

“ITALIAN Year 13 TRANSITION WORK”

If you have chosen to study Italian at University, I recommend the following resources/websites/links:

- A.L. Lepschy and G. Lepschy, *The Italian Language Today* (especially Part II)
- A. Proudfoot & F. Cardo, *Modern Italian Grammar*
- M. Mezzardi, *Essential Italian Grammar Practice + Answer Keys*
- G. Lazzarino & A. Moneti, *Da capo* (3rd ed)
- M. Maiden and Cecilia Robustelli, *A Reference Grammar of Modern Italian* (2nd ed)

You may also wish to practise Italian via the RAI TV programme, In Italia. L'Italia e l'italiano per stranieri, <http://www.initalia.rai.it/>

Once you have worked about half-way through the grammar of Italian, you should be able to start reading. You should start with some short stories – recent writers in this area are Buzzati, Calvino, Ginzburg, Moravia, Pavese.

The titles you will be reading in your first-year course usually are:-

- Primo Levi, *Se questo è un uomo* (1947)
- Natalia Ginzburg, *Lessico familiare* (1963)
- Italo Calvino, *Il barone rampante* (1957)
- Anna Maria Ortese, *Il mare non bagna Napoli* (1953)

Try to read at least the first two by October, you may use translations in the first instance (*If this is a Man*, *Family Sayings*). You will also probably study the film *I cento passi* (2000; available on DVD) directed by Marco Tullio Giordana. Finally, your first-year course will have a poetry component: you will be required to study a number of Italian sonnets from Dante to the present day (we will provide you with an anthology when you arrive), plus one collection of contemporary poetry:-

- G. Ungaretti, *Vita di un uomo (106 poesie)* (Mondadori Oscar) – ONLY the sections 'Allegria' and 'Sentimento del tempo' (read in advance at least 'L'Allegria')

Italian books and grammars are most easily obtained from:- Grant and Cutler, 107 Charing Cross Rd, London, WC2H 0EB, www.grantandcutler.com; or The Italian Bookshop, 5 Warwick St, London W1B 5LU, 020 7240 1634, www.italianbookshop.co.uk.

It is not essential to go to Italy before coming here, though it will help. But you can also benefit from reading Italian newspapers (the best dailies are *La Repubblica*, *Il corriere della sera* and *La Stampa*) or magazines (*L'Espresso*, *Panorama*, etc.), or seeing Italian films with subtitles. The dailies and magazines also have well-maintained websites: www.repubblica.it, www.corriere.it, www.lastampa.it, etc.

Buon lavoro!