

ITALIAN DICTION

MUS 2241

Syllabus

Fall 2020

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Class Meetings

Online synchronously on M/W/F, Period 5 beginning on Wednesday, October 14, 2020. This is a seven-week course that will conclude its meetings on Monday, November 23, 2020 with a capstone activity. A final project will be due on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 by 5 pm online.

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 *Diction in Context: Singing in English, Italian, German and French* by Brenda Smith (San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing 2021). *Diction in Context* is the textbook for the entire year's course. A copy is always available on the reference shelf of the AFA library.) 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 16th & 17th 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. All assignments, quizzes and exercises should be completed on time. Should you have a circumstance that keeps you from completing your work on time, please consult the instructor prior to the deadline. Classes are structured as interactive group events and will begin and end on time. Please do not limit concentration by engaging a cell phone or other device 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.

Attendance and Participation

Due to the brevity of the semester and the importance of the subject matter for your success as a music major, please arrive on time for class daily. Regular attendance is expected. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

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. In case of illness, please 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 2 and 4.

Final Class Presentations (worth 25% of grade): November 16 and 18.

Final Project

The Final Project is a two-part assignment. Part One involves an essay for which the prompt (500 words) will be distributed on Monday, November 16. Part Two involves demonstrating mastery of singer’s diction. Select one Italian text of your choice set to music. Create an IPA transcription of the text that would represent the way you would **sing** the text, a poetic equivalent and a program note. Listen to at least two performances of the selection. In a short essay (ca. 500 words), reflect on your response to the poetic text, the musical setting and your preferred performance.

Grading

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

Attendance*	10%	
Participation*	10%	
Final Exercise	20%	
Class Presentations	25%	
Final Project	35%	(Part I, 20%/Part II, 15%)
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	100%	

*Attendance is an essential element for success in this course. 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
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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.

Keys to Success

Phonetic Transcriptions

Because many symbols have similar shapes, it is important to be distinct in your IPA penmanship. Make phonetic transcriptions that are neat and clearly legible. It is wise to use pencil. Transcriptions should be original work from your hand. Please do not print phonetic readings directly from Internet or published sources

Poetic Interpretations

Please present poetic interpretations in your own words.
 Research Citations: Please cite your sources for all class presentations requiring research. A field trip to the Architecture and Fine Arts Library will provide you the tools for research sources and citations.

Quizzes

You will know the date of a quiz one week prior to the class period in which it occurs. Flashcards, group study and practice exercises will help you prepare for the quizzes.

Final Exercise

The final exercise is an in-class, open book activity requiring access to a textbook and your class notes. Prepare accordingly.

Weekly Plan

October 14 and 16	Wednesday, Introduction “Singing in Italian” Pure Vowels, open and closed Vowels Friday, “Italian language and Thought” Dante/Petrarch	Read pg.105-108 The Sounds of Italian Read pg. 134-141
October 19, 21 and 23	Monday, Auxiliary Verbs Discussion of the Letters “e” and “o” Wednesday, More about the letter “o” Friday, Consonants, “c”, “g” and “sc”	Study textbook pg. 126 “Selve Amiche” on pg. 109 “Ombra mai fu” pg. 110 First dictation in class Study pg. 110-112 of textbook



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.