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Fall 2021

MUS 237-006: English and Italian Diction syllabus

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University of Northern Colorado
Department of Music
Course Syllabus, Fall 2021

MUS 237-006: English and Italian Diction

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Office Location: Guggenheim 207

Class Location: Frasier 249
Class Day and Time: T/R 2-2:50 PM
Credit Hours: 1.00
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description/Purpose

This course is designed to develop pronunciation skills for speaking and singing in English and Italian, particularly through use of the International Phonetic Alphabet and the rules of grammar that affect pronunciation for poetry and song literature text. Special attention will be paid to physiological processes of articulation.

This course will be utilizing Canvas and in person resources. Please check your Canvas and your BearMail regularly.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Correctly identify the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet in written and aural form.
- Prepare song texts using word-for-word and poetic translations alongside IPA transcriptions.
- Develop creative skills for understanding and correcting diction in the choral or solo setting.

Required Course Materials

This class is coded as an OER (Open Educational Resource) course and therefore, there is NO required textbook for this class. Dr. Brewer has kindly put together a diction guide that we will be using, and I will provide supplemental worksheets and assignments.

Suggested Materials/Resources (not required):

- Joan Wall. *International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers*.
 - ISBN 1877761508
 - A copy is located in Skinner Library
- Kenyon and Knott. *A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English*.
 - ISBN 9780877790471
 - A copy is located in Michener Library
- IPA Source

- This is an internet resource for phonetic transcriptions and translations of songs and arias found through the “Music Research Resources” tab on the UNCO music library website (unco.edu/library/music).
- Montgomery, Cheri. *English Lyric Diction Workbook*.
 - ISBN 173386315X
- Montgomery, Cheri. *Italian Lyric Diction Workbook*.
 - ISBN 0981882986

Course Requirements:

Assessment:

1. Homework Assignments and Quizzes 40%
 Homework assignments are based on readings and worksheets. You can find them under “Assignments” on Canvas (HINT: download all homework assignments under “Files” in Canvas) and I will have some extra copies available during class. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. We will check and correct each homework live during class. *Late worksheets/tests will not be accepted.* The lowest homework assignment grade will be dropped. Quizzes will also count toward this category, but no quiz grades will be dropped.
2. Midterm and Final Exams 20%
 You will have a midterm exam on English Diction and a final exam on Italian diction. No tests grades will be dropped.
3. Attendance/Participation 10%
 Daily attendance and participation during class is expected since Diction is best learned through practice. Each student may miss 2 classes, no questions asked, without penalty to their grade. Remember, your homework is still due even if you miss class. If you must miss more than 2 classes for legitimate reasons, please communicate with me. *If any student misses more than 2 lectures, they will be penalized 5 points off their final grade for each additional class missed.*
4. Song Projects 20%
 You will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge to your own repertoire by choosing one English or American art song or aria and one Italian art song or aria. You will list your top two song choices for each language during the second week of classes- if there are any overlapping choices, I will choose your song from your choices. I recommend you discuss your semester repertoire with your studio teacher and choose a song you can use for both classes.
 You will submit a copy of the lyrics and your IPA transcription written beneath each line of text a week before you sing. I will correct your transcriptions and return them to you. You will transcribe a new, corrected copy and bring 10 photocopies of it with you to class on the day you perform.

On the day you perform, you will recite the text, keeping appropriate phrasing in mind, and then you will sing (with recorded accompaniment). The class will give feedback. This piece does NOT need to be memorized.

Song Project Rubric		
Criteria	Description	Rating
List top 2 song choices	On time in class	10 points
IPA transcription	On time, correct IPA	40 points
Corrected IPA transcription	On time in class, copied provided	20 points
IPA to Partner	On time, day before class	10 points
Performance	Preparedness	20 points
		Total: 100 points

5. Coaching Projects 10%

You will have the opportunity to apply your knowledge in a coaching scenario during the Song Projects. You will be assigned a partner and you will study their IPA sheet the day before class.

During class, your partner will sing their selection and you will try to discern areas of opportunity for correcting their diction and provide solutions based on what you've learned in class.

