

Singer's Diction/German
MUS 2231
Spring 2020

Dr. Brenda Smith
(352) 339-1008
gesang@ufl.edu

Student Hours

Due to renovations in the MUB, the instructor will not have official student hours this semester. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone to arrange a time and place to meet.

Course Description

German diction is a course for singers and choral conductors to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy and expression with texts in the German language. Students perform regularly in class and complete all quizzes, homework assignments, projects and exercises. Grading criteria for the course are attendance, initiative and progress.

Student Learning Outcomes

Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a source, students learn to pronounce poetic texts in German with accuracy. Students become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of German poetry. This knowledge facilitates expressive interpretations of Lieder, operatic and oratorio repertoire in the German language. Class presentations demonstrate skill mastery. The singer's notebook serves as a resource for future reference and learning.

Textbook and Materials

The textbook for the course is *Diction in Context: Singing in English, Italian, German and French*, by Brenda Smith (San Diego CA: Plural Publishing, 2019). Recommended for further study is *German for Singers*, 2nd edition by William Odom (New York, NY: Schirmer Books, 1997). A German-English dictionary using the IPA for its pronunciation guide is required. Harper-Collins is a suggested paperback. Each student should have a notebook dedicated to diction handouts, phonetic readings and related information. The singer's notebook forms a significant portion of the semester grade.

Measurement Tools

Attendance, initiative and progress are the main criteria for grading. The measurement tools for these criteria are as follows: a.) quizzes, class activities and homework assignments, b.) final exercise, c.) attendance and class participation, d.) class presentations and e.) singer's notebook project.

Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. The final exercise is comprehensive in scope, demanding knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application to written and oral texts in German. The exercise includes a dictation and a survey of rules and historical data. Prompt attendance for any quizzes and the final exercise is required. Under extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor and provide documentation.

Attendance and Class Participation

Because of the brevity of the course (8 weeks) and its importance to future success in the study of singing, prompt class attendance is mandatory. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Because the instructor will not have an office phone this term, please text a classmate to report your anticipated arrival. There are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Class Presentations

Because German diction is a performance class, the class presentations represent a large portion of the course grade. Each student presents German texts in spoken and sung form. The repertoire assignments given will be in consultation with the studio teacher. Program notes for the final presentation must include at least three cited sources, only one of which derives from an internet website. Please note: To receive full credit for any presentation, submit the materials for the presentation on time. Students must rehearse the presentation repertoire with the course accompanist. Students should perform on the assigned day. In case of extenuating circumstances, students must notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation. Each student will receive feedback from peers and instructor.

Dates for Class Presentations

First Class Presentations (graded S/U): January 29 and 31)

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade): February 24 and 26

Singer's Notebook

Each student will gather all materials from the course into a 3-ring binder organized with clearly defined dividers and submit it at the conclusion of the course. The notebook represents 35% of the semester grade. The materials include quizzes (graded/corrected), all daily handouts, all homework assignments, all class notes, all presentation materials and extra credit work. Through its organization, the notebook should reflect its future use as a resource in subsequent performance preparation situations.

Grading

Below please find the criteria for calculating the course grade, using the plus/minus scale:

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

*Attendance is an essential element for success in this course. Note: There are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent prompt attendance, please notify the instructor. Given prior notice, accommodations are possible.

*Participation involves engagement in class activities, such as quizzes, dictation practices and daily discussion. Because 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.

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

