

Singer's Diction/German
MUS 2231
Spring 2021

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Student Hours

Due to the pandemic, 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.

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.

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.) final project. Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. The final exercise and final project are comprehensive in scope, demanding knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application to written and oral texts in German.

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. From time to time, connectivity may be an issue. To be counted present, you must be able to respond on Zoom either through your computer or your phone. If your equipment is not working properly, please let your instructor know. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Because the instructor will not have an office phone this term, please text the instructor or a classmate to report the time of 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 (3) cited sources, only one of which may derive from an internet website. Please note: To receive full credit for any presentation, you must submit the materials for the presentation on time. An accompanist will assist you in preparing for and creating your class presentation videos. Please be sure you provide a copy of your repertoire and arrange a rehearsal with the course accompanist prior to making your recordings. Students should perform on the assigned day if possible. In case of extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation. Each student will receive feedback from peers and the instructor.

Dates for Class Presentations

First Class Presentations (graded S/U): February 8 and 10, 2021.

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade): March 8 and 10, 2021.

Grading

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

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|---------------------|------|
| Attendance* | 10% |
| Participation* | 15% |
| Final Exercise | 20% |
| Class Presentations | 30% |
| Final Project | 25% |
| | ==== |
| | 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. Please provide documentation where appropriate. Given prior notice, accommodations are possible.**

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

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.

Weekly Schedule

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| January 11-15 | Introduction, Development of the German Lied Nouns and Declensions | Franz Schubert "An die Musik" | Parts of Speech and Elements of Grammar (pg. 164-175) |
| January 18-21 | (No Class 1/18; MLK Day) Auxiliary Verbs | Goethe and Schubert Schubert and Song Cycle | Goethe and Romanticism (pg. 175-177) |
| January 25-29 | Umlauts Ich and Ach- Lauts Past Tense Verbs | Heine and Rückert The Mendelssohns and Schumanns | Heine (pg. 181- 189)/Rückert (pg. 189-195) Pg. 201 and pg. 203 Discussion Questions on pg. 203 |
| February 1-5 | Eichendorff (pg. 195-197) | Johannes Brahms (pg. 205-208) | First Presentation Worksheet due on Friday, 2/5/2021 by 5 pm |
| February 8-12 | First Presentations | | |
| February 15-19 | Later 19 th C. Lied | Hugo Wolf and Mörike/Goethe/ Eichendorff | Pg. 209-215 |
| February 22-26 | Wolf Song Cycles | Italienisches Liederbuch and Spanisches Liederbuch | Pg. 215-217 Pg. 217-219 |
| March 1-5 | Orchestrated Songs | Gustav Mahler (pg. 219-220) Richard Strauss (pg. 221-223) | Discussion Questions on pg. 223 Final Presentation Materials due on Friday, 3/5/2021 by 5 pm |

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| March 8-12 | Final Presentations | | Final Exercise and Project Due 3/12/2021 by 5 pm |
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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. Student Mental Health Services (245 Student Health Center, 392-1171).

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.

