



**MUS 143-01E**  
**English Diction**  
**Course Syllabus: Spring 2024**

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## Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Barrett Radziun
Classroom Location:	MUS 158
Office Location:	MUS 233
Office Hours:	Posted Outside of Office
Office Phone:	903-886-5295
University E-mail:	barrett.radziun@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours

## Course Information

### Course Description

Teaches voice students the proper pronunciation and articulation of the English language. The students learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and application of this tool in the preparation and performance of solo vocal repertoire.

### Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Transcribe English text into IPA symbols
2. Accurately read and sing English text *with* IPA symbols
3. Accurately read English text *without* IPA symbols, relying on the rules of English lyric diction learned throughout the course of the semester

### Required Textbook

*English Lyric Diction Workbook* by Cheri Montgomery

### Recommended Course Materials

Subscription to Spotify or Apple Music Streaming

## Course Requirements

### Instructional Methods

Instructional methods include lectures by the instructor and in-class coaching and performances.

## Assessments

Assessment will be based on attendance and participation, quizzes, in-class coachings and performances, assignments, and the final exams. Attendance is required. Quizzes will cover material from class and assigned readings. Quizzes missed due to unexcused absences will not be made up. Assignments will include listening/comprehension worksheets, worksheets prepared by the instructor, assignments from the required workbook, and preparation of IPA transcriptions.

## Grading

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Final grades will be based on the following:

1. Attendance and participation – 20%
2. Quizzes – 20%
3. In-Class Coachings and Performances – 15%
4. Assignments – 30%
5. Final Exam – 15%

## Course and University Procedures / Policies

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

### Attendance Policy

Attendance and participation are required in order to insure that the course objectives will be met. One unexcused absence will be permitted. Attendance will be taken at each class. Extenuating circumstances regarding absence must be communicated to the instructor in advance. In the case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to find out what they missed. Each unexcused absence beyond the first will result in the lowering of the final grade by five percent. Missed exams and quizzes will only be made up if prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

### Late Assignments or Work

Late work is accepted but will result in a 50% deduction

## Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures: [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

## Additional policies at the discretion of the faculty member [optional]

### Classroom Etiquette:

The majority of our work in class will stem from information in Cheri Montgomery's book. The student must have the book with them at every class period. Diction is a complex subject, as it requires an understanding of phonetic sounds. Due to the complexity of the subject's nature, unnecessary or distracting use of electronic devices including laptops, tablets, and cell phones will not be tolerated.

### Etiquette/Procedure for Performance Days

On coaching/performance days, singers will perform their assigned repertoire for their peers. All students are required to attend and actively participate/remain engaged in their colleague's performances. Please note that this is not a time to complete work for other classes or to do work on your computer or cell phone. It is important that an encouraging and supportive environment is created.

### On Student's Assigned Singing Day:

Students must be prepared to sing in class on their assigned date. Please treat this like a true performance: wear appropriate attire (jury/professional attire). At the beginning of a performance, the student will clearly announce their name, their song or aria, and the composer. Additionally, before they sing, the student will read their text as a poem. Student's must email the instructor a word document (not a PDF) containing the text of their song/aria (see course schedule for date). The student must bring a clean copy of their music (double-checking that all of the notes in the piano and voice part are on the page) in a binder for the accompanist. Students should refrain from using plastic page protectors.

## Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu); online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

## Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook);

## Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to [http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure%20s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## Course Calendar

Week	Content
Week 1: January 11	January 11: Syllabus and Introduction to English Diction
Week 2: January 16 and 18	January 16: Finish Introduction to English Diction January 18: Vowels (overview) and "R" Assignment (Due January 23): Get a copy of the text book, communicate with your applied voice teacher about an English Song/Aria assignment for the semester
Week 3: January 23 and 25	January 23: Front Vowels and Back Vowels January 25: Central Vowels and Diphthongs Assignment (Due January 30): Solo Song/Aria Assignment (I will need to know the title, composer, and key) Homework Assignment No. 1
Week 4: January 30 and February 1	January 30: Schwa, fricatives, affricates, glottal, semi-consonants February 1: "Ask" and "Hand" words (Kathryn LaBouff) Assignment (Due February 6): Homework Assignment No. 2
Week 5: February 6 and 8	February 6: Consonants February 8: <b>NO CLASS - TMEA</b> Assignment (February 13): Study for Quiz No. 1
Week 6: February 13 and 15	February 13: Review Central Vowels and Consonants February 15: Quiz No. 1 Assignment (Due February 20): Homework Assignment No. 3
Week 7: February 20 and 22	February 20: Classwork (Whiteboard) February 22: Transcription of Initial Unstressed Syllables and Lip Consonants Assignment (Due February 27): Homework Assignment No. 4
Week 8: February 27 and 29	February 27: Review Diphthongs and Velar "g" and "k" February 29: Schwa Replacement of r, fricative [h], and glottal stop

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
	Assignment (Due March 5): IPA Transcription of Solo Song/Aria, Study for Quiz No. 2
Week 9: March 5 and 7	March 5: Review March 7: Quiz No. 2 (Midterm)
Week 10: March 12 and 14	March 12: <b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b> March 1: <b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>
Week 11: March 19 and 21	March 19: In-Class Coachings March 21: In-Class Coachings Assignment (Due March 26): Homework Assignment No. 5
Week 12: March 26 and 28	March 26: In-Class Coachings March 28: In-Class Coachings Assignment (Due April 2): Homework Assignment No. 6
Week 13: April 2 and 4	April 2: In-Class Coachings April 4: In-Class Coachings Assignment (Due April 9): Homework Assignment No. 7
Week 14: April 9 and 11	April 9: In-Class Coachings April 11: In-Class Coachings (make-up) Assignment (Due April 16): Homework Assignment No. 8
Week 15: April 16 and 18	April 16: Review for Quiz No. 3 April 18: Quiz No. 3
Week 16: April 23 and 25	April 23: Classwork (Whiteboard) April 25: Diction Jeopardy
Week 17: April 30 and May 2	April 30: Final Written Exam May 2: <b>NO CLASS – Study Day</b>
Week 18: Finals Week	Tuesday, May 9 10:30 a.m. (Final In-Class Performances)