

**MUS324-SYLLABUS**  
**DICTION FOR SINGERS I: ENGLISH, ITALIAN, SPANISH & LATIN**

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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.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor's attendance policy. You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required.

Thielen Student Health Center will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations free-of-charge to students. The university will continue to offer free masks and COVID-19 test kits during the fall 2022 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: <https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/>

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's public health website. All public health questions should be directed to [publichealthteam@iastate.edu](mailto:publichealthteam@iastate.edu).

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is required for this class, as we frequently cover a great deal of information in a single lecture. In case of illness or other emergency, please email or text ahead of class time, let me know your situation, and request that the lecture be recorded for you.

**FREE EXPRESSION**

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS AND ACCOMMODATION**

Students in need of accommodations or who experience accessibility-related barriers to learning should work with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to identify resources and support available to them. Information about SAS is available online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by phone at 515-294-7220, or by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu).

### **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
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

### **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: **NO CLASS – JODI AT CMS CONFERENCE**

Monday, 9/26: British Received Overview

Wednesday, 9/28: Listening #2: British Song

Monday, 10/3: Word and Syllable Stress in English

Wednesday, 10/5: Quiz #2, Collective Song #2

Monday, 10/10: Dramatic Recitation Performances

Wednesday, 10/12: Test Review

Monday, 10/17: Test #2: British Received English

Wednesday, 10/19: Italian Vowels/Recitative Assignments

Monday, 10/24: Italian Consonants

Wednesday, 10/26: Italian Conversation

Monday, 10/31: Quiz #3, Collective Song #3

Wednesday, 11/2: Recitative Coachings

Monday, 11/7: Listening #3: Italian

### **PROJECTED CLASS SCHEDULE, CONTINUED**

Wednesday, 11/9: Recitative Performances

Monday, 11/14: Test Review

Wednesday, 11/16: Test #3: Italian

Monday, 11/21: **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Wednesday, 11/23: **NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Monday, 11/28: LIGHTNING ROUND 1 -- Lyric Spanish

Wednesday, 11/30: LIGHTNING ROUND 2 – Italianate Latin

Monday, 12/5: LIGHTNING ROUND 3 – Neapolitan Dialect

Wednesday, 12/7: LIGHTNING ROUND 4 – Venetian Dialect/Binder Check

WEEK OF 12/9: FINAL EXAM (exact date TBA)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

There are no required textbooks for this course.

All handouts, beginning with this syllabus, are to be three-hole punched and placed in a binder, along with corrected homework, quizzes, and tests. Binders are due on 12/7 and will be checked and returned to you the same day so you can use them as study materials for the final exam. It is recommended that lecture notes also be printed and included in the binder.

The compilation of a physical binder may seem impossibly outdated and analog, but mysterious things can happen to electronic files, and you will be glad later to have this as a resource.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to transcribe at sight Neutral American and British Received English, Spanish, Latin, Italian and the Italianate dialects into the universal symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Students will be able to demonstrate increased practical skill and knowledge of the specific idioms of the abovementioned languages in performance.

Students will be able to identify weaknesses in spoken and sung languages and be able to teach diction concepts to others.