**MUS324-SYLLABUS**

**DICTION FOR SINGERS I: ENGLISH AND ITALIAN**

Jodi Goble, Lecturer  
GobleJS@iastate.edu  
978.726.4008 (text preferred; please identify yourself when initiating messages)  
Office hours by appointment (Music Hall 225)

**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 Italianate 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.

**BREAKDOWN OF GRADES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>4@25</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>5@20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collective Songs</td>
<td>3@25</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performances</td>
<td>2@50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>3@100</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binder</td>
<td>125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING SCALE**

**PROJECTED CLASS SCHEDULE**

- **Tuesday, 8/26:** Syllabus, Course Overview, Why IPA?, Defining Lyric Diction
- **Thursday, 8/28:** Neutral American Consonants
- **Tuesday, 9/2:** Pure Vowels in Neutral American English
- **Thursday, 9/4:** Neutral American English Diphthongs
- **Tuesday, 9/9:** Quiz #1, Collective Song #1
- **Thursday, 9/11:** Listening #1: American Song
- **Tuesday, 9/16:** Test Review
- **Thursday, 9/18:** Test #1: IPA and Neutral American English
- **Tuesday, 9/23:** British Received Overview
- **Thursday, 9/25:** NO CLASS
- **Tuesday, 9/30:** Listening #2: British Song
- **Thursday, 10/2:** Word and Syllable Stress in English
- **Tuesday, 10/7:** Quiz #2, Collective Song #2
- **Thursday, 10/9:** Dramatic Recitation Performances
- **Tuesday, 10/14:** Test Review
- **Thursday, 10/16:** Test #2: British Received English
- **Tuesday, 10/21:** Italian Vowels
- **Thursday, 10/23:** Italian Consonants
- **Tuesday, 10/28:** Italian Conversation/Recitative Assignments
- **Thursday, 10/30:** Quiz #3, Collective Song #3
- **Tuesday, 11/4:** Recitative Coachings
- **Thursday, 11/6:** Listening #3: Italian
- **Tuesday, 11/11:** Recitative Performances
- **Thursday, 11/13:** Test Review
- **Tuesday, 11/18:** Test #3: Italian
- **Thursday, 11/20:** Overview – Lyric Spanish
- **Tuesday, 11/25:** Overview – Italianate Latin
- **Thursday, 11/27:** NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING VACATION
- **Tuesday, 12/2:** Overview – Neapolitan Dialect
- **Thursday, 12/4:** Overview – Venetian Dialect
- **Tuesday, 12/9:** Quiz #4: Spanish, Latin and the Italian Dialects
- **Thursday, 12/11:** Final Exam Review/Binder Check
- **Wednesday, 12/17:** Final Exam, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- No required textbooks for this course
- All handouts, starting with this syllabus, are to be three-hole punched and placed in a binder, along with corrected homework, quizzes and tests. The binders are due on 12/11, and will be checked and returned the same day so you can use them to study for the final exam. It is not necessary to print the lecture notes for the binder, unless you particularly want to save them for future reference.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will transcribe at sight Neutral American and British Received English, Spanish, Latin, Italian and its dialects into the universal symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet
- Students will demonstrate increased skill and knowledge of the specific idioms of the abovementioned languages in performance