PERCORSI: L’Italia attraverso la lingua e la cultura, Third Edition

Percorsi, Third Edition, is an introductory program that promotes the acquisition of Italian language and culture through a media-rich program that integrates the “Five Cs” principles of the National Standards for Foreign Language Education. Building on the success of the earlier editions, Percorsi, Third Edition is designed to provide beginning learners with a variety of tools to develop their communicative competence in the four major language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—as they acquire familiarity with Italian culture. All of the features in Percorsi have been carefully thought out to support the two key aspects of the language acquisition process: language comprehension and language production.

From the start, carefully structured communicative activities based on authentic materials and texts encourage students to use Italian in everyday situations. Generous use of authentic content also offers students a chance to develop reading skills while gaining cultural awareness and understanding of Italian communities and traditions throughout the world. In addition, each chapter explicitly promotes cultural exploration through illustrated and media-based presentations that are followed by activities facilitating comprehension and highlighting cultural comparisons. Students are encouraged to analyze and compare extremely varied aspects of Italian culture while making connections to their own experiences.

Communicative activities that have real-world relevance are at the heart of the Percorsi program. Culturally authentic contexts, role-plays, pair, and group work provide students with numerous opportunities to interact in Italian with other learners. Authentic materials, such as advertisements, brochures, Web content, and online newspaper and magazine articles provide extensive exposure to contemporary Italian language and culture. The exercises and activities, together with cultural presentations, are organized using the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational. The communicative activities offer ample opportunity for students to practice interpersonal skills. The listening exercises, together with the numerous realia- and reading-based activities, facilitate practice in the interpretive mode. Writing tasks and strategies, along with activities in which students are asked to report to the class, provide a variety of tools for practice in the presentational mode.

What’s New in the Third Edition?

- At its core is a brand new film, Ritorno a Roma. Produced by Gianluigi Tarditi, 2011 Golden Globe winner, Ritorno a Roma is the first educational romantic comedy created exclusively for learners of beginning Italian. The film, created to support the learning of Italian for users of Percorsi and exclusively written with students in mind, takes place in Rome and features scenes in
integration is enhanced by Percorsi’s cyclical Scope and Sequence approach, which emphasizes the recycling of vocabulary and structures taught in previous chapters. Students are given ample opportunity to learn the material gradually and thoroughly. The focus is on helping them understand and speak Italian in a variety of settings with increasing accuracy and sophistication. Clear and manageable grammar presentations complement this focus.

- Adaptability to different course structures and teaching needs. As the title indicates, Percorsi is a rich, highly flexible program that provides instructors and learners with many pathways, or options. Instructors can emphasize the features most suited to their courses and students, and they can choose from a wide array of supplementary materials. They also have flexibility in deciding how to work with the various chapter elements. The teaching of grammar, for example, can be done inductively, through integration of grammar into the overall Percorsi thematic content, or through more traditional work with the Grammatica sections. Instructors can also decide how much emphasis to give to the presentation of grammar, since much of the presentation and related practice can be assigned as homework.

- A concise, functionally organized grammar presentation. Percorsi’s grammar presentation is enhanced by a cyclical syllabus. New structures are introduced visually through captioned illustrations, photos, video, or realia at the beginning of each Percorsi, then embodied in the In contesto language samples. In turn, the Occhio alla lingua! questions encourage students to analyze inductively or to review each Percorsi’s linguistic input. The streamlined grammar explanations that follow present structures in the context of communicative needs.

- A well-constructed process approach to skill development. The In pratica chapter wrap-up section provides students with a well-thought-out framework for carrying out authentic speaking, reading, writing, and viewing tasks. Pre-speaking, reading, writing, and viewing activities provide advance preparation for these sections. Students are then guided as they carry out the assignment, and encouraged through appropriate follow-up. This process approach helps students gain confidence as they carry out a wide variety of communicative tasks.

- Rich annotations for the instructor. Extensive annotations provide suggestions for presentation of new vocabulary and grammar, background information, and ideas for expansion and enrichment activities. The annotations also include the scripts for listening activities and answers for the exercises.

Chapter Organization

Percorsi includes 16 chapters preceded by a short Capitolo preliminare, which introduces the Italian language, gives an overview of the Italian regions, and presents basic classroom vocabulary. The individual chapters include three main components: the three Percorsi sections, Attraverso..., and In pratica. There is also an end-of-chapter Vocabolario section.

