

Singer's Diction/German
MUS 2231
Spring 2015

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Course Description

Singer's diction is a course for singers and choral conductors to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy and expression in foreign languages. German diction will offer principles and practice for the singing of repertoire in the German language, using poetic readings, International Phonetic Alphabet drills and musical performances. Students will be expected to perform regularly in class and complete all quizzes, homework assignments, projects and examinations. Grading for the course is based upon attendance, initiative and progress. Details about the grading system are given below.

Student Learning Outcomes

Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a source, students will learn to pronounce poetic texts in German with accuracy. Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of German poetry. This knowledge will facilitate expressive interpretations of Lieder, operatic and oratorio repertoire in the German 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 *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. 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 criteria for grading. Participation in classroom activities is considered in the grading process. Please be prompt. Tardiness will interrupt the work of the entire class. Lateness will be counted against the semester grade. Please do not compromise the concentration of others in the class by arriving late or engaging a cell phone, computer text device. In matters of emergency, please inform the instructor and set the

necessary device to the "vibrate" mode. Quizzes, a final examination plus homework assignments, classroom presentations and the evaluation of the singer's notebook give ample opportunities to measure progress in the course. No late assignments will be accepted.

Quizzes and Dictation Examinations

Quizzes will be given at intervals throughout the course. The final examination will be comprehensive in scope, demanding a full knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application to texts in German. Students must be present for all quizzes and dictation examinations.

Class Presentations

Because German diction is a performance class, the class presentations represent a large portion of the course grade. Each student will be expected to present 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 can be derived from an internet website. 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.

Singer's Notebook

The notebook is intended to assemble and organize the materials of the course. Each notebook should contain handouts, class notes as well as phonetic readings, word-by-word translations and poetic translations of all texts. Historical information about each composer, poet and literary period should be included. Singer's notebooks will be checked for content and completeness as part of the semester grade.

Grading

The measurement tools will be calculated in the following way:

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance, Quizzes and Homework | 25% |
| Class Presentations | 20% |
| Singer's Notebook | 30% |
| Dictation and Final Examination | 25% |

Please consult with the instructor at any time regarding expectations, evaluation and progress.

Office Hours

Office hours are posted on the door of MUB 302. Office hours are readily available by appointment. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone if needed.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. The following actions are examples of violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines:

Cheating. The improper taking or tendering of any information or material, which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to, copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the teacher; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to, giving your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after taking an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

Plagiarism. The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

Bribery. The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any materials, items or services of value to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

Misrepresentation. Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes using computer programs generated by another and handing it in as your own work unless expressly allowed by the teacher; lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.

Conspiracy. The planning or acting with one or more persons to commit any form of academic dishonesty.

Fabrication. The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic or professional advantage.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND COUNSELING SERVICES

The University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>), under the guidelines of ADA and 504 federal legislation, is required to make reasonable accommodations to the known physical and mental limitations of otherwise qualified individuals with disabilities.

To help provide the best possible service to students, staff, faculty and visitor, the University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>) has an American with Disabilities Act Office (<http://www.ada.ufl.edu/index.htm>) with a coordinator responsible for access for persons with disabilities. The ADA coordinator (mail to: Osfield@ufl.edu) assists anyone with questions about access. See <http://www.ada.ufl.edu/office/ada.htm> for more information

Other resources:

Campus Alcohol and Drug Resource Center (302 Student Health Center, 392-1161, ext. 4281)

University Counseling Center (302 Peabody Hall, 392-1575)

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

