



MUS 144-01E
Italian Diction
Course Syllabus: Fall 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Matthew Schloneger
Classroom Location:	MUS 214
Office Location:	MUS 233
Office Hours:	Posted Outside of Office
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Preferred Form of Communication:	Email
Communication Response Time:	24 hours

Course Information

Course Description

Teaches voice students the proper pronunciation and articulation of the Italian and Latin languages. 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. Learn the basics of phonemes and International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
2. Transcribe Italian and Latin texts into IPA symbols
3. Accurately read and sing Italian and Latin text with IPA symbols
4. Accurately read and sing Italian and Latin text without IPA symbols, relying on the rules of Italian lyric diction learned throughout the course of the semester
5. Prepare word-by-word translations of Italian into English using resources discussed in class, focusing on understanding vocabulary and basic Italian grammar
6. Work to develop basic conversational Italian

Required Textbook

Diction for Singers, 2nd Ed, by Joan Wall

Italian Lyric Diction Workbook by Cheri Montgomery (STM Publishers)

Recommended Course Materials

Webster's New World Italian Dictionary

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, preparation of IPA transcriptions, and preparation of translations from Italian to English.

Grading

A = 900-1000 pts

B = 800-899 pts

C = 700-799 pts

D = 600-699 pts

F = 599 and below

Final grades will be based on the following:

• Class Attendance & Participation:	75 points
• Homework Worksheets:	290 points
• Song Transcriptoin Projects (2 @ 50 points each):	100 points
• Class performances (2 @ 50 points):	100 points
• Quizzes (7 @ 30 pts):	210 points
• Tests (2 @ 75 points each):	150 points
• Final Performance	<u>75 points</u>
TOTAL	1000 points

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 ensure 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 he or she 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

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. Students 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; 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> 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

Due Date	Assignment Due	Quizzes/Exams/Performances	Chapters/Units Covered
Aug 27	Course Introduction		Introduction to International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
Aug 29	Bookmark http://ipa.typeit.org/ ; <i>Italian Workbook</i> p. 8, Worksheet; IPA for Singers Ch. 4 Worksheet (Handout & D2L)		Wall, Introduction, p. 1-11; <i>Italian Diction Unit 1 - Vowels</i> Vowel Quadrilateral
Sep 3	IPA for Singers Ch. 5 Worksheet (Handout & D2L); Articulator phonetics worksheet (D2L only); Plan Italian & Latin Semester Rep with your Applied Teacher		<i>Italian Diction Unit 1 - Consonants – Manner & Place of Articulation</i>
Sep 5	<i>Italian Workbook</i> p 7 Worksheet IPA for Singers Ch. 7 Worksheet	IPA Quiz	Phoneme Practice
Sep 10	Consonant worksheet TBD		Review for IPA Test
Sep 12	Study for IPA Test	IPA Test	Intro to Latin, Wall p. 125-135
Sep 17	Handout <i>Transcription Workbook</i> : pages 178-185		Latin Vowels Wall p. 137-142
Sep 19	Handout <i>Transcription Workbook</i> : Latin unit 27	Latin Performance Class	Latin Consonants, Wall p. 142-154 Study for Latin Quiz
Sep 24	Handout <i>Transcription Workbook</i> : Latin unit 28	Latin Quiz Latin Performance Class	

Sept 26	Intro to Italian		Wall, p. 51-56, <i>Italian Workbook</i> , p. 2-6
Oct 1		Vowel quiz	Unit 2: [i] and [j], r
Oct 3	Unit 2, pages 13-20		Unit 3: [e] and [ɛ], s
Oct 8	Unit 3, pages 24-31		Review
Oct 10	Study for quiz, p. 32	Transcription quiz	Unit 4: [o] and [ɔ], h
Oct 15	Unit 4, pages 39-46	Performance Class	Unit 5: [u] and [w], z
Oct 17	Unit 5, pages 50-57	Performance Class	Review
Oct 22	Study for quiz, p. 58	Transcription quiz Performance Class	Unit 6: [a], [ɲ], [ŋ], [ʎ]
Oct 24	Unit 6, pages 61-68	Performance Class	Unit 7: c, g, and sc
Oct 29	Unit 7, pages 72-79	Performance Class	Review
Oct 31	Study for quiz, p. 80	Transcription quiz Performance Class	
Nov 5	Performances Song Transcription 1 Due	Performance Class	
Nov 7	No Class – Regional NATS		
Nov 12	Performances	Performance Class	Unit 8: Phrasal diphthongs
Nov 14	Unit 8, pages 82-90	Performance Class	Unit 9: Phrasal triphthongs
Nov 19	Unit 9, pages 92-105	Performance Class	Review
Nov 21	Study for quiz, page 106	Transcription quiz Performance Class	Unit 10: Phrasal doubling, Review
Nov 26	Unit 10, art song assignment Review pp. 127-130 Song Transcription 2 Due		Appendix: Word structure/dictionary Review pp. 127-130
Nov 28	No Class – Thanksgiving Break		
Dec 3	Review	Make-Up Performance Class	Study for final, pp 127-130
Dec 5	Final Written Exam		
Tues, Dec 10	10:30-12:30 (Final In-Class Performances)	Final Exam	