PERCORSI I, II, and III

Each Percorsi develops within a cultural framework, where essential vocabulary and grammatical structures are presented within a regional theme that provides students with an opportunity to communicate about a specific topic. The three Percorsi include the following components:
VOCABOLARIO
Key vocabulary is presented primarily through photos, artwork, realia, and assorted language samples. The related exercises and activities reinforce new vocabulary while reviewing and recycling thematic vocabulary from other chapters. The vocabulary presentation is complemented by the following elements:
- **Così si dice** boxes are used to briefly present grammatical or linguistic structures necessary for communicating about a given topic. Key grammatical points presented in **Così si dice** boxes receive in-depth treatment in subsequent chapters.
- **In contesto** includes a brief conversation, recorded on the text audio program, or a short authentic text, such as an e-mail, that draws together the Percorso’s theme, vocabulary, and grammar structures in an interesting, contextualized way.
- **Occhio alla lingua!** encourages students to examine the Percorso’s linguistic input featured in the Vocabolario and **In contesto** sections in order to review or discover inductively new grammar points.

**Lo sai che...?** boxes provide illustrated cultural information relevant to the Percorso and encourage students to think analytically about both Italian culture and their own.

**GRAMMATICA**
Grammatical structures are presented concisely in English. They are enhanced by numerous chapter-appropriate examples and well-designed charts. Carefully sequenced related exercises provide practice within meaningful contexts, reinforcing the chapter theme and vocabulary. Each Percorso includes one listening activity recorded on the audio program that accompanies the text.

**Percorsi** includes the essential points of Italian grammar for an introductory course. For those who wish to provide a more complete presentation of Italian grammar, a supplementary chapter, Grammatica Expansion, is included in the Student Activities Manual that treats topics and tenses not presented in the textbook itself.
In Pratica

This section, which concludes each chapter, provides in-depth exploration of the chapter theme from varied perspectives while promoting development of the four skills via a process approach.

- **Guardiamo** guides students as they view chapter-related episodes from the *Ritorno a Roma* film and starts with the introduction of an initial comprehension strategy and pre-viewing preparation, along with a *Per capire meglio!* vocabulary section. In turn, relevant activities assist students during viewing, and follow-up work checks comprehension and encourages reflection. This approach helps students to improve their listening skills, become sensitive to visual clues such as facial expressions and common Italian body language, and increase their cultural awareness.

- **Leggiamo** is based on an authentic, thematically appropriate reading text. This section begins with a reading strategy and then guides students through pre-reading preparation, the actual reading task (including application of the strategy) and post-reading work. The post-reading activities check comprehension at different levels and encourage students to use critical-thinking skills and make inferences. In the second half of the book, the readings include contemporary literary selections, among them a poem, a play, and short stories.

- **Parliamo** sections begin with *Strategie per parlare* that target specific speaking strategies. In turn, a three-step process guides students through an assigned speaking task that draws and expands upon chapter themes and content within a real-life context. Pre-speaking activities prepare students to carry out the assigned task; a framework for the actual speaking assignment provides ongoing practical guidance; a wrap-up section encourages thoughtful follow-up.

- **Scriveramo** begins with a specific strategy and related pre-writing preparation. A framework for carrying out the actual writing task is then provided, along with suggestions for appropriate follow-up. The *Scriveramo* activities give students opportunities to practice writing in Italian within diverse practical and relevant contexts. The writing topics draw upon the chapter themes, vocabulary, and grammatical structures.

**VOCABOLARIO**

Each chapter concludes with a list of the chapter’s active vocabulary that has been presented in the three Percorsi. This section is recorded in MyItalianLab to help students master pronunciation of each word and expression.
Ritorno a Roma
A volte per trovare il tuo passato, devi scoprire il tuo futuro.

Produced by Gianluigi Tarditi, 2011 Golden Globe winner for Best Short, Ritorno a Roma is the first educational romantic comedy created exclusively for learners of beginning Italian. The film, created to support the learning of Italian for users of Percorsi and exclusively written with students in mind, takes place in Rome and also features scenes in Gaeta, Naples, and Siena. It follows the trials and tribulations of four main characters—Taylor, Giulia, Elena, and Roberto—as Roberto attempts to win a national recording contract for the band that he manages.
THE CAST

Taylor
Passionate art history student

Giulia
Intelligent, artistic landlord that attracts a lot of attention

Robert
Band manager who enjoys shopping for clothes in Milan

Elena
Free-spirited filmmaker

Ritorno a Roma entertains as it informs, increasing students’ language skills through carefully sequenced dialogues that recycle grammar and vocabulary from Percorsi while introducing colloquial language used daily in Italy. The film follows Taylor, an Italian who returns to Rome to study art history after living in the US for over ten years. His life takes an unexpected turn as he revisits his roots and gets to know his vivacious roommates, all amidst the backdrop of a beautiful villa in the hills of Rome. Viewers will follow Taylor, Giulia, Roberto, and Elena through some of Rome’s most iconic landmarks and across Italy as they visit Siena, Naples, and Gaeta. Taylor and his friends reveal Italy’s culture in all its richness as they explore the nuances of the country’s fashion, food, art, and leisure in an engaging tour that is as instructive as it is entertaining.
Program Components

STUDENT RESOURCES

Student Text (ISBN 10: 0-205-99895-X)
The Percorsi: L'Italia attraverso la lingua e la cultura Student Text is available in a hardbound version or in a binder-ready version.

