

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**MUS 118: SINGER'S DICTION: FRENCH: 1HR CREDIT**  
**FALL 2007**

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**Office Hours:** TBA  
**Class Times:** WF 12:00-12:50 p.m. Room 217

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Grubb, Thomas. *Singing in French*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1979.

*The French Song Anthology* High/Low Voice

Larousse Advanced Dictionary

**OTHER REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

Compact Disc with recorded examples of French songs/arias and spoken text for listening and study.  
(You each will be given a copy.)

**OTHER REFERENCE MATERIAL:**

See pages 8-9 of this syllabus.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

The primary objective of this course is to enable you to pronounce and sing the French language correctly and beautifully. This rather complex language entails many rules in regards to its pronunciation, and these rules will be learned and applied in written, spoken, and sung exercises. Even though you will not be taught to understand the meaning of most words in the French language (this would be done in a regular French language course rather than a diction class), you will be able to pronounce and sing them effectively. Therefore, learning to write and read the proper IPA symbols is essential to succeeding in this class, and will be critical in all of your future performing/teaching endeavors.

**COURSE STRUCTURE/DESCRIPTION:**

Like your earlier classes in Diction and IPA, this class will be approached in a very systematic and practical way. My hope is to not only ensure that you learn the proper sounds of the French language and the rules that govern their pronunciation, but also that you begin to apply your learning as quickly as possible. Therefore, there will be several occasions throughout the semester when we will recite different art song/aria texts together in class, so that we are better able to absorb the sounds of the language more quickly. We will also sing many examples of French *mélodie* from the standard repertoire so that the rules of singing French can be better drilled and retained. Likewise, class time will be spent addressing the issues of correct interpretation of French song and how to achieve the most expressive performance possible.

My hope is that the class will not be one of just learning the "rules" but will be one of practical and helpful application. Just think, it could be FUN! In this way, you not only become excellent singers of the language, but also excellent teachers. Hopefully, you will be well-equipped to tackle any French piece that comes your way.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is both essential and mandatory. In order to learn the proper rules and sounds of the French language, you must be present in class. Absences will inevitably affect your homework and exam grades. Many of the processes and practical exercises will be presented and drilled in class and are nearly impossible to learn solely from a book. University policy allows 3 absences. After these 3 absences (whether excused or unexcused) have accrued, your final grade will be dropped 5 points. School-related absences, such as NATS and ensemble tours will not affect your attendance grade.

It is also important that you show up to class ON TIME. After three tardies, your final grade will be lowered two points every time you are late to class. If you have any type of class conflict, please let me know as soon as possible.

Throughout the semester, exams will be given. Make-up exams will only be given in case of emergencies. Otherwise, if you miss an exam, no make up will be allowed. The course outline in this syllabus provides the dates for these exams. Carefully review them and be aware of when they are occurring (see Course Timeline at the end of the syllabus).

### ASSIGNMENTS:

The types of assignments that you will complete in this class are as follows:

- Reading the required text/handouts and completing questions that relate to the reading
- Listening to both spoken and sung examples and practicing them outside of class
- Transcribing French songs or arias (see example on page 4)
- Completing IPA worksheets to increase your learning and understanding
- Learning various standard songs from the French repertoire to sing as a group and individually

These assignments must be completed and ready to turn in at the beginning of each class period, unless otherwise stated. If an assignment is turned in after class is over, but during the same day it is due, it will automatically be lowered 5 points. ***The grade will continue to drop 10 points each day it is not turned in.*** If you are absent from class when a homework assignment is due, you can either turn it in early, or get it to my office/mailbox before the class period begins. Exceptions for this late work policy will only be made in case of emergencies of school-related absences (i.e. choir tour). All of the worksheets will be posted on blackboard for your convenience. You can download and print them out any time during the semester. You will want to make sure your computer has the appropriate IPA font, however.

Even if you are having trouble understanding or remembering some aspects of IPA transcription, do the best you can and complete your work. Don't turn it in only half completed. Credit will be given for effort! Also, when you have assigned readings, you can count on having some kind of discussion about what you have read, as well as assigned reading questions. Part of your grade in this class is participation – make sure you are ready to discuss the assignments you are given, or sing any song that is assigned to the class to prepare.

