MUS324-SYLLABUS
DICTION FOR SINGERS I: ENGLISH AND ITALIAN

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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 also 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</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes:</td>
<td>4@25 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework:</td>
<td>5@20 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collective Songs:</td>
<td>3@25 points each</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performances:</td>
<td>2@50 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests:</td>
<td>3@100 points each</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam:</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Binder:</td>
<td></td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
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GRADING SCALE
PROJECTED CLASS SCHEDULE
Monday, 8/22: Syllabus, Course Overview, Why IPA?, Defining Lyric Diction
Wednesday, 8/24: Neutral American Consonants
Monday, 8/29: Pure Vowels in Neutral American English
Wednesday, 8/31: Neutral American English Diphthongs
Monday, 9/5: NO CLASS – LABOR DAY
Wednesday, 9/7: Quiz #1, Collective Song #1
Monday, 9/12: Listening #1: American Song
Wednesday, 9/14: Test Review
Monday, 9/19: Test #1: IPA and Neutral American English
Wednesday, 9/21: British Received Overview
Monday, 9/26: Listening #2: British Song
Wednesday, 9/28: Word and Syllable Stress in English
Monday, 10/3: Quiz #2, Collective Song #2
Wednesday, 10/5: Dramatic Recitation Performances
Monday, 10/10: Test Review
Wednesday, 10/12: Test #2: British Received English
Monday, 10/17: Italian Vowels
Wednesday, 10/19: Italian Consonants
Monday, 10/24: Italian Conversation/Recitative Assignments
Wednesday, 10/26: Quiz #3, Collective Song #3
Monday, 10/31: Recitative Coachings
Wednesday, 11/2: Listening #3: Italian
Monday, 11/7: Recitative Performances
Wednesday, 11/9: Test Review
Monday, 11/14: Test #3: Italian
Wednesday, 11/16: Overview – Lyric Spanish
Monday, 11/21: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING VACATION
Wednesday, 11/23: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING VACATION
Monday, 11/28: Overview – Italianate Latin
Wednesday, 11/30: Overview – Neapolitan Dialect
Monday, 12/5: Overview – Venetian Dialect
Wednesday, 12/7: Quiz #4: Spanish, Latin and the Italian Dialects
Wednesday, 12/14: Binder Check/Final Exam, 2:15-4:15 p.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 12/14, and will be checked and returned the same day. 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