



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

The Discovery of Italy through its Culinary Traditions

PROF. BARBARA BETTINELLI / CHIARA CASAGRANDE

Area of study:	Italian Culture: Literature, Theatre, Cinema, Music, Philosophy and History
Area Code:	CU300 A & B
Method of Instruction:	In-person

Description

Italian food and wine are probably as famous as Italy's artistic and historical assets: you'll be surprised by the history behind the food, and how strictly related to the culture and heritage of an area a wine or a dish can be. Food is one of the cornerstones of Italian culture and even if times are changing and life is more and more frenetic, Italians still find a great pleasure in sitting at a table, at home or at the restaurant, and share a good meal together: this is because to the people of Italy, Italian food and wine are part of their culture and, very often, also of their own family history. Italian cuisine can be difficult to define, as recipes, tastes, ingredients, and cooking styles vary enormously from region to region. One thing that most people will agree on though is that it is one of the richest and most delicious cuisines in the world.

The aim of this course is to introduce students to Italian culinary traditions and provide them with the opportunity to take part in "hands-on" cooking lessons under the guidance of one of Cattolica chefs.

Course contents

This course will combine lessons in class with cooking lessons. In class, students will explore one of the world-renowned aspects of Italian culture, its cuisine. We will also unveil those Italian cooking mysteries that baffle most people, like what "al dente" means, why there are so many different pasta shapes, why Italians eat their salad with their meal and exactly what Grappa is. Lessons will focus on:

- The History of Italians and their Food
- Italy, its Regions, and its Regional Cuisine
- Italian Meals
- Italian Coffee Culture
- Pasta: how to pair different pasta shapes to the right sauce
- The Mediterranean Diet
- Slow Food vs Fast Food: the importance of the Slow Food movement
- Italian wines: pairing food and wine
- Festival Foods
- Famous Italian Chefs

Films, extracts from books, articles, food quizzes will be used to illustrate and explain the role of food and wine in Italian culture.

During each practical cooking class, different recipes will be explored. Students will discover the best of traditional and contemporary Italian regional cuisine and will have the opportunity to participate "hands-on" during the lessons, thus gaining experience to repeat the recipes once back home. Students will learn how to prepare and enjoy a full Italian meal: *antipasto*, *primo*, which is generally pasta or rice, *secondo*, a meat dish, and a dessert.



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Prerequisites

None

Method of instruction

Lectures and kitchen lab. Lectures will be held by employing different sources (frontal lectures, slides, documentaries, and films): classroom debates will be held as an important part of the course.

Lectures can host a maximum of 30 students each, while each kitchen lab can host a maximum of 10 students. This means that students in ZXP698 will be divided into three labs: ZXP698 (Lab 3), ZXP698 (Lab 4) and ZXP698 (Lab 6). Students in ZXS171 will be divided into three labs: ZXS171 (Lab 1), ZXS171 (Lab 2) and ZXS171 (Lab 5). Places in the labs will be assigned by the international office on a first-come-first-served basis, according to students' general schedule. It will not be possible to choose or change the lab. Students will get a response on the lab assigned one week before the beginning of classes.

When selecting this course, please ensure that your schedule allows you to attend both the lesson and a kitchen lab on a different day. If you cannot attend both, you cannot follow this course.

Course requirements

Students will be required to:

- follow class regularly and participate in class discussion;
- complete assignments and tasks;
- participate in a final project.

Students are expected to attend class regularly and contribute to class discussion. Students' participation will be assessed in terms of active and meaningful involvement in class discussions and group activities. If students are unable to attend, it is their responsibility to obtain any notes from their colleagues. Attendance and participation will be fundamental for grade assessment. Three unjustified absences will be allowed for the lessons in class. Two unjustified absences will be allowed for the lessons in the kitchen laboratory. Students who miss more than three lessons in class and / or two lessons in the lab will receive an automatic Failed.

Credits

6 ECTS

Grading

Final project presentation	60 % of final grade
Cooking Labs and Practical cooking exam	40 % of final grade

Course readings and materials

All materials will be available on Blackboard.

Instructor bio

Prof. Barbara Bettinelli was born and educated in Italy where she worked as a language teacher and teacher trainer in the Italian state system up to her late 20s. She then spent fifteen years in the UK where she completed her PhD and taught Italian at the University of Nottingham Language Centre. In 2001 she



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moved back to Italy. She currently teaches Italian and English and works as Education Developer for the Centre for Higher Education Internationalisation at the Università Cattolica. She has written many books aimed at students of Italian and English which are published in Italy by Pearson Longman.

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Prof. Chiara Casagrande was born and educated in Italy. After graduation she moved to the U.S.A. to study American Literature at Lado International Institute (Silver Spring – MD). Later on, she lived in Ecuador where she started teaching Italian as a foreign language at the local Catholic University (PUCE). She returned to Italy where she continued her education. She holds a Master's degree in Foreign Trade and a Master's degrees in Teaching Italian as a foreign language. She is currently working as a teacher at the Università Cattolica in Milan, where she teaches Italian Language and Culture to foreign students.

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Prof. Tatiana Baggio was born and educated in Italy. She worked for sixteen years at Società Dante Alighieri in Milan where she taught Italian to students of all ages and from all over the world. She holds the Ditals Level II from the Ditals Center of the University for Foreigners of Siena, a qualification certifying advanced competence in teaching Italian to foreign students and a Master's Degree in Teaching Italian as a Foreign Language. She is currently working as a teacher of Italian Language and Culture to foreign students at the Università Cattolica in Milan and in other state and private universities.

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