



**ROBERTA
PENNASILICO**
ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE INSTRUCTOR

www.robortapennasilico.it
roberta.pennasilico@eu.dodea.edu
roberta.pennasilico@gmail.com



Current Position

Teacher of Italian Language and Culture, levels II through V and Advanced Placement Italian and Host Nation Liaison with the Italian Community at Naples American Middle High School (Department of Defense Dependents Schools), Naples, Italy, since 1991

Education

- Master's Degree at University of Naples Federico II, Major in English Language and Literature, 1990
- Bachelor and Master of Arts in Modern Foreign Language and Literature with emphasis in English Language offered by a regionally accredited university in the U.S.
- Scholarship for a Course in English Proficiency, London, 1989
- Scholarship for a Course in English as a FL, University Tutorial College, UK, 1987
- 6 Year-Course at the British School, Naples, 1980-1986
- Cambridge First Certificate, 1982

Certificates & Workshops

- Implementing 20-60-20 in the WL classroom, University of San Diego, Sept 2018
- Cambridge TKT CLIL (Teaching Knowledge Test: Content and Language Integrated Learning), Dec 2013
- DITALS 1 (Didattica dell'italiano come lingua straniera- Teaching of Italian as a Foreign Language) Certificate, University of Siena, Oct 2013
- Advanced Placement Summer Institute in AP Italian, College Board, John Cabot University, Rome, July 2013
- Interpersonal Communication in Pre-AP World Languages and Cultures, San Francisco, Jul 2011
- Advanced Placement Italian Certification, College Board, San Francisco, Jul 2011
- AP Foreign Language Job Alike Workshop, Wiesbaden, Germany, May 2011
- Foreign Language Pre-Implementation Workshop, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, 2002
- ACTFL Performance Guidelines Workshop, Vicenza, Feb 2000
- Partial Immersion, Host Nation & Second Language, Department of Defense Dependents Schools, 1999
- Partial Immersion Workshop, Vicenza, 1999
- Oral Proficiency Techniques and Strategies in Second Language Instruction, University of San Diego, 1995

- Language Implementation Training, Vicenza, Dec 1995
- Effective Foreign Language Instruction, Vicenza, Aug 1995
- Foreign Language Conference, Raunheim, Germany, Feb 1995
- TST (The Study of Teaching) workshop, Tirrenia, Italy 1994;
- Research for Better Teaching, Department of Defense Dependents School, 1993

Invited Talks - Presentations

- Integrating the Italian Culture in your Language Activities webinar, ITANJ Sept 20
- Interactive Activities to Utilize During Distance Learning webinar, ITANJ Sept 20
- How to build and use interactive activities in class and remote with Peardeck, NMHS Sept 20
- The AP exam, webinar sponsored by Calandra Institute and Società Dante Alighieri, NY, April 2020
- Practice for AP activities/2, webinar sponsored by Calandra Institute and Società Dante Alighieri, NY, April 2020
- Practical suggestions for the AP exam tasks, webinar sponsored by Department of Defense Education Activity, March 2020
- Practice for AP activities/1, webinar sponsored by Calandra Institute and Società Dante Alighieri, NY, March 2020
- The AP course framework/2, webinar sponsored by Calandra Institute and Società Dante Alighieri, NY, March 2020
- The AP course framework/1, webinar sponsored by Calandra Institute and Società Dante Alighieri, NY, Feb 2020
- Practices for an effective AP course, webinar sponsored by Department of Defense Education Activity, Feb 2020
- How to build an effective AP World Language Course, webinar sponsored by Department of Defense Education Activity, Jan 2020
- "Using current events to create original vertical units", ACTFL Conference, Washington, Nov 2019
- "Integrating the Italian culture in your language activities", guest speaker at workshop at Iona University, New York, Nov 2019
- "Building an effective AP Italian course from the beginning to the advanced levels", NYCAFLT/UFT Conference, New York, Nov 2019
- "Practical examples of vertical units", AATI-LI webinar, Oct 2019
- "Strategies to build an effective AP course starting from the beginning level", AATI National Conference, Marist College, June 2019
- "AP and more!/2 : 'Il linguaggio della tecnologia' and 'I miei libri'" Webinar organized by AATI Long Island, Jan 2019 Webinar organized by AATI Long Island, Feb 2019
- "AP and more!/1 : 'Canzoni per riflettere' and 'Il linguaggio della pubblicità'" Webinar organized by AATI Long Island, Jan 2019
- "Flipgrid: hear every student's voice in your classroom. The use of an effective technological teaching tool.", Teacher Workshop Day at Naples MHS, Oct. 2018
- "Suggerimenti e strategie didattiche per preparare gli studenti all'esame AP", Webinar to Teachers of Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey, Oct 2018

