

MUS 143-1001 Diction for Singers I

Credit Hours: 1

Required Materials:

- Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction for Singers: Italian, German, French, 2nd Ed.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- LaBouff, Kathryn. *Singing and Communicating in English: A Singer's Guide to English Diction.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- *Collins Italian Dictionary: Fully Revised and Updated—American English Usage.* New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2007.

Course Description: This class will aid the student in developing their skills in English and Italian lyric diction. Students will hone these skills through the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), recitation, translation, and performance.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- perform vocal works in English and Italian where the articulation and meaning of the words are clearly understood by the audience.
- establish a foundation of good diction through the practice and use of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- cultivate the performer through recitation of lyrical poems in English and Italian.
- cultivate more advanced musicianship skills through song preparation and performance, particularly the use of song translations.
- develop the vocabulary and tools necessary to be articulate about one's voice and others' voices in a clear, concise, and collegial manner.

Course Requirements

Attendance:

Regular attendance is a must. Please make every effort to arrive promptly, alert, and prepared for class. Please do not come into the classroom late, it is disruptive to me and your colleagues. For every two unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered 10 percentage points (10%). For every unexcused absence the student will also forfeit any credit for assignments, quizzes, or exams due during the class missed. Late work for unexcused absences will not be accepted.

If you must miss, arrive late, or leave class early, please notify me at least 24 hours in advance via email (hochman@unlv.nevada.edu), by phone (201-556-8739), or in person; I will send you an email confirming the receipt of your request. I understand the previous does not cover all cases. I will be willing to reasonably accommodate extenuating circumstances (i.e.: family emergencies, sudden illness) that are documented and brought to my attention within 72 hours (3 days). Late work that is a result of an excused absence will be due the following class.

Dress:

For Midterm and Final Performances, it is required to dress at least in business casual. Men: (Khaki/Dress pants, button down dress shirt) Women: (dress, blouse/slacks, or blouse/skirt). This will be incorporated as 10% of your performance grade.

Recital Attendance and Review:

Each student is to attend two (2) voice recitals and/or opera productions this semester. As part of learning how to articulate about another performer's diction, each student is to write a review of the performance within the context of the topics discussed in this class. Please bear in mind that this is not an opportunity to criticize others, but to make fair, reasoned observations. An addendum of guidelines will be handed out to the class.

Recital Reviews should be approximately 1.5-2 pages, 12pt (Times New Roman or Arial), double-spaced, 1in. margins. Any citations should be made using the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition. Reviews may be submitted in the following mediums: 1) Printed; 2) Submitted electronically via email in the following formats: .doc; .docx; .odt; .pdf. (hochman@unlv.nevada.edu).

Each review is to include the recital program and/or the ticket stub for the performance. If neither is attached--or scanned--the maximum credit the review will receive is 50%. Both reviews must be of UNLV voice recitals and/or opera productions. A list of approved recitals may be obtained at music.unlv.edu/events.html. Colloquium and repertory class performances will not be accepted.

The first review is due no later than the midterm examination date; the second review is due no later than the final examination date.

It is strongly encouraged to attend as many recitals as possible, regardless of requirements. Please, go and support your colleagues!

Assignments:

The majority of assignments will be listed on the course calendar. There will likely be more assignments, preparation of poems, translations, etc., throughout the semester. These will be announced in class or through email. Only assignments that are designated to be handed in will be graded. However, it is strongly recommended that students complete all of the assigned work.

Quizzes

There will be numerous short quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will only cover material that has been previously assigned and discussed in class. Remaining current with the assignments, readings, and class attendance will be your best asset when preparing for these quizzes.

Midterm

The midterm will consist of two parts: 1) A midterm written exam consisting of all material covered prior to the exam date; 2) In class performance of an Italian art song mutually agreed upon between you and your voice instructor. A form will be handed out to document this, and will require the signatures of your voice instructor and yourself; any student who does not turn in the form and a clean copy of their selection by assigned due date will receive a grade of zero (0) for their midterm performance.

Final:

The final will consist of two parts: 1) A final written exam representative of the material covered between the midterm and final exam dates; 2) In class performance of an American or English art song

mutually agreed upon between you and your voice instructor. A form will be handed out to document this, and will require the signatures of your voice instructor and yourself; any student who does not turn in the form and a clean copy of their selection by assigned due date will receive a grade of zero (0) for their final performance. The written portion of the exam will be held during finals week (TBD).

Failure to complete either portion of the final will result in a failing grade for the class.

Grading**

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below
- **UNLV's plus and minus system is used

within this grading scale

Grade distribution

- Recital Review Papers (2): 10%
- Assignments: 10%
- Quizzes: 25%
- Midterm Exam: 25%
- Final: 30%

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. An addendum will be provided as necessary.

Course Calendar

Tuesday, August 30	Introduction
Thursday, September 1	(Introduction) Adams, through p.5 See also Chapter 1, through p.10 LaBouff
Tuesday, September 6	through p. 6--13 Adams
Thursday, September 8	through p 21: It. Vowel length
Tuesday, September 13	Quiz: Italian vowels (IPA)
Thursday, September 15	pp. 21-32: IPA consonants--corresponding sounds and consonant combinations
Tuesday, September 20	pp. 32-41: double consonants, glides
Thursday, September 22	bottom p. 41--46: articulation
Tuesday, September 27	Quiz: Italian consonants (IPA) in lyric diction
Thursday, September 29	pp. 46-57: vowel distribution in phrasing
Tuesday October 4	pp. 57-66: sample texts
Thursday, October 6	IPA Presentations
Tuesday, October 11	Italian Song Performances
Thursday, October 13	Summary and Review
Tuesday, October 18	Midterm: Italian; Recital Review I due
Thursday, October 20	English--begin, Singing and Communicating in English: Chapters 1 & 2 (through p. 29)
Tuesday, October 25	Chapter 3, Intro. To Vowels (through p. 41)
Thursday, October 27	Chapters 4-6, vowels p. 43-78
Tuesday, November 1	Chapters 7&8 diphthongs, glides (pp. 79-111)
Thursday, November 3	Workshop: Bring in English lyrics
Tuesday, November 8	Quiz: English vowels (IPA) Chapter 9, Intro. To Consonants (pp.113-118)
Thursday, November 10	Chapter 10, plosives (pp.119-139)
Tuesday, November 15	chapter 11, fricatives, expressive doublings (pp148-166)
Thursday, November 17	Chapter 12, nasal consonants + [l], (pp.167-183)
Tuesday, November 22	Chapter 13, Legato (pp.185-205)
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Recess
Tuesday, November 29	Quiz: English consonants (IPA)
Thursday, December 1	IPA Presentations
Tuesday, December 6	English Song Performances
Thursday, December 8	Summary & Review
December 12-17, Finals Week	Final Exam; Recital Review II due

Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Library Resources

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Any other class specific information—(e.g., absences, make-up exams, status reporting, extra credit policies, plagiarism/cheating consequences, policy on electronic devices, specialized department or college tutoring programs, bringing children to class, policy on recording classroom lectures, etc.)