### NOTEBOOK:

- For your notebook, please use a 3-ring binder
- Notebooks will be checked at the end of the semester and will be GRADED as part of your participation grade for the class. They must be put together in the following order: (please use some sort of divider to separate the sections)
  - I. Syllabus
  - II. Worksheets and Assignments (in the order they were completed)
  - III. Assigned Reading Questions/Answers
  - IV. Exams
  - V. Transcriptions (both your own and other class members')
  - VI. Handouts
  - VII. Class Notes (that you take)

### EXAMS:

There will be three exams given during the semester:

1. an exam which covers the French Vowels (written and listening only) on **Wednesday, October 3**
2. an exam which covers the French Consonants on **Wednesday, November 7**
3. a final exam which covers the entire semester and is divided into three parts: written, spoken, sung
  - The WRITTEN portion will be administered **Wed., November 28 during class time.**
  - The SPOKEN portion will be administered during the last two weeks of class. Students will sign up for a 5-minute time slot and will speak a certain assigned text to me.
  - For the SUNG portion of the exam:
    - ♦ Your voice teacher will pick 2 French songs/arias for you (you will end up only singing one) so that no one will sing the same piece. The due date for having these pieces picked is **Friday, September 14.**
    - ♦ The song that you sing must have at least 6 lines of text.
    - ♦ It can be either an art song or an aria.
    - ♦ You will turn in a **typed** transcription and translation of this song/aria a few weeks before you are to sing it (due date is **Wednesday, November 7**). Corrections (if any) will be made and then you will make enough copies for the entire class.

*Please follow the transcription/translation example provided in this syllabus or your grade will be lowered.*

- ♦ You will **MEMORIZE** the song/aria and sing it for the class on **Friday, November 30 or Wednesday, December 5.**

**GRADING:**

<b>Participation (Including Notebook)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Assignments (Written, Listening)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Exams (2 of them 15% each)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
Written Portion	10%
Spoken Portion	10%
Sung Portion	10%

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

**PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of disruption. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The Faculty Handbook states regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act: “According to University policy, requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student’s responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holiday shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day. This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM**

The Faculty Handbook states that unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

## TRANSCRIPTION/TRANSLATION EXAMPLE

## COURSE TIMELINE

- Wed. Aug. 22**      **Introduction/Go over syllabus/Review Texts/Listening/IPA**  
Homework due Friday, August 24:  
Study the transcription/music given to you of “Á Chloris”. Some of the words are not yet transcribed (circled). Using your dictionary, write in the transcription for these words.
- Fri. Aug. 24**      **General Rules for Singing in French: Musical Example “Á Chloris”**  
Homework due Wednesday, August 29:  
Read Grubb pp. 1-9 and complete assigned reading questions #1.  
Listen to tracks 1-4 on your CD several times to become familiar with the sounds used in “Á Chloris”. Practice intoning and singing “Á Chloris”.
- Wed. Aug. 29**      **The Fifteen French Vowels/Pure Vowels/Tongue Vowels [i], [e], [ɛ], [a]**  
**Intone “Á Chloris” as a class if time allows**  
Homework due Friday, August 31:  
Read Grubb pp. 27-32 and complete assigned reading questions #2.  
Listen to CD Track 5 and practice speaking/singing the tongue vowels and be ready to speak the words individually.
- Fri. Aug. 31**      **Review Pure Vowels/Tongue Vowels [i], [e], [ɛ], [a]**  
**Intone/Sing “Á Chloris” as a class**  
**Tongue Vowel Spoken Exercises**  
Homework due Wednesday, September 5:  
Continue practicing “Á Chloris”.  
Continue practicing spoken/sung exercises on the tongue vowels and be ready to speak them individually.
- Wed. Sept. 5**      **The Fifteen French Vowels/Pure Vowels/Lip Vowels [ɑ], [ɔ], [o], [u]**  
**Intone/Sing “Á Chloris” as a class**  
Homework due Friday, September 7:  
Read Grubb pp. 33-37 and complete assigned reading questions #3.  
Complete Pure Vowels Practice Sheet.  
Listen to CD Track 6 and practice speaking/singing the lip vowels. Be ready to speak them individually; also review spoken words with tongue vowels.
- Fri. Sept. 7**      **Review Pure Vowels/Lip Vowels /Lip Vowel Spoken Exercises**  
**Sing “Á Chloris” as a class**  
Homework due Wednesday, September 12:  
Complete Tongue and Lip Vowels Worksheet (Worksheet #1).  
Using your dictionary, transcribe “Hébé” by Chausson. Write the transcription in your music. Circle the words that you can’t find in the dictionary.
- Wed. Sept. 12**      **Individuals Speak/Sing “Á Chloris”**  
Homework due Friday, September 14:  
Listen to tracks 7-10 on your CD and practice speaking and singing the mixed vowels and be ready to do it individually.  
Read Grubb pp. 38-46 and complete assigned reading questions #4.
- Fri. Sept. 14**      **The Mixed Vowels [y], [ø], [œ] and the Schwa [ə]/Mute e in Speaking French**  
**Intone/Speak “Hébé” together as a class**  
***Title/Composer of Your Solo Song for Final Exam Due (Remember that you must submit 2 choices given to you by your teacher.)***  
Homework due Wednesday, September 19:  
Complete Mixed Vowels Worksheet (Worksheet #2) and complete Mixed Vowels Practice Sheet.