- "Current Events in Vertical Units: come utilizzare le notizie per unità didattiche verticali", Webinar to Teachers of Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey, Sept 2018
- "How to structure an AP course", Webchat with Teachers of Italian Association of New Jersey, Aug 2018
- "Motivating students to keep studying Italian", Webchat with Teachers of Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey, Aug 2018
- "Reinforcing Writing Skills Through the AP Course and Exam", John Calandra Institute, New York, Oct 2017
- "Suggestions for effective activities in Italian classes through practical original lessons", conduction of workshop at Florida International University, Miami Oct 2017
- "How to develop AP Italian Thematic units to help students be successful at AP exam", Teacher Development night, Cincinnati, June 2017
- "Best Practices to Enhance CLIL in the Classrooms" workshop to teachers of Istituto Europa, Pomigliano, Naples, Mar 2016
- Keynote speaker at Conference on "The Benefits of Bilingualism", Istituto La Sala, Aversa, Feb 2016
- "Using current events to design original lessons in AP Italian" session at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, Nov 2015
- "Using Technology to design original lessons in AP Italian" session at the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, Nov 2014
- 5 day workshop on "Talking about Legality: Icons in American and Italian Cultures" NMHS and Istituto Europa, Naples, Nov 2014
- "Using Technology to design original lessons in AP Italian" session at the ACTFL AP Italian at the 2014 College Board Advanced Placement Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA Jul 2014
- "Using Technology to design original lessons in AP Italian" session at the AP Summer Institute at Università per Stranieri of Perugia, Jul 2014
- "Data collection and evaluation in Foreign Language Classes" session to the Faculty of Naples American Middle High School, Mar 2014
- "School Improvement Plan: Embedding School Goals into a Foreign Language Lesson", session to the Faculty of Naples American Middle High School, Jan 2013
- "Improving Writing Skills in Class", to the Faculty of Naples American Middle High School, Oct 2012
- "Using Math Skills in Foreign Language Classes" session the Faculty of Naples American Middle High School, Mar 2011
- "How to Improve Critical Thinking in Class" session to the Faculty of Naples Middle High School, Oct 2009
- "School Improvement Plan: Best Practices in Class" session to the Faculty of Naples MHS, Nov 2007
- "Use of Technology in Foreign Language Classes" workshop at the Foreign Language Pre-Implementation Conference, Frankfurt, Germany, Feb 2002

Major Professional Experiences

- Member of the AP Italian Language and Culture Development Committee at College Board, 2016-2019

- Member of the AP Italian Reading for 2016 AP exams, College Board, Cincinnati, 2015-2019
- Publication of original lessons on Blog "USspeaksItalian" <http://www.usspeaksitalian.org/blog-attivita-didattiche> SY 2016-17
- Instructor of a course on Italian Current Events at Middlebury College Language Schools, Jun-Jul 2015
- Senior Class Sponsor, Responsible for Graduation Ceremony, 1994-2011 and 2013-2015
- Translation of a review on www.scaruffi.com/avant/deca.html, Mar 2010
- Member of Committee on Foreign Language standards and proficiency expectations and understanding of best practices for developing and assessing language proficiency, Feb 2008
- Part of Planning Committee for Foreign Language European Festivals 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, Germany
- Core session instructor in Foreign Language Festival events in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009
- Creation of an original video clip advertisement of Foreign Languages <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qssm02-7F1U>, Oct 2005
- OFT Representative for LinguaFest Planning, Germany, Mar 2007
- Responsible for selection, presentation and purchase of Advanced Italian textbooks for all American DoDDS Schools in Italy, Mar 2007
- Translator of Parent Rights for Department of Defense Dependent Schools official site www.specialed.edu.dodea.edu/parentpage13.htm, Sep 2005
- Creator of official logos for FL European Festivals, Germany, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009
- Accredited Interviewer of American Teachers applying for Host Nation positions in Naples, Mar 2001
- Member of Review of DoDDS Foreign Language Standards Committee, Arlington, Jun 2002
- HS Representative for Virtual Planning Committee Conference, Jan 2002
- Head of Italian Textbook Selection Committee for Med District, Sep 2001
- Host and organizer of All-Italy Foreign Language Festival, 2001, 2004
- Member of Benchmark Committee, Sept 2000
- Member of New Material Review Committee, Richmond, Virginia, Aug. 2000
- Foreign Language Department Head at NAHS, 1996-1999
- Host and organizer of First Foreign Language Festival, Naples, Apr 1997
- Interviewer of Derrick de Kerckhove, Director of McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology (Canada), Jun 1996
- Trainer of NMHS Teachers in "Integrate grading system" Software, Dec 1995

Job Knowledge

- Originally designed lessons for Advanced Placement Italian class on a regular basis
- Course programs, grading policy and class expectations presented clearly to students, sent to parents via email and posted on Schoology platform
- Detailed daily lesson plans with unit objectives
- Daily lesson schedule posted on the board

