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.  

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, by phone at 515-294-7220, or by email at 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

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.