

**SINGER'S DICTION**  
*SPRING 2020*  
**FRENCH**  
**MUS 2221**

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**Course Description**

**Singer's Diction is a course for singers and choral conductors, intended to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy and expression in foreign languages. French diction presumes an understanding of the International Phonetic Alphabet. Through poetic readings, culture study, musical performances, phonetic drills and grammar/vocabulary practice, students develop skill in presenting French texts set to music. Each student will be expected to perform regularly in class and complete all quizzes, homework and notebook assignments and a final take home examination. Grading for the course is based upon attendance, initiative and progress.**

**Student Learning Outcomes**

**Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a source, students will learn to pronounce poetic texts in French with accuracy. Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of French poetry. This knowledge will facilitate expressive interpretations of art song, operatic and oratorio repertoire in the French language. These skills will be evaluated in the presentations given at the conclusion of the course. The singer's notebook will serve 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). A recommended text is *Singing in French* by Thomas Grubb (New York, NY: Schirmer Books, 1979). Each student must own a French-English dictionary. *The Interpretation of French Song* by Pierre Bernac (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1970) is recommended. Supplementary material will be distributed regularly in class. Each student should have a notebook dedicated to diction materials. 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: 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 Final Exercise

Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments are intended to 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 French. 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

Singer's diction helps to prepare students for a professional life in music. Because of the brevity of the course (8 weeks) and its importance to students in the limited access majors of music or musical theatre, prompt class attendance is mandatory. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Please call the instructor's office phone before 11:30 am. After 11:30 am, please text a classmate to report your anticipated arrival. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> Discretionary, unexcused absences are unacceptable in this brief course. Unexcused absences or unreported lateness will result in a deduction of two (2) points against the course grade the first time, and three (3) points for each subsequent occurrence. Be careful to deal with anticipated absence or lateness in the manner described above.

### Class Presentations

Each student will be expected to present one French méodie in spoken and sung form. The repertoire assignment given will be in consultation with the studio teacher. Presentations will be evaluated for the depth of preparation and the accuracy of diction only. Please dress appropriately when performing for the class. Please note: To receive full credit for any presentation, the materials and rehearsals in preparation for the presentation must be delivered on time. 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. Students must prepare the presentation repertoire with the course accompanist. 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

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade): Wednesday and Friday, April 15 and 17

### 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%
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	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.

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

