University Mission Statement
Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement
The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

SYLLABUS
MUSIC 141/589
DICTION FOR SINGERS
FALL SEMESTER 2012

MUSIC 141/589, Diction for Singers. Two semester hours.

This diction for singers course teaches students of voice the proper pronunciation and articulation of the English and Italian languages as applied specifically in the art of singing. The students learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and the practical application of this tool through the preparation and performance of solo vocal repertoire in each of the above-mentioned languages.

CLASS IS HELD IN ROOM 214 OF THE MUSIC BUILDING FROM 11:00 – 11:50 PM, TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

  • INSTRUCTOR: Roger C. Bryant
  • OFFICE LOCATION: Music Building, Room 233
  • PHONE NUMBER: 903-886-5295
  • E-MAIL ADDRESS: Roger_Bryant@tamu-commerce.edu
  • CLASS SCHEDULE AND OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 – 10:00 AM, Monday – Friday.

TEXTBOOKS AND CLASS MATERIALS

  • REQUIRED texts: International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers (Wall) & Exploring Art Song Lyrics (Retzlaff)
  • ipasource.com, especially for use in Italian diction, and in the spring semester for French and German diction.
  • Log in by using www.ipasource.com for downloading transcriptions/translations. NOTE: YOU CAN ONLY USE THIS RESOURCE FREE OF CHARGE BY CONNECTING THROUGH THE GEE LIBRARY DATABASES.
  • Various English and Italian diction manuals and dictionaries will serve as references, and important bibliographic items will be recommended.
  • Handouts for study and drill.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLO)
Students enrolled in Music 141/589 will:
1) Identify and accurately vocalize the sound for each symbol of the International Phonetic Alphabet; 2) Demonstrate the capability of accurately pronouncing song texts in English and Italian, using the International Phonetic Alphabet.

CLASS ACTIVITIES
Class activities will include approximately 80% coaching of student spoken and sung performance in the two languages, with the remaining 20% devoted to lecture and discussion. We begin with English (until midterm), and continue with Italian to the end of the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK
Readings and exercises from selected sources, and assignments such as song text transcriptions and in-class vocal performances will be announced by the instructor, as applicable.

GRADING
Students will be subjectively evaluated by the instructor on class-by-class participation and performance, and will be objectively tested by means of written exams for mastery of course content. There will be at least 2 exams over English diction, and at least 4 exams over Italian diction, PLUS ONE COMPREHENSIVE FINAL. Test dates and content to be tested will be determined by the instructor in light of the overall progress of the class, and students will be informed well in advance of exams (at least 2 class periods). Attendance will account for 30% of the final grade. It should NOT BE ASSUMED that any absence would be excused. Absences will be dealt with in accordance with TAMU-Commerce Class Attendance Rule (see the undergraduate catalog[online] for details).

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)
Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please contact Dr. David Scott 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Rm. 303D, (903) 886–5150.