

MUS 207: Vocal Diction

Block 2

Dr. Lisa Hearne

Office: Armstrong 248; Office telephone: 319-895-4221

Office hours as posted

Classroom: Armstrong 144

Objectives: To gain a fundamental understanding of the use of IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) symbols; to gain a fundamental understanding of the rules of English, French, Italian and German singing diction; to be able to make a correct application in discerning the phonetics in these languages and to demonstrate them in singing.

Required Materials: *Diction for Singers*, Joan Wall & Robert Caldwell
International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers, Joan Wall
(available in campus bookstore)

Since we will only be able to touch on the rudiments of vocal diction, you will find these to be valuable resource materials to which you can refer in the future.

Class times: Monday through Friday 1 - 3 p.m.

Procedures: This is listed as a ½ credit course, and although I limit our course meetings to the appropriate time ratio, it will be a rather intense class. This is a daunting amount of material to be absorbed in such a short time, so you will need to ensure regular class attendance. Diction is a very practical study. There will be daily drill in class and daily written assignments. There will also be singing assignments for which you will practice in class and outside on your own. Joyce Strabala is the class accompanist and will be available to practice with you.

Grading:	50%	Daily grades will be taken on the following: class participation and performance; in-class written work; in-class whiteboard work; homework assignments; quizzes.
	30%	There will an exam on IPA and final exams in each language, for a total of four exams. Due to the compressed time frame of the block, you may refer to class notes during the tests for Italian, German, and French.
	20%	Each student will also perform singing exams in each language. The songs will be fairly short, and each student will learn the same song for each exam. The English, Italian, French, and German songs will be presented on the last day of class.

Academic Honesty and Students with Disabilities

(a) Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Compass, our student handbook, under the heading "Academic Policies – Honesty in Academic Work."

(b) Students who need accommodations for learning disabilities must provide documentation from a professional qualified to diagnose learning disabilities. For more information see cornellcollege.edu/disabilities/documentation/index.shtml Students requesting services may schedule a meeting with the disabilities services coordinator as early as possible to discuss their needs and develop an individualized accommodation plan. Ideally, this meeting would take place well before the start of classes. At the beginning of each course, the student must notify the instructor within the first three days of the term of any accommodations needed for the duration of the course.

MUS 207 Vocal Diction supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College through the application of the following objectives:

- 1) Knowledge and Reasoning: acquire knowledge of concepts and apply problem-solving techniques to achieve assignment and course goals
- 2) Communication and Intercultural Literacy: acquire the tools employed by performers and educators that form the basis for the development of singing language skills common to musicians all around the world.
- 3) Citizenship and Vocation: acquire skills that prepare students for collaboration with fellow professionals and colleagues in the field of music, and more specifically, provide the foundation for development of singing diction expertise in the area of vocal music.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class is 1 – 3 p.m. daily in Armstrong 144

(Diction for Singers=DS; International Phonetic Alphabetic for Singers=IPAS)

WEEK ONE

Monday, Sept. 24

Introduction to IPA
Vowels: Drill sounds, practice symbols
Diphthongs, triphthongs
Dictation practice on vowels
In-class exercises IPAS, vowels
Consonants, discussion, production, classification
Assignment for tomorrow: Read IPAS ch. 1-7
Written assignment: handouts

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Vowel quiz
Consonant drills, dictation practice
In-class exercises, IPAS ch. 1-7
Reading Assignment: IPAS ch. 8-14
Written assignment: handouts

Wednesday, Sept. 26

IPA quiz
In class work: IPAS ch. 1-7 drills as designated
Dictation practice, IPA vowels and consonants
In-class ch. 8-14 spoken drills
In class work: Write English diction song in IPA
Lyric English diction: Rules & Practices
Review for IPA final
Reading Assignment: DS pp. 1-49
Written Assignment: IPAS worksheets ch. 1-7
Assignment: handouts

Thursday, Sept. 27

IPA final exam
Practice singing English diction song as a class
Introduction to Italian diction
Assignment: DS Read pp. 51-124
Assignment: handouts

Friday, Sept. 28

Italian vowels and consonants, IPA
Singing practice
Written Assignment: IPAS worksheets ch. 8-14, handouts

WEEK TWO

Monday, Oct. 1

Write IPA for assigned Italian aria
Italian quiz, grade in class
Italian drill, blackboard, worksheets
Assignment: handouts

Tuesday, Oct. 2

Italian diction drills
Practice singing Italian aria
Review for Italian final exam
Assignment: Workbook exercises

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Italian final exam
Introduce French song
Introduction to French vowels, rules
Assignment: Read DS pp. 229-304; handouts

Thursday, Oct. 4

9:30 a.m. class meeting

French consonant diction, IPA
In class spoken drill, blackboard work, IPA
Practice English & Italian songs
Assignment: handouts

Friday, Oct. 5

Write IPA for assigned French song
Pronunciation and written drills
In class singing practice

WEEK THREE

Monday, Oct. 8

French quiz, grade in class
Pronunciation drills, written drills
In class singing practice
Assignment: handouts

Tuesday, Oct. 9

French quiz
In class singing practice
Drills & Review for French exam

Wednesday, Oct. 10

French final exam
Assignment: Read DS pp. 161-228
Handouts on German vowels

Thursday, Oct. 11

Introduction to German diction
Introduce German song
Write IPA for assigned German song
Written: IPAS ch. 15
Assignments: handouts

Friday, Oct. 12

Board drill, practice, speaking
In class singing practice
Board drills, practice
Assignments: handouts

WEEK FOUR

Monday, Oct. 15

Review for German final
German quiz, grade in class
Singing practice
Review all four songs for final singing exam
Assignments: handouts

Tuesday, Oct. 16

9:30 a.m. Check handouts in class
Board drill, practice
German final exam

1 p.m. **Singing final**

Wednesday, Oct. 17

No class unless needed to complete finals