- Wed. Sept. 19**      **Review Mixed Vowels/Mixed Vowel Spoken Exercises**  
**Introduce Nasal Vowels**  
**Intone/Sing “Hébé” together as a class if time allows**  
Homework due Friday, September 21:  
Read Grubb pp. 54-60 and complete assigned reading questions #5.  
Listen to tracks 11-15 on your CD and practice speaking and singing the nasal vowels.
- Fri. Sept. 21**      **The Nasal Vowels [ã], [õ], [ ̃ ], [ œ̃] Rules of Pronunciation**  
Homework due Wednesday, September 26:  
Complete Nasal Vowels Worksheet (Worksheet #3) and Nasal Vowels Practice.
- Wed. Sept. 26**      **Individuals Speak/Sing “Hébé”**  
Homework due Friday, September 28:  
Complete French Vowels Rules Practice for review in class. Listen to all spoken/sung exercises on CD and be able to recognize the different vowel sounds.
- Fri. Sept. 28**      **Review all Vowels: Class Drills and Exercises**  
Homework due Wednesday, October 3:  
Study for Exam #1: Review all worksheets and handouts.  
Listen to all spoken/sung exercises on CD and be able to recognize the different vowel sounds.
- Wed. Oct. 3**      **Exam #1: The Fifteen French Vowels**  
Homework due Friday, October 5:  
Listen to Track 16 on your CD and practice speaking/singing the semi-consonants. Read pp. 61-66 in Grubb and complete assigned reading questions #6.
- Fri. Oct. 5**      **Semi-Consonants/Glides/Musical Example: “Nuit d’Espagne”**  
Homework due Wednesday, October 10:  
Complete semi-consonants worksheet (Worksheet #4).
- Wed. Oct. 10**      **Spoken/Sung Practice: Solo Songs for Final Exam**  
Homework due Friday, October 12:  
Using your dictionary and the rules already covered, transcribe assigned parts of “Nuit d’Espagne”.
- Fri. Oct. 12**      **Spoken/Sung Practice: Solo Songs for Final Exam**  
Homework due Wednesday, October 17:  
Using your dictionary and the rules already covered, transcribe remainder of “Nuit d’Espagne”.
- Wed. Oct. 17**      **French Consonants: Stop-Plosives [b], [p], [d], [t], [g], [k]**  
**Start Fricatives if time allows/Practice Intoning “Nuit d’Espagne”**  
Homework due Friday, October 19:  
Read Grubb pp. 67-75 and complete assigned reading questions #7.
- Fri. Oct. 19**      **French Consonants: Fricatives [v], [f], [z], [s], [ ʃ ], [ʒ]**  
**Sing “Nuit d’Espagne” as a class**  
Homework due Wednesday, October 24:  
Read Grubb pp. 75-79 and complete assigned reading questions #8.  
Complete Stop-Plosive and Fricatives Worksheet (Worksheet #5).

