

## ITALIAN DICTION

MUS 2241

*Syllabus*

Fall 2017

Dr. Brenda Smith

MUB 302

273-3174

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Class meetings: MUB 142; M/W/F, Period 5

First Class Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2017

### Office Hours

Office hours are posted on the door of MUB 302. Office hours are available by appointment as well. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone if needed.

### Course Description

The course is designed to improve the capacity of singers, vocal coaches and choral conductors to perform with ease, accuracy and expression vocal repertoire in the Italian language. The International Phonetic Alphabet will serve as a basic tool for pronunciation study. The activities of the course will include the preparation and presentation of spoken and sung excerpts from Italian recitative, song, and operatic repertoire from all historical style periods.

### Textbooks and Materials

The textbook for the course is *A Gateway to Italian Diction: A Guide to Singers* by John Glenn Paton (Alfred Publishing, Co., 2004). Each student should purchase an Italian-English dictionary equipped with IPA for the Italian words as well as a copy of the *24 Italian Songs and Arias*, *26 Songs and Arias from 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries* or *28 Italian Arias* in medium high or medium low voice as appropriate. Students should consult studio teachers regarding the edition of choice. Study materials should be gathered and ordered in a notebook that is dedicated to diction handouts, phonetic readings and related information. The singer's notebook will be reviewed as a major part of the grading process.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of course, students will be able to recognize the phonemes and transcribe the symbols for Italian language words, using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Students will be able to enunciate clearly in Italian both in speech and song. Students will have skills to evaluate poetic meaning and historical context for texts set by Italian composers in all style periods. Through critical listening, students will gather criteria for developing an aesthetic appreciation for vocal performance of repertoire in Italian. Students will understand the use of the skills learned for further study of vocal repertoire.

### Measurement Tools

Timely attendance, initiative and progress are the criteria for grading. Attendance, quizzes, homework, classroom presentations, a dictation and essay, a comprehensive final exercise and the singer's notebook will be the measurement tools for the course. No late assignments will be accepted. No quiz or exercise can be made up without prior arrangement with the instructor. Classes are structured as interactive group events. Class will begin and end on time. Please do not limit concentration by engaging a cell phone, pager or beeper during the class period.

### Quizzes, Class Activities and Final Exercise

Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments are intended to evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. The final exercise, an open book activity, is comprehensive in scope. The final exercise includes a final dictation and an essay. The prompt for the essay will be distributed 14 days before the submission date. Prompt attendance for assessment events is required.

### Attendance

Due to the brevity of the semester and the importance of the subject matter for success in the major, prompt class attendance is mandatory. Points will be assessed against the class presentation grade for each unexcused absence and for lateness. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida.

### Class Presentations

Each student will be expected to present to the class Italian texts in spoken and sung form. Presentations will be evaluated for the depth and clarity of preparation and the accuracy of the diction. Class presentations are scheduled from the beginning of the semester and should be given on the date assigned. Students should perform on the assigned day. In case of illness or family emergency, the student must notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation.

Assessment forms will be distributed prior to presentations, allowing students to understand the elements being assessed. IPA transcriptions should be original work and done by hand in pencil and legible. All references, including material taken from the internet, books, recordings, and other written matter, should be cited. Students must provide any presentation repertoire to the instructor, if requested. The grading criteria for class presentations are musical and textual preparation, IPA and diction accuracy, poetic and historical score study. Each student will receive feedback from peers and instructor.

### Dates for Class Presentations

First Class Presentations (graded S/U): November 6, 8 and 13

Final Class Presentations (worth 25% of grade): November 29, December 1 and 4.

**Singer's Notebook**

Each student is expected to organize the materials of the course into a notebook to be used for future reference. The notebook **must be a 3-ring binder arranged with clearly labeled dividers.** *The Singer's Notebook is worth 35% of semester grade. It is wise to follow the instructions completely.*

**Grading**

Using the plus/minus scale, the course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Quizzes, In Class Activities and Homework	10%
Final Exercise and Essay	15%
Attendance and Class Participation	15%
Class Presentations	25%
Notebook	35%
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	100%

Please feel free to consult with the instructor at any time regarding your status in the course.



**Academic Honesty**

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. The following actions are examples of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines:

**Cheating.** The improper taking or tendering of any information or material, which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by

the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after taking an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

**Plagiarism.** The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

**Bribery.** The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any materials, items or services of value to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

**Misrepresentation.** Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes using computer programs generated by another and handing it in as your own work unless expressly allowed by the teacher; lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

**Conspiracy.** The planning or acting with one or more persons to commit any form of academic dishonesty.

**Fabrication.** The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic or professional advantage.

#### **Special Needs And Counseling Services**

The University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>), under the guidelines of ADA and 504 federal legislation, is required to make reasonable accommodations to the known physical and mental limitations of otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities.

To help provide the best possible service to students, staff, faculty and visitor, the University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>) has an American with Disabilities Act Office (<http://www.ada.ufl.edu/index.htm>) with a coordinator responsible for access for persons with disabilities. The ADA coordinator (mail to: [Osfield@ufl.edu](mailto:Osfield@ufl.edu)) assists anyone with questions about access.

See <http://www.ada.ufl.edu/office/ada.htm> for more information

#### **Other resources:**

Campus Alcohol and Drug Resource Center (302 Student Health Center, 392-1161, ext. 4281)

University Counseling Center (302 Peabody Hall, 392-1575)

Student Mental Health Services (245 Student Health Center, 392-1171).