

MUSI 1050 (Singer's Diction)
Dr. Matthew Hoch
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calls/emails answered within 48 hrs.
office hours: by appointment

Credit hours: 1.0 credit for all majors.
Contact hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:00–12:50 (2 hours per week)
Prerequisites: Music major or permission of the instructor

Course Philosophy and Purpose:

All singers must study diction. To be an effective opera singer, one must have command of at least three languages besides English, the concert singer even more. The choral director must also have language skills in order to be able to explore a wide variety of literature. The purpose of this course is to provide the aspiring singer or choral director with effective knowledge and tools to obtain a basic proficiency in lyric diction.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the study of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and its application to Italian and English. Students will learn the basics of singer's diction for each of these languages and demonstrate their knowledge through written examination, speaking, and singing.

Learning Outcomes (NASM Standard 1.a addressed):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

1. Comprehend the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and its application including an understanding of the phonology of diction, i.e. the subtle changes in the articulators necessary to effect precise pronunciation and artistic communication.
2. Be skilled in the proper singing pronunciation of Italian and English (British and American)

Textbooks:

Montgomery, Cheri, *Italian Workbook for Singers*, Revised 3rd Edition (STM Publishers)
Montgomery, Cheri, *English Workbook for Singers*, Revised 3rd Edition (STM Publishers)
Adams, David, *A Handbook of Diction for Singers*, 2nd Edition (Oxford University Press)
Italian Dictionary (with IPA included)
Notebook and writing implements

Course Format and Procedures:

Class activities:

1. The instructor will explain and model the sounds and the students will emulate
2. The instructor will explain the rules of pronunciation of the language being studied and students will write and speak exercises to demonstrate understanding.
3. Students will perform literature and the diction will be coached by the instructor (one song in each language studied).

Homework:

1. Homework will be assigned on a weekly basis. Homework will generally be due on the next class period after it is assigned.

Tests and Quizzes:

1. Written tests will be administered according to the Calendar of Assignments. Tests will consist of problems requiring transcription of IPA into language and vice-versa. Tests will be graded by percentage of correct answers.
2. Oral tests will be administered on an individual basis usually in conjunction with written tests. Oral tests will be graded on accuracy of pronunciation and rate of flow.
3. Quizzes may be administered on a periodic basis. Quizzes will be graded by percentage of correct answers.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. Work missed due to an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Classes missed due to illness, family emergency, etc. will be excused at the instructor's discretion. Requests for excuse should occur before the class meeting whenever possible. Requests for excuse for illness must be accompanied by some official documentation stating the extent of the illness. Appointments such as medical, dental, etc. must not be made during class meeting times. In accordance with University policy, students observing religious holidays will not be disadvantaged when advanced arrangements are made with their instructors to make up course work missed. This course adheres to the University Policy on Class Attendance found in the Student Policy eHandbook at <http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies>.

Grading:

1. Grading Scale:
- | |
|-----------------|
| A = 90-100% |
| B = 80-89% |
| C = 70-79% |
| D = 60-69% |
| F = 59% or less |

2. Grading percentages will be as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| A. | Students will demonstrate understanding of concepts introduced in class by completing homework and through in-class oral exercises. | 30% |
| B. | Students will demonstrate further comprehension through periodic quizzes. | 20% |
| C. | Students will demonstrate accumulated retention of knowledge through two exams. | 50% |

Students may withdraw from the course up to midterm. Written exams may be comprised of objective and subjective items, such as IPA transcriptions, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true-false, and short answer/essay. A study guide will be distributed at least one week before the exam.

Students found cheating on a quiz, exam, or homework will receive a grade of zero. Academic dishonesty is an offense that will be reported to the Academic Honesty Committee. Please read Title XII: Student Academic Honesty Code of the Tiger Cub.

Emergency Contingency Statement:

If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation (such as an H1N1 flu outbreak), the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

The AU Policy on Classroom Behavior is strictly followed in the course; please refer to the Policy on Classroom Behavior found in the Student Policy eHandbook at <http://www.auburn.edu/studentpolicies>.

Academic Honesty Policy:

All portions of the Auburn University Student Academic Honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook will apply to this class. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee. The Academic Honesty Policy can be found here:

<https://sites.auburn.edu/admin/universypolicies/Policies/AcademicHonestyCode.pdf>

Accommodations:

Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to make an individual appointment with the instructor during the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

Makeup Policy:

Arrangement to make up missed exams, quizzes or teaching experience due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student within one week from the end of the period of the excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, such as continued absence of the student or the advent of University holidays, a make-up exam will take place within two weeks from the time that the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins. Late submission of written assignments will be accepted only for excused absences. Students, with a properly authorized excused absence, who do not make arrangements to make up missed exams, quizzes or in-class assignments within the time frame indicated above will receive a grade of zero for the missed exam, quiz, or teaching experience.

Final Exam Schedule:

According to the Office of the Registrar, “the final examination for courses carrying fewer than three hours credit may be administered on the last lecture day.” The final examination will be given on the last day of class. There is no comprehensive/cumulative final for Singer’s Diction.

Note of Agreement and Acceptance:

This syllabus is an agreement between the instructor and student to provide mutually and completely a worthy learning experience. By remaining registered in this course, the student has recognized the obligations set forth in this syllabus for satisfactory completion of the course.

CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS

Reminder: Assignments are due at the next class after they are assigned.
Quizzes are administered periodically and are not necessarily announced.

Class date	Topic	Assignment
08/20/12	Introduction to IPA	Study pp. 2–6
08/22/12	Introduction to Italian	
	Unit 1	Worksheet #1
08/27/12	Unit 2	Worksheet #2, 1–2
08/29/12	Unit 3	Worksheet #3, 3–4
09/03/12	LABOR DAY (no class)	
09/05/12	Unit 4	Worksheet #4, 1–2
09/10/12	Unit 5	Worksheet #5, 3–6
09/12/12	Quiz (Italian Units 1–5)	
09/17/12	Unit 6	Worksheet #6, 9–10
09/19/12	Unit 7	Worksheet #7, 5–6
09/24/12	Unit 8	Worksheet #8, 5–6
09/26/12	Dr. Hoch out-of-town (no class)	
10/01/12	Unit 9	Worksheet #9, 2–3
10/03/12	Unit 10	prepare Italian song IPA
10/08/12	coaching/discussion of Italian songs	
10/10/12	coaching/discussion of Italian songs	
10/15/12	perform Italian song in class	
10/17/12	Italian Final Exam (written)	
10/22/12	Introduction to English	
	Units 1–3	p. 28 in Workbook
10/24/12	Unit 4	Worksheet #4, 9–12
10/29/12	Unit 5	pp. 51–52
10/31/12	Quiz (English Units 1–5)	
11/05/12	Units 6–7	Worksheet #6, 1–4 Worksheet #7, pp. 81–82
11/07/12	Unit 8	pp. 86–87
11/12/12	Units 9–10	pp. 111–112, 128 prepare English song IPA
11/14/12	coaching/discussion of English songs	
11/19/12	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
11/21/12	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
11/26/12	perform English song in class	
11/28/12	English Final Exam (written)	

*THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT.
STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGES THAT OCCUR.*