MUS324-SYLLABUS
DICTION FOR SINGERS I: ENGLISH AND ITALIAN

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Office hours by appointment

COURSE OVERVIEW
This course will explore the science of phonetics as it applies to singers. It is designed to cover the basics of the International Phonetic Alphabet, with particular attention to the English and Italian languages, and will focus primarily on practical application and critical listening. As time permits, we will touch briefly on Italian dialects (Neapolitan and Venetian), Spanish, and liturgical Latin. Grades will be determined based on homework, test scores, and in-class performances.

ATTENDANCE
❖ Absences for illness or other unavoidable emergency must be excused.
     Unexcused absences will lower your course grade by ½ letter
❖ Missed quizzes, tests and in-class performances will not be made up without a note from Health Services or the equivalent
❖ Please address any special needs or special accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) form from the Student Disability Resource (SDR) office (phone 515-294-7220). SDR is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076.

HOMEWORK
Assignments should be submitted via Blackboard, unless directed otherwise, and will not be accepted after the given due date and time. Please plan accordingly.

PROJECTED CLASS SCHEDULE
Tuesday, 8/21: Syllabus, Course Overview, Why IPA? Defining Lyric Diction
Thursday, 8/23: English Consonants
Tuesday, 8/28: Pure Vowels in Neutral American English
Thursday, 8/30: English Diphthongs
Tuesday, 9/4: Quiz #1, In-Class Listening #1 (American Song/Opera)
Thursday, 9/6: Collective Song #1
Tuesday, 9/11: Test Review, Syllable and Phrase Emphasis
Thursday, 9/13: Test #1: IPA and Neutral American English
Tuesday, 9/18: British Received Overview
Thursday, 9/20: Collective Song #2
Tuesday, 9/25: In-Class Listening #2 (British Song)
Thursday, 9/27: Dramatic Recitation Performances
Tuesday, 10/2: In-Class Listening #3 (British Opera/Operetta/Oratorio)
PROJECTED CLASS SCHEDULE, CONTINUED
Thursday, 10/4: Midterm Review
Tuesday, 10/9: Midterm Examination
Thursday, 10/11: Italian Vowels
Tuesday, 10/16: Italian Consonants
Thursday, 10/18: Italian Conversation/Recitativo Assignments
Tuesday, 10/23: Collective Song #3
Thursday, 10/25: Quiz #2, Recitativo Practice
Tuesday, 10/30: In-Class Listening #4 (Italian Song/Opera)
Thursday, 11/1: Recitativo Performances
Tuesday, 11/6: Test Review
Thursday, 11/8: Test #2: Italian
Tuesday, 11/13: No class
Thursday, 11/15: Overview – Lyric Spanish
Tuesday, 11/27: Overview – Italianate Latin
Thursday, 11/29: Overview – Venetian and Neapolitan Dialect
Tuesday, 12/4: No class
Thursday, 12/6: Final Exam Review, Binder Check
Thursday, 12/13 (2:15-4:15 pm): Final Exam

BREAKDOWN OF GRADES
Quizzes: 2@25 points each 50
Homework: 3@25 points each 75
Collective Songs: 4@25 points each 100
Performances: 2@50 points each 100
Tests: 2@100 points each 200
Midterm: 150
Final exam: 200
Binder: 125
Total: 1000

GRADING SCALE
940-1000 A
900-939 A-
880-899 B+
840-879 B
800-839 B-
780-799 C+
740-779 C
700-739 C-
680-699 D+
640-679 D
600-639 D-
0-599 F
There are no required textbooks for this course, as I have written/compiled my own text and will be handing it out to you in chapters as necessary. Supplemental material may be made available to you on Blackboard.

Large three-ring binder with a clear plastic cover. The insert page should be marked with your name and the number of this class (MU324). All handouts, starting with this syllabus, are to be three-hole punched and placed in this binder, along with corrected homework, quizzes and tests (it’s a good idea to buy those plastic sheet protectors when you get the binder, so the pages can slide in and out easily). The binders are due on 12/6, and will be checked and returned the same day so you can use them to study for the final exam.