Coaching Project Rubric		
Criteria	Description	Rating
Understanding of IPA	Correct modeling and suggestions	40 points
Coaching	2+ suggestions	60 points
		Total: 100 points

Grading Scale:

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	64-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Course Schedule

DATE		CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
Wk. 1	8/24	Syllabus, IPA Overview, Diction Terms, Points of Articulation English Sounds	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Diction Handbook Pg. 1-5 • Look at Consonant Chart
	8/26	Syllabus Quiz Topic: Consonant Classification	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 1 • Look at Vowel Chart
Wk. 2	8/31	DUE: Song Project Choices DUE: Worksheet 1 Topic: Vowel Classification	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Diction Handbook Pg. 5-9 • Worksheet 2
	9/2	DUE: Worksheet 2 Topic: Diphthongs, Triphthongs, Glides, Schwa	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 3 • Read Diction Handbook Pg. 9-11
Wk. 3	9/7	NO CLASS Come to my recital! 5:30 PM, Milne Recital Hall	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 3
	9/9	DUE: Worksheet 3 Topic: Practice IPA	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Quiz
Wk. 4	9/14	SUBSTITUTE TEACHER: CONNER WILLIAMS Diction Quiz Topic: Alternate Accents (Ex: Mississippi vs. British)	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NONE! Be ready to sing!
	9/16	Topic: Syllabification, Linkage, and Phrasing Quiz Recap	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet 4
Wk. 5	9/21	DUE: Worksheet 4 Topic: Listening and Coaching Diction Singer 1: Singer 2:	
	9/23	Singer 3: Singer 4: Singer 5:	
Wk. 6	9/28	Singer 6: Singer 7:	

		Singer 8:	
	9/30	Singer 9: Singer 10: Singer 11:	
Wk. 7	10/5	Exam Review Games	STUDY for EXAM
	10/7	English Diction EXAM	
Wk. 8	10/12	BEGIN ITALIAN Topic: Sounding Italian, Pure vowels	Homework: • Diction Reading TBD
	10/14	Topic: Rules for Open and Closed o and e.	Homework: • Worksheet 5 • Diction Reading TBD
Wk. 9	10/19	DUE: Worksheet 5 Topic: Dental Consonants, Doubles, and Rules for r	Homework: • Diction Reading TBD
	10/21	Topic: gli, and -gn, hardening and softening of c and g.	Homework: • Worksheet 6
Wk. 10	10/26	DUE: Worksheet 6 Topic: IPA Practice	Homework: • Study for Quiz
	10/28	Diction Quiz Topic: Diphthongs- Rising, Falling, Phrasal	Homework: • Diction Reading TBD
Wk. 11	11/2	Topic: Apocoptation, Phrasal Doubling Singer 1: Singer 2:	
	11/4	Topic: Frequently Occurring Words Practice Singer 3: Singer 4:	Homework: • Worksheet 7
Wk. 12	11/9	DUE: Worksheet 7 Topic: IPA Practice Singer 5: Singer 6:	
	11/11	Diction Quiz Singer 7: Singer 8:	
Wk. 13	11/16	Singer 9: Singer 10: Singer 11:	

	11/18	Topic: Wrap Up and Odds and Ends	Complete Study Guide
Wk. 14	11/23	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving	
	11/25	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving	
Wk. 15	11/30	Topic: IPA Review	
	12/2	Topic: IPA Review	
	12/9 (Thurs.)	Final Exam 10:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Final Exam!

Important Dates:

September 6: Labor Day, NO CLASSES

September 7: NO CLASS (Come to my recital at 5:30pm!)

October 7: Midterm Exam (English Diction)

November 23: NO CLASS (Complete your exam study guide)

November 24-28: Thanksgiving, NO CLASSES

December 9: 10:15am – 1:45 pm, Final Exam NOT cumulative (Italian Diction)

COVID-19

Due to the current global pandemic, the fall 2020 semester will be unlike any other that the University has experienced. The safety and well-being of our Community of Bears requires each of us to be prepared to do our part to protect the health of our entire campus community, as well as our friends, families, and neighbors.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a complex, challenging, and fluid situation, which continues to evolve. Therefore, students should review frequently the Return to Campus website: <https://www.unco.edu/return-to-campus/> for updated information. UNC will follow applicable legal requirements and federal, state, and county public health recommendations and mandates in all decisions related to university operations.

