

ITALIAN DICTION
MUS 2241
Syllabus
Fall 2022

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Class Meetings

Italian Diction meets M/W/F, Period 5 beginning on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 in Room 142 of the Music Building. This is a seven-week course that will conclude on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 with a capstone activity.

Office/Student Hours

The instructor is always willing to meet with students to answer questions, discuss course-related topics, and assist with projects. Office/Student 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.

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 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 self-reflection 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 in Italian Diction includes a final dictation.

Final Essay

The final essay prompt will be distributed in class and posted in Canvas on November 18, 2022. The essay will be due on Friday, December 9, 2022 at 5 pm. The essay is a reflection on diction for singers of English and Italian. It is comparative in nature and requires no research.

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): October 31, November 2 and 4, 2022.

Final Class Presentations (worth 25% of grade): November 30, December 2, and 5, 2022.

Grading

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

Attendance*	10%
Participation*	10%
Self-Reflection and Quizzes	20%
Final Exercise	15%
Class Presentations	25%
Final Essay	20%
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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

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.

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. Stay in touch with the progress of our course by reading the weekly “This Week in Italian Diction” email (ufl.edu) and checking in Canvas.

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. Use pencil to allow for easy correction. Transcriptions should be original work from your hand. Feel free to consult published sources (online or print) as you create your phonetic transcriptions and always cite those sources. It is **not** acceptable to submit a published source instead of your own work.

Poetic Interpretations

Please present poetic interpretations in your own words.

Research Citations: Please cite your sources for all class presentations requiring research.

Quizzes

Quizzes are announced one week in advance. Flashcards and/or group study are recommended.

Final Exercise

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

Final Dictation

Be prepared to take the text presented in IPA transcription as the performer sings it.

Final Essay

Follow every aspect of the Essay Prompt. Write legibly. Cite all sources.

Proposed Weekly Plan

The details of this plan may vary. Watch for “This Week in Italian Diction” emails and notices on Canvas.

October 19/21	Wednesday: Introduction “Singing in Italian” Friday: “Italian language and Thought” Dante/Petrarch	For Friday: Read p.105-108 The Sounds of Italian and Subject Pronouns, p.121, Auxiliary Verbs, Present Tense p.126
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October 24-28	<p>Monday: Continue Auxiliary Verbs Discussion of the Letters “e” and “o”</p> <p>Wednesday: More about the letter “o” First dictation in class</p> <p>Friday: Quiz on Auxiliary Verbs Discussion of Consonants, “c”, “g” and “sc”</p>	<p>For Monday: Study textbook pg. 126 and Read 134-141 “Italian Language and Thought: “Selve Amiche” on pg. 109</p> <p>For Wednesday: “Ombra mai fu” pg. 110 Prepare for First dictation in class</p> <p>For Friday: Study pg. 110-112 of textbook, “Va tacito e nascosto” Pg. 112-113. TEXT and IPA for First Presentations due in Class</p>
October 31- November 4	First Presentations in Class	<p>For Monday: Review Parts of Speech of and Elements of Grammar pg. 115-134</p> <p>Please bring your textbook and your Italian aria anthology to class. Attendance is mandatory on the days you do not perform.</p>
November 7-11	<p>Monday: Single and Double Consonant Practice Wednesday, (English/Italian) Quiz on Musical Terms and Introduction to Italian Vocal Music in the 19th century and Gioacchino Rossini</p> <p>Friday: Veteran’s Day Holiday</p>	<p>Duetto: “Là ci darem la mano” In class diction and singing practice</p> <p>Read p. 149-155 Italian Vocal Music in the 19th Century</p> <p>NO CLASS FOR HOLIDAY</p>
November 14-18	<p>Monday: Bellini and Bel Canto Operas</p> <p>Wednesday: Donizetti and Neapolitan Dialect</p> <p>Friday: Essay Prompt Distributed Rehearsals for Final Presentations will begin this week TBD.</p>	<p>Materials for Final Presentations due in Class on Friday, November 18</p>

November 21 Week of Thanksgiving Break	Monday Giuseppe Verdi No Class Wednesday or Friday Enjoy your Thanksgiving Break!	Review all readings for 19 th century Italian Art Song and Opera
November 28 – December 2	Monday: Graded Dictation in Class Wednesday and Friday Final Presentations	Remember that attendance is mandatory on days when you do not perform.
December 5 December 7 December 9	Monday: Final Presentations Wednesday: Final Exercise and Last Day of Class FINAL ESSAY AND PRINTED PROGRAM NOTES ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE 5 PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2022	Attendance is mandatory if you are not performing. For Wednesday, bring textbook, notes, and dictionary for use in the open book, In-class exercise, and final dictation (As you prepare your essay and program notes, due on Friday, please be sure to cite all sources.)



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.