

COURSE SYLLABUS
CID#2838
MUS 117: SINGER'S DICTION: ENGLISH/ITALIAN
1 HR CREDIT
Spring 2008
Sam Houston State University
SOM Room MUS 218

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Course Description

- This course is designed to familiarize singers with the accurate pronunciation of the English and Italian languages as sung in solo vocal repertoire (recital literature and opera) and choral music.

Course Objectives

- Each student will ultimately become independent in pronouncing, singing, and translating English and Italian texts by properly using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a guide.
- Each student will learn and employ the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) by confidently and accurately identifying the correct phonetic symbol for the given text and articulating the correct sound for the phonetic symbol.
- Each student will successfully apply the knowledge of the IPA symbols in written, spoken, and sung exercises.
- Each student will understand and apply the rules for using IPA in song literature, operatic literature, and choral repertoire.

Course Activities

- Learn IPA through practical applications of worksheets, in and out of class.
- Listen to CDs of both English and Italian songs and arias for correct pronunciation and to apply the listening and IPA rules during class activities and homework. Three copies of a master CD will be in the listening lab in the music library for students.
- Phonetically transcribe both English and Italian songs and recite and sing the selections during class time.

Prerequisites

- None

Required Text and Materials

- Webster. *Webster's New World Italian Dictionary Concise*. MacMillian-Schirmer.
- Wall, Joan. *International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers*. Dallas: Pst, Inc. 1990.
- Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- *24 Italian Songs and Arias of the 17th & 18th Centuries, Medium High OR Medium Low*. New York/London: G. Schirmer Inc., 1948
- Small, handheld mirror (optional)
- Tape recorder and cassette tapes (optional)
- Three ring binder

Attendance Policy

- Mandatory attendance is required for this course due to the nature of the content. Students must be present to hear and recite the sounds that are represented by the symbols in IPA in order to apply them correctly.
- After 3 absences (excused or not), the student's final grade will be dropped one grade level (example: from a B to a C).
- Every 3 "tardies" will equal one absence.
- If you are going to be absent due to illness or family emergency, students must email me **before** missing the class. In case of illness, bring a physician's note to class in order to have your absence cleared from your attendance record. Should you have a family emergency, make an appointment to see me when you return to campus so that we can review work you missed during your absence.
- School related absences will not affect your grade provided you submit proper documentation to support your absence.

Missed Homework and Exams

- No exams will be made up unless there is a medical emergency the day of the exam. A physician's note is required.
- Homework will be due at the beginning of every class. Late work will only be accepted at the next class meeting (including at the end of class when it is due), resulting in a 10 point deduction in your grade.
- If a student is absent for the scheduled In-Class Performance, he/she must communicate with the Instructor 24 hours in advance via email (mus_mkl@shsu.edu).
 - Illness is the only excused absence and the student will have no grade penalty.
 - If the student is absent due to any other reason (besides university sponsored activities accompanied by a note from the sponsor) a deduction of 20% automatically applies for the performance grade.
 - The performance will be rescheduled for the end of the semester, unless it can be re-scheduled during a class time due to another absence.
 - If a student fails to notify the instructor about an absence for the In-Class Performance, the result will be a zero for that performance grade.

Grading

- Quizzes = 10%
- Class participation (preparation and discussion)= 10%
- Class performances = 15%
- Homework = 20%
- English Diction Exam (@Midterm) = 20%
- Italian Diction Exam (@semester's end) = 25%

Quizzes & Exam

- Quizzes
 - pop quizzes will be given during the semester
- Exam #1: English Diction
 - February 29 during regular class time
 - Will consist of written and listening requirements, IPA rules and transcriptions
- Exam #2: Italian Diction
 - Section One: during regular class time, last week of classes
 - Written test will cover IPA rules and transcriptions
 - Oral recitation and dictation
 - Section Two: during class time. (If not enough time applies due to number of students in the course, an extra time will be allotted, TBA.)
 - Sung portion only (Italian) will be performed by memory
 - Each student is required to wear appropriate recital performance clothes
 - Your teacher will assign an Italian song/aria for you to perform for your exam. You must submit this song on 2/29. It must contain 6 lines of text.
 - Typed transcription and translation of the selection chosen for this exam is due 4/ 18 . After corrections are made, a copy must be presented to the entire class on 5/ 07 .
 - The entire class will be present during the entire sung portion of the final.
 - A collaborative artist is REQUIRED for the exam. Plan ahead so the needs of both parties are met. A collaborator may be provided with a minimal fee for the student; however, if one is not available, the student must hire another collaborator for the final. (The instructor will keep the students updated about this situation!)

Special Assignment: In-Class Performances

- Each student will participate in two In-Class Performances during the semester.
- Each selection must be **memorized** for the In-Class Performance.
- Each student will have an opportunity to rehearse the Italian song selected for Exam #2. These performances are working rehearsals and memorization is not required. However, **memorization** is required for Exam #2, Section 2 itself.
- In-Class Performance Absence: See Missed Homework/Exams policy.

Additional References

Texts

- **MT883.C63 1964**
Coffin, Berton. *Phonetic readings of songs and arias.*
- **ML54.6.C7 W7 P2 (reference section)**
Schoep, Arthur and Coffin, Berton. *Word-By Word Translations of Songs and Arias: Part II Italian*
- **ML54.6 .M42**
Masters of the Italian Art Song: Word-by- Word and Poetic Translations of the Complete Songs for Voice and Piano. 1990. Includes: Bellini, Donaudy, Donizetti, Puccini, Rossini, Tosti, Verdi.
- **ML54.6 .M5 R5 1973 *The Ring of Words: An Anthology of Song Texts.* 1963.**
Includes: German, French, Italian, Russian, Scandinavian, and Spanish.

Translation/Transcription Websites

- The Aria Database: www.aria-database.com
- Lied and Art Songs Texts: www.recmusic.org/lieder/
- IPASource.com = www.ipasource.com

Diction Websites

- Download IPA Fonts for FREE at
www.sil.org/computing/fonts/Encore-ipa.html
They have fonts for both PC's and MAC'S
SIL IPA93 FONTS
- The International Phonetic Association
<http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipa.html>
This website has charts for the vowels and consonants that are very helpful and informative.

Academic Policy

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.

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 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 Holy Days

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 time frame 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.

