



MUS 143
English Diction
Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Matthew Schloneger
Classroom Location:	MUS 214
Office Location:	MUS 233
Office Hours:	Posted Outside of Office
Cell Phone:	316-772-0726
University E-mail:	Matthew.schloneger@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 Textbooks

English Lyric Diction Workbook, Rev. 3rd Edition, by Cheri Montgomery
The Singers Manual of English Diction by Madeline Marshall

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, 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 (20 @ 12 pts each):	240 points
• Class Presentation*	50 points
• Transcription 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

* Each student will pick a chapter from Madeline Marshall's *The Singers Manual of English Diction* and will prepare to 10-minute presentation with visual aids to present to the class

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 East Texas A&M University 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. 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Course Calendar

Note: EDLW = English Lyric Diction Workbook
 SMED = The Singer's Manual of English Lyric Diction

Due Date	Chapters/Units Covered	Assignment Due	Quizzes/Exams/ Performances
Jan 14	Syllabus; Unit 1 IPA Review	Purchase your textbooks and bring them to class	
Jan 16	ELDW Unit 2: <i>r</i> ; SMED ch.1-8 pp. 1-30 & ch.19 pp. 95-97	ELDW Unit 1, pp 7-8	Articulatory Phonetics Review Quiz
Jan 21	ELDW Unit 3: Fricatives and affricates; SMLD ch. 18 pp. 80-86 & ch 23-26 pp. 107-119	ELDW Unit 2, 12-16	
Jan 23	ELDW Unit 4: Front vowels & consonants, SMLD ch. 4 pp. 32-39 Review: page 28	Study for quiz, ELDW Unit 3, pp 21-25	Transcription quiz Units 1-3
Jan 28	ELDW Unit 3 & 4: Transcription within the phrase; SMLD ch. 14 pp. 64-67 & ch. 20 pp. 98-100	ELDW p. 58	
Jan 30	NO CLASS – Study Day & Song Transcriptoin 1	Submit Song Transcription 1 on D2L	Song Transcription 1
Feb 4	Performance Class with Dr. Scaggs	ELDW Unit 3 &4 Phrasal transcriptions general and with [ŋ]: Submit on D2L	Performance Class
Feb 6	ELDW Unit 5: Back vowels; SMEP Appendix 1, pp. 196-197	ELDW Unit 4, pp 33-40, 28	

Feb 11	ELDW Unit 5: [j][w][ɹ]; SMLD ch. 7 pp. 27-28, ch. 22 101-102	ELDW Unit 5, pages 47-54	
Feb 13	ELDW Unit 6: Central vowels; SMEP ch. 40-44 pp. 146-162	2 nd column ELDW Unit 5, pages 47-54	Transcription Quiz Units 4-5
Feb 18	NO CLASS -TMEA		
Feb 20	ELDW Unit 7: Unsressed syllables and lip consonants; SMED ch. 10-11 pp. 40-47	ELDW Unit 6, pages 63-70	
Feb 25	[m], [n] & [l] within the phrase; ELDW Units 5&6; SMLD ch. 13 &15 pp. 56-63 & 68-73	ELDW Unit 7 pp. 72-79	
Feb 27	ELDW Unit 8: Diphthongs, k & g; SMED ch. 16 pp. 74-79	Study for quiz, ELDW p. 87	Transcription quiz Units 6--7
Mar 4	Review for Midterm	ELDW Unit 8, pages 92-99	Performance Class
Mar 6	Midterm	Study for Midterm	Midterm Exam
Mar 10-15		SPRING BREAK	
Mar 18	Latin & Italian Review		
Mar 20	Italian Review	Latin & Italian Review Assignment	Latin & Italian Quiz
Mar 25	Overview of English Dialects		Performance Class
Mar 27	[f] & [v]: ELDW Unit 7 & 8; SMED ch. 12 pp. 48-55	TBD Dialects Assignment	Performance Class
April 1	Diphthongs & Triphthongs: ELDW Unit 9; SMED ch. 45-47 pp. 165-184	ELDW Unit 7 & 8 Phrasal transcriptions of [f] & [v]	Performance Class
April 3	[w] in the phrase & [h] : SMED ch. 21-22 pp. 103-104	ELDW Unit 9, pages 107-114	Transcription Quiz Units 8-10; Performance Class
April 8	When to sing[æ] and [ɑ]: ELDW Unit 10; SMLD ch. 44 pp. 163-164 & ch. 48 pp.185-191, Appendix 2	ELDW Unit 9 Phrasal transcriptions of [w]	Performance Class

April 10	Final b, d & g: ELDW Unit 10; SMED ch.17 pp. 80-86	ELDW Unit 10 Spelling, pp 120-127	English Art Song Performance Class
April 15	SMED ch. 27-28, pp. 120-121 Review, Performance Class	Study for quiz	Transcription quiz, Performance Class
April 17	Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM) Diction	ELDW Unit 10 IPA, pp 120-127 (upload to D2L)	
April 22	CCM Diction Performance Class	CCM Song Transcription	CCM Performance Class; CCM Transcription Due
April 24	Review for final	Homework review	Performance Class
April 29	Final Singing Exam	Perform 1 English Song in Class	English Singing Exam
May 1	Final Written Exam	Study for final	English Exam