- Wed. Oct. 24**      **French Consonants: Nasals [n], [m], etc. & Laterals [l], [ll]**  
**Flipped/Rolled/Uvular [r], [rr], [R]**  
 Homework due Friday, October 26:  
 Complete Nasal and Lateral Worksheet (Worksheet #6).  
 Practice “Nuit d’Espagne”. \*Bring your final solo songs to class on Friday.
- Fri. Oct. 26**      **Liaison and Elision: Use solo songs as examples**  
**Class Exercises on Liaison/Elision**  
 Homework due Wednesday, October 31:  
 Read Chapter 3 in Grubb and complete assigned reading questions #9.  
 Transcription of Solo Song for Final Exam – It must be formatted like the example from the syllabus.
- Wed. Oct. 31**      **“Nuit d’Espagne”: Use as review and practice**  
 Homework due Friday, November 2:  
 Complete French Consonant Rules Practice sheet and Orthographic Spelling Rules for review on Friday.  
 Transcription of Solo Song for Final Exam – It must be formatted like the example from the syllabus.
- Fri. Nov. 2**      **Review French Consonants, (Vowels if time), & Rules**  
 Homework due Wednesday, November 7:  
 Study for Exam #2. Review all worksheets and handouts.  
 Transcription of Solo Song for Final Exam – It must be formatted like the example from the syllabus.  
**Practice your solo song!!**
- Wed. Nov. 7**      **Exam #2**  
**Transcription/Translation of Solo Song or Aria Due (Final Singing Exam)**  
 Homework due Wednesday, November 14:  
 Complete Final Exam Review Sheet for the written portion of the exam.  
**Practice your solo song!!**
- Fri. Nov. 9**      **NO CLASS: NATS**
- Wed. Nov. 14**      **Final Exam Review (Written Portion)**  
 Homework due Friday, November 16:  
 Complete Extra Review for the written portion of the exam.  
**Practice your solo song!!**
- Fri. Nov. 16**      **Final Exam Review (Written Portion)**  
**Text for spoken portion of final exam will be passed out**  
 Homework due Wednesday, November 28:  
 Study all worksheets, handouts, and review sheets for Written Final.  
**Practice your solo song!!**
- Wed. Nov. 21**      **NO CLASS: HOLIDAY**
- Fri. Nov. 23**      **NO CLASS: HOLIDAY**
- Wed. Nov. 28**      **FINAL EXAM: Spoken/Written/Sung**  
**ALL STUDENTS: WRITTEN PORTION OF FINAL EXAM**  
**Fri. Nov. 30**      **SUNG PORTION OF FINAL EXAM: All sing their solo song**  
**Wed. Dec. 5**      **SUNG PORTION OF FINAL EXAM: All sing their solo song**  
**Fri. Dec. 7**      **NO CLASS: SHSU STUDY DAY**

*Félicitations ~ C’est tout!!*

## OTHER REFERENCE MATERIAL

**ML54.6.M33 1991**

*Masters of the French Art Song: translations of the complete songs of Chausson, Debussy, Duparc, Fauré & Ravel*  
LeVan, Timothy

**ML54.6.D42 R62 1987**

*The Singer's Debussy*

**ML54.6.D42 C62 1982**

*The Poetic Debussy: A collection of his song texts and selected letters*

**ML2827.M36 1980**

*Nineteenth-Century French Song: Fauré, Chausson, Duparc, and Debussy*  
Meister, Barbara

**ML2827.N613 1970**

*French Song from Berlioz to Duparc; The origin and development of the mélodie*  
Rita Benton and Frits Noske. Translated by Rita Benton

**MT883.C63 1964**

*Phonetic Readings of Songs and Arias; authentic pronunciation of 413 Italian, German, and French lyrics from "The Singer's Repertoire" in international phonetic alphabet transcription*  
Coffin, Berton

**MT892.B4 1970**

*The Interpretation of French Song*  
Bernac, Pierre

**M1620.C48S7 1985**

*Album of Songs*  
Chaminade, Cécile (1857-1944)

**M1620.R68M4 1981**

*Mélodie Françaises: French Songs for Voice and Piano*  
Rossini, Gioacchino (1792-1868)