

Singer's Diction/German
MUS 2231
Spring 2025

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Student/Office Hours

Official student/office hours are posted on the door of Room 302. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone to arrange an alternate time and/or place to meet. The instructor is always happy to assist you in your learning.

Course Description and Objectives

German diction is a course for singers and choral conductors to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy, and expression with lyric texts in the German language. Students perform regularly in class and complete all quizzes, homework assignments, projects, and exercises. Grading criteria for the course are attendance, initiative, and progress.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a source, students learn to pronounce poetic texts in German with accuracy. Students become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of German poetry. This knowledge facilitates expressive interpretations of Lieder, operatic and oratorio repertoire in the German language. Class presentations demonstrate skill mastery.

Textbook and Materials

The textbook for the course is *Diction in Context: Singing in English, Italian, German and French*, by Brenda Smith (San Diego CA: Plural Publishing, 2019). Recommended for further study is *German for Singers*, 2nd edition by William Odom (New York, NY: Schirmer Books, 1997). A German-English dictionary using the IPA for its pronunciation guide is required.

Measurement Tools

Attendance, initiative, and progress are the main criteria for grading. The measurement tools for these criteria are as follows: a.) quizzes, in-class dictations, and homework assignments, b.) final exercise, c.) attendance and class participation, and d.) class presentations. Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. Dictations practice IPA and aural skills. The final exercise is

comprehensive in scope, demanding knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application to written and oral texts in German. Please note: **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Attendance and Class Participation

Because of the brevity of the course (9 weeks) and its importance to future success in the study of singing, prompt class attendance is mandatory. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Please text the instructor or a classmate to report the time of your anticipated arrival. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

THERE ARE NO DISCRETIONARY, UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.

Class Presentations

Because German diction is a performance class, the class presentations represent a large portion of the course grade. Each student presents German texts in spoken and sung form. The repertoire assignments given will be in consultation with the studio teacher. Program notes for the final presentation must include at least three (3) cited sources, only one of which may derive from an internet website. Please note: **TO RECEIVE CREDIT, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE MATERIALS FOR THE PRESENTATION ON TIME.** Our class collaborative pianist will assist you in preparing for your class presentation. Please arrange a rehearsal with them prior to the class performance. Students should perform on the assigned day if possible. In case of extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation. Each student will receive feedback from peers and the instructor.

Dates for Class Presentations

First Class Presentations (graded S/U): February 12 and 14, 2025.

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade): March 5 and 7, 2025.

Grading

Below please find the criteria for calculating the course grade, using the plus/minus scale:

Attendance*	10%
Participation*	10%
Quizzes	15%
Self-Reflections	20%
Final Exercise	20%
Class Presentations	25%
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	100%

***Attendance is an essential element for success in this course. Note: There are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent prompt attendance, please notify the instructor. Please provide documentation where appropriate. Given prior notice, accommodation is possible.**

***Participation involves engagement in class activities, such as quizzes, dictation practices and daily discussion.**

Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. Please feel free to consult with the instructor at any time regarding your status in the course.

Weekly Schedule

The assignments and due dates listed below are subject to change. Expect a weekly update (“This Week in German Diction”) on your ufl.edu email for guidance and confirmation regarding all class expectations and activities.

<p>January 13-17</p>	<p>Introduction, Development of the German Lied</p> <p>Nouns and Declensions and Auxiliary Verbs</p> <p>Ich and Ach- Lauts</p>	<p>Franz Schubert</p> <p>“An die Musik”</p> <p>Goethe and Schubert</p> <p>Schubert and Song Cycle</p>	<p>Parts of Speech and Elements of Grammar (pg. 164-175)</p> <p>Goethe and Romanticism (pg. 175-177)</p>
<p>January 20-24</p>	<p>(No Class 1/20); MLK Day)</p> <p>Auxiliary Verb Quiz (Fri., 1/19)</p> <p>Umlauts</p> <p>Past Tense Verbs</p>	<p>Heine and Rückert</p> <p>The Mendelssohns and Schumanns</p> <p>First Reflections Assignment</p>	<p>Heine (pg. 181- 189)/Rückert (pg. 189-195)</p> <p>Pg. 201 and pg. 203</p>
<p>January 27-31</p>	<p>Eichendorff (pg. 195-197)</p>	<p>Clara and Robert Schumann</p> <p>Women Composers in 19th c. Germany</p>	
<p>February 3-7</p>	<p>Preparation and Practice for First Presentations</p> <p>Dictation and Poetic Analysis</p>	<p>Johannes Brahms (pg. 205-208)</p>	<p>First Presentation Text/ IPA/Word- by-Word & Translation, Poetic Equivalent due on Friday, 2/7/25 in class</p>

February 10-14	First Presentations, 2/12 and 2/14/2025 Later 19 th C. Lied	Hugo Wolf and Mörike/Goethe/Eichendorff Second Reflections Assignment	Reading: Pg. 209-215
February 17-21	Wolf Song Cycles	Italienisches Liederbuch and Spanisches Liederbuch	Pg. 215-217
February 24-28	Orchestrated Songs Dictation Practice	Gustav Mahler (pg. 219-220) Richard Strauss (pg. 221-223)	Pg. 217-219 Discussion Questions on pg. 223 Final Presentation Materials due on Friday, 2/28/2025 in Class
March 3-7	German Language Trends and Review Final Presentations	Third Reflections Assignment Final Presentations 3/5 and 3/7/2025 in Class	Attendance is mandatory on all presentation days.
March 10-14		Final Dictation on Wednesday, 3/12/2025 Final Exercise on Friday, 3/14/2025	Prompt arrival for class on days of assessment is required.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu>)

by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies. Student Mental Health Services (245 Student Health Center, 392-1171).

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations.

