

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: MUSCP 18

Title: DICTION FOR SINGERS

Full Title: Diction for Singers

Last Reviewed: 10/6/2008

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	1.00	Lecture Scheduled	1.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	17.50
Minimum	1.00	Lab Scheduled	1.00	17.5	Lab Scheduled	17.50
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	2.00		Contact Total	35.00
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 35.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 70.00

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade Only

Repeatability: 34 - 4 Enrollments Total

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**  
Study of the literal translation, pronunciation, and interpretation of standard operatic and art song literature in Italian, English, German, and French.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:**  
Concurrent Enrollment in MUSCP 17B or MUSCP 40.2

**Recommended Preparation:**  
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

**Limits on Enrollment:**

**Schedule of Classes Information:**  
Description: Study of the literal translation, pronunciation, and interpretation of standard operatic and art song literature in Italian, English, German, and French. (Grade Only)  
Prerequisites/Corequisites: Concurrent Enrollment in MUSCP 17B or MUSCP 40.2  
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100  
Limits on Enrollment:  
Transfer Credit:  
Repeatability: 4 Enrollments Total

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>CSU GE:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>	<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>CSU Transfer:</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
<b>UC Transfer:</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Outcomes and Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Perform art song and operatic literature with correct singing pronunciation.
2. Use vocal techniques and musical interpretations appropriate to the style.
3. Research and explain the literal meaning of song and aria texts within their historical and cultural context.
4. Produce appropriate phonetic translations for the articulation of song and aria texts according to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Repeating students will focus on a different language each semester:

1. First semester: Italian
2. Second semester: English
3. Third semester: German
4. Fourth Semester: French

### **Topics and Scope:**

- I. Introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet
  - A. Symbols for vowels
  - B. Symbols for consonants - voiced and unvoiced
- II. Pronunciation Rules and Guides for Individual Languages and Dialects
  - A. Italian
  - B. English
  - C. German
  - D. French
- III. Practical Applications
  - A. Deciphering texts
    1. Translations from reference sources
    2. Using the dictionary
  - B. Pronunciation vs. good vocal technique
    1. Vowels and consonants in relation to tessitura
    2. Pronunciation modifications for different applications
    3. Variations with respect to the student's own native language orientation

4. Facial postures
- C. Literature and repertoire
  1. Music of the Bel Canto era and into the present
  2. The development of opera
  3. The art song and its history in Western music
- IV. Analysis and Evaluation of Recorded and Live Performances of Vocal Repertoire
  - A. Professional recordings by various artists
  - B. Internet research
  - C. Live concerts
- V. The Artist's Process
  - A. Literature selection
  - B. Preparing the text
  - C. Researching the historical context
  - D. The role of the coach and accompanist
  - E. Procedure and practice - stylistic and technical considerations
  - F. Stage deportment and traditions
- VI. Repeating students will focus on a different language each semester:
  - A. First semester: Italian
  - B. Second semester: English
  - C. Third semester: German
  - D. Fourth Semester: French

### Assignment:

1. Reading assignments in the text by chapter (10-20 pages/week).
2. Pronunciation practice of International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols and specific language sounds for Italian, English, German, and French.
3. Library research on the literal, poetic, and phonetic translations of the text.
4. Written work showing the correct IPA pronunciation symbols in relation to the language of the text.
5. Attendance at live concerts and recitals by vocal performers, including operatic performances.
6. In class performance of 2-4 arias and/or art songs to demonstrate the application of proper linguistic pronunciation skills.
7. Two to three exams (multiple choice or completion) on phonetic symbols and vocal music terminology.

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

English translations of song texts
------------------------------------

Writing 0 - 10%
--------------------

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Phonetic translations
-----------------------

Problem solving 10 - 20%
-----------------------------

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances and recitals

Skill Demonstrations  
60 - 75%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Exams (completion, multiple choice)

Exams  
5 - 20%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and class participation

Other Category  
10 - 15%

### **Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Italian Diction:

Gateway to Italian Diction. Patton, John Glenn. Alfred Publishing, 2004.

Gateway to Italian Art Songs. Patton, John Glenn. Alfred Publishing, 2004.

English Diction:

Singing and Communicating in English: A Singer's Guide to English Diction. Kathryn LaBouff. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Art Song in English. Kimball, Carol. Boosey and Hawkes, 2007.

German Diction:

Gateway to German Diction. Patton, John Glenn. Alfred Publishing, 2004.

Gateway to German Art Songs. Patton, John Glenn. Alfred Publishing, 2004.

French Diction:

Sing French: Diction for Singers. Davis, Eileen. Eclair Press, 2003.

The French Song Anthology. Walters, Richard and Carol Kimball. Hal Leonard, 2001.