro della famiglia era un barbiere
  - Soldati, Vescovi
  - Ferrari, Fornari, Muratore, Medici,
  - Principe, Marchesi



- Why is curiosity a useful skill in an intercultural context?

# TI RICORDI? DO YOU REMEMBER? COSA HAI IMPARATO?

- Non verbal communication (gestures, yes/no) is a function of cultural conditioning
- Our cultural conditioning feels natural to us



- By developing the skill of intercultural openness, we can stay open to communication even when it is not easy and when we get frustrated

- Different cultures use different non verbal communication styles

- How did you feel when you were asked to nod to say **no** and shake your head to say **yes**?



# IN ITALIAN 102, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRACTICE THE SKILLS OF CURIOSITY AND OPENNESS

ICC development is intrinsic to language learning but it is not an automatic outcome of language learning or study abroad immersive programs. Scholars agree that the most effective approach to developing the ICC is to teach it intentionally and to offer learners opportunities to practice it and reflect on their experiences.

## ◆ DISCOVER

By discovering how to speak, listen, read, and write in Italian and by learning about Italian culture in relation to your own, you will continue to develop your **curiosity** about the Italian worldview (cultural habits, values, and beliefs) and your **openness** to Italian culture (your ability to interact with Italians, and to be receptive to cultural differences while suspending your judgment)

## ◆ PRACTICE

ITAL 102 includes three Intercultural Labs (**Laboratorio Interculturale**) during which you will actively practice the IC attitudes of curiosity and openness.

## ◆ REFLECT

Each Intercultural Lab is followed by a short follow-up reflection on the activity that will help you **process** what you've learned and **integrate** it into your ICC toolbox and your life.



# IL VIAGGIO CONTINUA ... SIETE PRONTI?

**BUON DIVERTIMENTO!**  
**HAVE FUN!**

**TUFFIAMOCI!**  
**LET'S DIVE IN!**

**IN BOCCA AL**  
**LUPO!**

**GOOD LUCK!**

