

## ITALIAN DICTION

MUS 2241

*Syllabus*

Fall 2019

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

First Class Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2019

### 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.

### Student 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. Punctual 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, punctual 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, the student should 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 (information gleaned from online, printed or recorded materials) should be cited. The grading criteria for class presentations are musical and textual preparation, 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 and 8.

(Presentation materials due on Friday, 11/1.)

Final Class Presentations (worth 25% of grade): November 20 and 22.

(Presentation materials due on Friday, 11/15.)

**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:

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Attendance*         | 10%  |
| Participation*      | 15%  |
| Final Exercise      | 15%  |
| Class Presentations | 25%  |
| Singer's Notebook   | 35%  |
|                     | ==== |
|                     | 100% |

\*Attendance is an essential element for success in this course. As stated above, there are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent your prompt attendance, please notify the instructor by email or phone as indicated above. Given prior notice, accommodations can be made. As a courtesy to others, please notify the instructor or a classmate prior to class if you anticipate arriving late.

\*Participation is evaluated through in-class activities that include quizzes, dictation practices and daily discussion. Because the course activity is interactive, please set all cell phones and other comparable devices on "off." In case of an emergency, please inform the instructor prior to class and adjust your equipment to "vibrate."

**Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:**

| Percent   | Grade | Grade Points |
|-----------|-------|--------------|
| 93.4-100  | A     | 4.00         |
| 90.0-93.3 | A-    | 3.67         |
| 86.7-89.9 | B+    | 3.33         |
| 83.4-86.6 | B     | 3.00         |
| 80.0-83.3 | B-    | 2.67         |
| 76.7-79.9 | C+    | 2.33         |
| 73.4-76.6 | C     | 2.00         |
| 70.0-73.3 | C-    | 1.67         |
| 66.7-69.9 | D+    | 1.33         |
| 63.4-66.6 | D     | 1.00         |
| 60.0-63.3 | D-    | 0.67         |
| 0-59.9    | E     | 0.00         |

More information on grades and grading policies is here:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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



#### **Students Requiring Accommodation**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

#### **UF Evaluations Process**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **The Writing Studio**

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations.