

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

Quizzes:	4@25 points each	100
Homework:	5@20 points each	100
Collective Songs:	3@25 points each	75
Performances:	2@50 points each	100
Tests:	3@100 points each	300
Final exam:		200
<u>Binder:</u>		<u>125</u>
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

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