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, students, faculty and staff are expected to follow university requirements about wearing face coverings when on campus, including in the classroom. Additionally, members of the university community are expected to follow physical or social distancing requirements by keeping at least 6 feet from others, covering their coughs, and practicing good hand hygiene.

Persons who fail to adhere to these requirements will be reminded of them so that they can address and correct their noncompliance. Thereafter, persons who fail to correct their behavior will be asked to leave the classroom (until such time as they comply with UNC’s requirements) and may be referred to the Dean of Students Office or Human Resources.

It is important that all members of the university community work together to do all we can to keep our community safe.

Disability Resources

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to students' inclusion or to accurate assessments of students' achievements (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), students should please communicate about these aspects with their instructor(s) professor and contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) to request accommodations.

Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80.

Students can learn more here: www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center

Title IX

The University of Northern Colorado is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Students who have experienced (or who know someone who has experienced) any of these incidents should know that they are not alone. UNC has staff members trained to support students to navigate campus life, to access health and counseling services, to provide academic and housing accommodations, to help with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware all UNC instructors and most staff members are required to report their awareness of sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). This means that if students tell an instructor about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, the instructor must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator, Larry Loften. Larry or a trained staff member in OIEC will contact the reporting students to let them know about accommodations and support services at UNC as well as their options to pursue a process to hold accountable the person who caused the harm to them. Students who have experienced these situations are not required to speak with OIEC staff regarding the incident. Students' participation in OIEC processes are entirely voluntary.

If students do not want the Title IX Coordinator notified, instead of disclosing this information to the instructor, students can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore options now, or in the future.

UNC's Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (ASAP): 24 Hr. Hotline 970-351-4040 or <http://www.unco.edu/asap>

UNC Counseling Center: 970-351-2496 or <http://www.unco.edu/counseling>

UNC Psychological Services: 970-351-1645 or http://www.unco.edu/cebs/psych_clinic

Students who are survivors, who are concerned about someone who is a survivor, or who would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, can visit www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct. Students may also contact OIEC at 970-351-4899 or email titleix@unco.edu.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the Dean of Students Office. More information about the academic misconduct process can be found in UNC's Student Code of Conduct (BEAR Code).

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Each instructor determines the relationship between class attendance, the objectives of the class, and students' grades. Instructors are responsible for articulating their attendance policies and their effect on grades to students. Students are responsible for knowing the attendance policy of each course. Only the instructor can approve students' absences. Students are responsible for requesting such approval. In an effort to create inclusive learning environments, this instructor should not require doctors' notes to determine whether or not to excuse an absence.

Equity and Inclusion

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff. UNC honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. People of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, sizes and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness of others' individual and intersecting identities. For information or resources, contact Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Tobias Guzman, at 970-351-1944. If students want to report an incident related to identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance.

Food Insecurity and Basic Needs

Research shows that college students experience food insecurity at higher rates than the American household rate, and that food insecurity can negatively impact academic performance and persistence. In recognition of this problem, UNC offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please visit www.unco.edu/bear-pantry for more information.

Students who face challenges securing their food or housing and believe this may affect their performance in this course are also urged to contact Student Outreach and Support (SOS), which is part of the Dean of Students Office. SOS can assist students during difficult circumstances, which may include medical, mental health, personal or family crisis, illness or injury. The Dean of Students Office/SOS can be reached at dos@unco.edu or via phone at 970-351-2001.

Land Acknowledgment

The University of Northern Colorado occupies the lands in the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho peoples. The University acknowledges the 48 tribes that are historically tied to the state of Colorado. Thus, the land on which UNC is situated is tied to the history and culture of our native and indigenous peoples. UNC appreciates this connection and has great respect for this land. Additionally, the University community pays its respect to Elders past, present, and future, and to those who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.

As part of the learning and reflection process please visit <https://native-land.ca/> or call the Office of Equity & Inclusion at 970-351-1944.

Disclaimer

All content contained within this syllabus is subject to change by the University or the instructor. All changes to the listed information will be communicated via E-mail.