- Use of a wide selection of different types of class activities (listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural)
- Large use of realia and supplementary material, in order to provide students with an even wider variety of learning sources
- Lesson plans and activities updated and archived neatly, divided by levels and topics
- Use of Italian newspapers, web papers, blogs in the target language for advanced classes
- Accurate substitute folder with detailed emergency lesson plans, along with alternate plans

Work Habits

- Daily sponge activity at the beginning of each class
- Desks arranged in pairs, in order to easily allow pair-work
- Objectives of the daily lessons clearly posted on the board
- Lesson plans based on real-life dialogues and situations
- Presentation of authentic material on a daily basis
- Grades are given in weighted percentages (participation, warm-ups, tests, homework)
- Preparation of original lesson plans, activities and tests
- Different types of testing methods (multiple choice, essays, matching, short answers, listening exercises, open dialogues, video/audio clips, etc.)
- Reinforcement of linguistic situations and cultural aspects in study trips
- Publication of selected students' articles on quarterly Foreign Language Newsletter
- Large variety of visual stimuli in the classroom
- Lesson pace gives students opportunity to be on task all the time

Promoting Digital Learning

- Creation and update of personal website www.robortapennasilico.it, 2003 to present
- Upload of assignments and worksheets on Schoology platform
- Creation of Class Blog/Website 2013-15: www.missp-classes.weebly.com
- Large use of Smart Board activities from textbook software
- Use of originally designed lessons on Power-Point presentations
- Creation of technology-based lesson plans
- Large use of radio podcasts, video clips, digital video-camera for special projects and related software for activities at all levels
- Individual students' digital portfolio or websites, a collection of notes, assignments, reports, dialogues, presentations and such, graded every semester
- Assignments posted on school Grading database and website
- Creation of a quarterly Foreign Language Parent Newsletter

Community Liaison

- Consistent and continuous collaboration with American Consulate in Naples on planning of joined cultural events for students and teachers
- Current Member of AATI (American Association of Teachers of Italian) and ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages), until 2014
- Sponsoring of Italian students at Naples High School on a regular basis during the school year, and returning the visit to a selected number of Italian schools
- Organizing study trips with classes of Italian students acting as tour guides
- Planning and organization of special school events, such as students meeting and interviewing famous Italian actor, Mr. Croccolo, or inviting an Italian professor to talk to students about Dante's Inferno
- Planning and coordinating Naples High School Jazz Band concerts at Italian schools
- Acting as liaison between Naples High School Junior and High School Honor Societies and local orphanages, for donations and special events
- Planning of trips to WW2 Museum in Anzio
- Planning of attendance to theater performances organized by popular Italian Theater Didactic Organizations, such as "Le Nuvole" and "Il Palchetto Stage", to watch live performances based on literary masterpieces
- Coordination of events involving Italian peers (i.e. the musical Grease, football games, etc.)
- Presentations on the American School System to Italian teachers in Italian High Schools;
- Coordination of the participation in the Italian Performing Arts Festival;
- Organization of Music concert with Conservatory of Avellino Young String Orchestra at Naples High School, Dec 2012

Communication

- Records of students' performance and homework updated and posted on school database
- Assignments and homework posted on Schoology platform and updated on a daily basis
- Publication of original lessons, links and ideas on College Board Teacher Community area and on USspeaksItalian (Italian Embassy in Washington)
- Prompt answers to messages from parents
- Foreign Language Department Newsletter edited quarterly, sent home electronically
- Publication of Newsletter on school's Webpage
- "A Note from the Senior Sponsor" article published on School Newsletter regularly
- "A Note from the Senior Sponsor" sent to Seniors' parents through e-mail
- Use of Facebook group pages for Senior classes and Italian Club
- Senior meetings and Italian Club meetings advertised on daily bulletin and Schoology
- Always present to parent conferences
- Point of contact for Study Trip Planning for teachers in every other curriculum area
- Regular contacts with Italian teachers and students, in order to promote cultural exchanges, that take place regularly during the school-year

Leadership

- Planning and supervising 1st Foreign Language Festival ever held in Italy, Apr 1997
- Preparation of students for the FL Festivals held yearly after 1997
- Assistance to the teachers hosting FL Festivals' following editions
- Hosting 4th Foreign Language Festival in Naples, in 2001
- Senior Class sponsor 1994-2011, 2013-2015: planning of meetings, ordering of caps and gowns, organization of graduation ceremony in Italian historical sites, baccaureate, supervising of fundraisers, preparation of both baccaureate and graduation programs
- Italian Club sponsor since 1991: planning of weekly meetings, organization of fundraisers during the most important Italian holidays, spreading the Italian culture in the school, planning and participation in an end-of-the-year trip to an Italian site
- Participation in many school activities, such as Homecoming, Prom, and other school-related activities
- Coordination of Italian culture activities for other teachers, such as the organization of study trips to cultural sites and full-immersion school exchanges with Italian students