

**SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Title: Singer's Diction I

MU123

New: Fall 2012

I. Catalog Description and Credit Hours of Course:

Introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet and development of correct English and Italian pronunciation for singing. One (1) credit hour.

II. Co-requisite:

Enrollment in MP101/102 Applied Voice, or instructor permission.

III. Purpose or Objectives of the Course:

The student will learn to sing with proficiency in English and Italian. Toward that end, the student will learn: 1) to identify and pronounce the sounds of these languages; 2) to use International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols in transcribing texts in these languages; 3) to be capable of rudimentary translations in Italian.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. The student will identify and pronounce the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet as used in singing in English and Italian.
- B. The student will phonetically transcribe and perform a song in English.
- C. The student will phonetically transcribe and perform a song in Italian.

V. Expectations of Students:

- A. The student is expected to attend all class sessions and respond when called upon by the instructor in class.
- B. Students will be expected to complete work sheets, listening assignments, pronunciation exercises, and computer assisted instruction (as available) inside and outside of the classroom.
- C. Study of word for word translations will also be included.
- D. Students must earn a composite passing grade on written quizzes and exams and performance exams. The student is required to perform songs from the English and Italian languages in class and to transcribe words, phrases, and song texts into IPA symbols for these languages. Study of word-for-word translations will also be included. The exam for each language will include both written and sung components.

VI. Course Outline (two 50-minute class meetings per week):

- A. Unit I: The International Phonetic Alphabet, English Diction 14 hours
 - 1. Definition of lyric diction
 - 2. Learning the IPA
 - 3. Singing with the aid of the IPA
 - 4. Characteristics of sung English

5. Using the IPA as an aid to English Diction
6. Practical application (exam, performance)

- B. Unit II: Italian Diction 16 hours
1. Translation skills and sources
 2. Characteristics of Italian
 3. Italian vowels
 4. Italian consonants
 5. Similarities/differences between Italian and ecclesiastical Latin
 6. Practical application (exam, performance)

VII. Required Textbooks and Other Materials (available in the University Bookstore):

Wall, Joan, and Caldwell, Robert. *Diction for Singers: A concise reference for English, Italian, Latin, German, French, and Spanish pronunciation*, 2nd ed. Redmond, WA: Diction for Singers.com/Celumbra, 2009. (Rental.)

Melzi, Robert C. *The Bantam New College Italian & English Dictionary*. New York: Bantam Books, 1984. (Purchase.)

In addition, you will be responsible for having available music suitable to your voice type. Your applied teacher will be able to assist you with this.

VIII. Basis of Student Evaluation:

- A. Participation (20%) – regular attendance and participation are critical for success in this class. This may also include participation in an online forum (bulletin board).
- B. Assignments (20%) – worksheets, listening assignments, etc.
- C. Quizzes (20%) – 3-4 quizzes prior to the unit exam.
- D. Tests (40%)
 1. Written exams (20%) – one for English and one for Italian.
 2. Performance tests (20%) – transcription for English song performance, and transcription/rough translation for Italian song performance; performances of English and Italian songs.

MoStep Standards: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 5.2, and 6.3

Conceptual Framework Standards: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 6.1, and 6.2