Audio CD for the Text (ISBN: 0-13-375424-3)
Each chapter's In contesto dialogues and listening activities are available on CD and on the Companion Website (http://www.pearsonhighered.com/percorsi). In addition, these recordings are available in MyItalianLab along with premium audio content.

Student Activities Manual (ISBN: 0-205-99919-0)
The Student Activities Manual provides complete coordination with the structure and approach of the Percorsi text, offering an ample variety of written and aural activities related to the topics and grammar components presented in the textbook chapters. The Student Activities Manual activities provide meaningful practice of the vocabulary and grammar structures introduced in each chapter, as well as practice in reading comprehension and writing skills. The audio-based activities are integrated within each chapter and provide listening practice based on authentic speech and real-life situations. The video activities, also integrated within each chapter, complement the activities in the Guardiamo section of the textbook. These exercises offer students the ability to expand their understanding of the plot of the video segments while making connections between their own lives and the lives of the characters.

Audio CDs for the Student Activities Manual (ISBN: 0-205-99925-5)
All audio recordings for the listening-comprehension activities included in the Student Activities Manual are available on CD, in MyItalianLab, and on the Companion Website (http://www.pearsonhighered.com/percorsi).

Answer Key for the Student Activities Manual (ISBN: 0-205-99934-4)
This provides answers to all activities in the Student Activities Manual.

Video Program for Percorsi (ISBN: 0-205-99922-0)
A newly shot film, Ritorno a Roma, the first educational romantic comedy of its kind created exclusively for users of Percorsi, is available on both the DVD and in MyItalianLab. Students follow the trials and tribulations of four main characters living outside of Roma—Taylor, Giulia, Elena, and Roberto—as Roberto attempts to win a national recording contract for the band that he manages. The band's songs and lyrics are available throughout the film and accompanying activities are offered in MyItalianLab. Ritorno a Roma introduces students to colloquial language, provides students with a firsthand look at Italian life and culture, and takes them on a fascinating journey through Roma, Gaeta, Siena, and Napoli.

Interviste: La vita di ogni giorno includes unscripted interviews with an engaging group of Italian speakers who converse on high-interest themes from the text. The group of individuals that students meet discuss their families, work and leisure activities, and their personal experiences. Engaging and authentic cultural footage accompanies each interview segment. The Interviste: La vita di ogni giorno video is also available on the DVD and in MyItalianLab.
INSTRUCTOR RESOURCES

This version of the textbook is a wonderful resource for both seasoned and novice instructors. The annotations offer detailed suggestions for presentation of new material and creative use of the exercises and activities, including options for variations and expansions. Answers for exercises and activities are also provided where appropriate. The audio transcription for the listening activities is included as well.

Instructor’s Resource Manual (downloadable only)
This manual provides sample syllabi and lesson plans for two- and three-term sequences as well as additional teaching tips and answer keys. The Instructor’s Resource Manual also provides the scripts for the listening-comprehension activities within the Student Activities Manual and the interview video transcript. The Instructor’s Resource Manual is available within MyItalianLab and in the Instructor’s Resource Center online.

Testing Program (ISBN: 0-205-99921-2)
By adopting a modular approach, the Testing Program allows for maximum flexibility. Instructors can select from an array of options coordinated with the chapter vocabulary and grammar presentations as well as with the cultural focuses and sections devoted to viewing, reading, speaking and writing skills. There is also a choice between modules eliciting open-ended answers and modules eliciting discrete answers. The testing program is available in electronic formats (on the Pearson Instructor Resource Center and in MyItalianLab, which allows instructors to customize the tests more easily), including chapter tests and comprehensive examinations that test listening, reading, and writing skills, as well as cultural knowledge.

Audio CD for the Testing Program (ISBN: 0-205-99924-7)
All audio recordings for the listening comprehension activities in the Testing Program are available on CD and in MyItalianLab.

Image Resource Bank
MyItalianLab contains labeled and unlabeled versions of all of the line art images from the textbook. Instructors will be able to incorporate these images into presentation slides, worksheets, and transparencies, as well as find many other creative uses for them.

ONLINE RESOURCES

MyItalianLab, part of our MyLanguageLabs suite of products, is an online homework, tutorial, and assessment product designed to improve results by helping students quickly master concepts, and by providing educators with a robust set of tools for easily gauging and addressing the performance of individuals and classrooms. MyLanguageLabs has helped almost one million students successfully learn a language by providing them everything they need: full eText, online activities, instant feedback, and an engaging collection of language-specific learning tools, all in one online program. For more information, including case studies that illustrate how MyLanguageLabs improves results, visit www.my languagelabs.com.

Companion Website
The open-access Companion Website (www.pearsonhighered.com/percorsi) includes the audio to accompany the textbook activities and the Student Activities Manual.
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Reviewers
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