

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – COMMERCE
Department of Music – College of Social Sciences and Arts
Course Syllabus • Diction for Singers • Fall 2014

Course Number / Contact Hours: 141 / 2

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor's Name: Dr. Martin Vasquez

Room: 214

Phone: 903-886-5293

Email: martin.vasquez@tamuc.edu

Texts: Diction For Singers, 2nd Edition. Joan Wall, Robert Caldwell, et al. Celumbra Publishing.

Learning Outcomes:

IN THIS CLASS, STUDENTS WILL:	ACTIVITIES/ASSESSMENT:	NASM
RECOGNIZE, IDENTIFY, UNDERSTAND and DEMONSTRATE use of the International Phonetic Alphabet as it applies to vocal repertoire.	Lectures, in-class activities, phonetic readings, assignments, quizzes, exams	VIII.C.2.
DEMONSTRATE an understanding of phonetic transcription of foreign language texts.	Hands-on practice with assignments, transcribing song texts and exams	VIII.C.2.
DEMONSTRATE skill of reading phonetic transcriptions of foreign language texts.	In-class readings, performance of songs and exams	VIII.C.2.

Course Procedures:

SONGS: Over the course of the semester, songs will be assigned (English, Italian). The performance of each song is graded on how well the student incorporates the proper diction learned in class.

QUIZZES: Occasionally, quizzes are given (English, Italian). Quizzes are designed around information and exercises discussed in the text and in class discussions. Quizzes will be announced and unannounced.

READINGS: Readings of phonetic transcriptions will be practiced regularly in class and for homework, and will be included in each quiz as a portion of that quiz grade.

EXAMS: We will have two major exams: the MID-TERM and the FINAL. The exams are written and may include an oral component. Written exams may include transcription of single words into IPA, reading the IPA transcription and writing the corresponding orthographic word, transcribing song lyrics into the appropriate IPA notation. The final also includes a singing portion. Students will sing one of the 4 pieces assigned FROM MEMORY. It must be one of the songs previously assigned and presented in class.

Assessment and Grading Procedures:

Attendance: Regular attendance is critical, as each session builds on the information from previous meetings. No more than three absences will be permitted for a student to receive a passing grade. *At the fourth absence, the student will have failed the course, unless the student provides a physician or official university excuse. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the assignment from me or a classmate, so that you have it completed by the next class.*

No assignments will be accepted late, unless the student provides a physician or official university excuse.

Tardiness: Students who arrive tardy but less than fifteen minutes late will receive partial attendance credit for the day. Two partially attended classes will result in an absence. Students who arrive more than fifteen minutes after the beginning of a class session shall receive an unexcused absence for the day.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Assignments, Quizzes	25%
In-Class Performance of Songs	35%
Major Exams (2)	30%

In class performances:

- You must provide a sheet containing the song's text, IPA transcription, a word-for-word translation of the text.
- If you are unable to sing on your assigned day due to medical reasons, you must contact the professor the morning prior to the class period. If you are not seriously ill and contagious, you will recite your text and present your IPA transcription and translation. Performance of the piece will be done at the next class period. Failure to perform the piece or to make appropriate arrangements with the professor will result in a failing grade for the performance.
- For each assignment, prepare your text in the following manner:

IPA
Original text
Translation

You assignment will be graded on the following: IPA transcription, translation of the text, spoken accuracy according to the written IPA, and sung accuracy according to the written IPA. Please provide at least 1.5 line spacing between lines of the three lined grouping (IPA, Original Text, and Translation).

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.

University Accommodation Policy 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. Chris White (903) 886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886.5150.

University Behavior Policy 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).

Please visit Musician Health and Safety link on the music department website.