

SINGER'S DICTION
MUS 2211 (English)
Syllabus
Fall 2015

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Office Hours

Office hours are posted on the door, MUB 302. Additional office hours are available by appointment as well. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone, if needed.

Class Meetings

The class meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays promptly at 5th period (11:45 a.m.) in Room 142 of the Music Building. The course ends with a capstone activity on Friday, October 16, 2015.

Course Description

The course develops lyric diction skills in the English language. The International Phonetic Alphabet, the standard tool for proper pronunciation in all languages, serves as the basis for study. The principles shall be applied to the delivery of text in vocal repertoire (including song, musical theater, opera and oratorio) of the British Isles and America. Classroom activities provide students practical procedures for achieving a confident performance of texts to be sung in English. Aspects of vocal health will be discussed throughout the eight week term.

Textbook and Materials

The required textbook for the course is *Singing and Communicating in English: A Singer's Guide to English Diction* by Kathryn LaBouff (New York NY: Oxford University Press, 2008). *The Singer's Manual of English Diction* by Madeleine Marshall (New York NY: Schirmer Books, 1953) is a recommended resource available in the bookstore, for online purchase, or in the UF libraries.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of course, students will be able to recognize the phonemes and transcribe the symbols for English language words, using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Students will be able to enunciate clearly in English both in speech and song. Students will have skills to evaluate poetic meaning and historical context for texts set by British and American composers. The acquired skills are applicable for further study of vocal repertoire in foreign languages.

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 a full knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application to written and oral texts in English. The final examination includes a dictation, a survey of rules and historical data as well as an essay. Prompt attendance for quizzes and the final exercise is required.

Attendance and Class Participation

Due to the brevity of the semester and the importance of the subject matter for success in the desired major (music or musical theatre), prompt class attendance is mandatory. Points will be assessed against the class presentation grade for each unexcused absence and for lateness. Excused absences are only those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida.

Class Presentations

Each student will present poetic English texts in spoken and sung form. Students should perform on the assigned day. In case of illness or family emergency, the student must notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation. Students must have prepared the presentation repertoire with the course accompanist and provided the accompanist with a clear copy of the selection to be sung, if requested. 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.

Singer's Notebook

Each student will gather all materials from the course into a **3-ring binder** to be submitted at the conclusion of the course. The materials will include quizzes (graded/corrected), daily handouts, homework assignments, class notes, presentation materials, in class final exercise with final essay, and extra credit work. The notebook should be carefully organized to reflect its future use as a resource in subsequent performance preparation situations.

Grading

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

Quizzes, In Class Activities and Homework	10%
Final Examination	20%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%
Class Presentations	30%
Singer's Notebook	30%

Please feel free to consult with the instructor at any time regarding your status in the course.

Points of Order

1. Please be prompt to class. Tardiness hinders the progress of everyone and therefore, points will be assessed against the participation aspect of the semester grade. Two points will be assessed for the first lateness and three for each subsequent one.
2. Please set all cell phones and other comparable devices on "off." In case of a family emergency, please inform the instructor prior to class and adjust your equipment to "vibrate."
3. Phonetic readings must be neat and legible. Because many symbols have similar shapes, it is important to be distinct in your penmanship. Avoid multiple erasures that might cause your results to appear ambiguous. No phonetic readings or translations printed directly from Internet or published sources will be accepted as original work.
4. To receive full credit for class presentations, poetic texts must be typed. The IPA transcription must be provided in pencil and be thoroughly legible. All sources must be cited. All materials for class presentations must be turned in on time.
5. Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted. No quizzes or examinations can be rescheduled without prior permission of the instructor.
6. The final exercise is an in-class, open book activity requiring the textbook and all course materials. Prepare accordingly.
7. Please dress appropriately for class presentations. Jeans or shorts are not acceptable. Remember to provide the accompanist and instructor with copies of the music to be performed.

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).