

SINGER'S DICTION
SPRING 2025
FRENCH
MUS 2221

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French Diction, MUS 2221 meets in Room 142 MUB beginning on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 5th period (11:45 am).

Student /OfficeHours

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

Singer's Diction is a course for singers and choral conductors, intended to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy and expression in foreign languages. French diction presumes an understanding of the International Phonetic Alphabet. Through poetic readings, culture study, musical performances, phonetic drills and grammar/vocabulary practice, students develop skill in presenting French texts set to music. Each student will be expected to attend class and complete all quizzes, homework, and dictations. A final presentation, exercise, and project are the capstone events of the course. Grading for the course is based upon attendance, initiative, and progress.

Student Learning Outcomes

Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a source, students will learn to pronounce poetic texts in French with accuracy. Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of French poetry. This knowledge will facilitate expressive interpretations of art song, operatic and oratorio repertoire in the French language. These skills will be evaluated in the final presentation, exercise, and project.

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). A recommended text is *Singing in French* by Thomas Grubb (New York, NY: Schirmer Books, 1979). Each student must own a French-English dictionary. *The Interpretation of French Song* by Pierre Bernac (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1970) is recommended. Supplementary material will be distributed regularly in class.

Measurement Tools

Attendance, initiative and progress are the main criteria for grading. The measurement tools for these criteria are: a.) quizzes, class activities and homework assignments, b.) final exercise and project c.) attendance and class participation, d.) class presentations. **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED.**

Quizzes, Class Activities and Final Exercise

Quizzes, class activities and homework assignments are intended to evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. Dictations develop fluency in the use of the IPA and fortify aural skills. The final exercise is comprehensive in scope, including a survey of pronunciation rules using the International Phonetic Alphabet as it applies to texts sung in French. The project draws upon class notes, assigned readings, and comparative listening. **ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME.** Under extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor and provide documentation.

Attendance and Class Participation

Because of the brevity of the course, regular class attendance is expected. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Please text the instructor or a classmate to report any situation that deters a prompt arrival. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> Discretionary, unexcused absences are unacceptable in this brief course. Be careful to deal with anticipated absence or lateness in the manner described above.

Class Presentations

Each student will be expected to present one French *mélodie* in spoken and sung form. The repertoire assignment will be given in consultation with your studio teacher. Presentations will be evaluated for the depth of preparation and the accuracy of diction. Please note: To receive full credit for any presentation, **THE MATERIALS FOR THE PRESENTATION MUST BE SUBMITTED ON TIME.** Students should perform on the assigned day. In case of extenuating circumstances, students must notify the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the day of the scheduled presentation. Please prepare your presentation with the course accompanist. Each student will receive feedback from peers and instructor.

Dates for Class Presentations

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade) are scheduled for April 16 and 18, 2025.

Grading

Using the plus/minus scale, the course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Attendance*	10%
Quizzes and Dictations	15%
Reflections Assignments	10%
Final Exercise	15%
Class Presentation	15%
Final Project	35%
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	100%

***Prompt Attendance is an essential element for success in this course. As stated above, there are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent your prompt attendance, please notify the instructor as indicated above. Given prior notice, accommodations can be made.**

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 by ufl.edu email for guidance and confirmation regarding all class expectations and activities.

March 24-28	The Sounds of French Nasal Vowels, Signals, and Symbols	Read “The Early French Art Song” pg. 241	Berlioz, Franck, and Gounod Pg. 241-250
March 31- April 4	Composers of the French Mélodie, Pg. 251	Saint-Saëns, Fauré Pg. 251-257	Introduction to the Life and Work of Paul Verlaine Pg. 257-262
April 7-11	Victor Hugo, Charles Baudelaire, and Theophile Gautier Pg. 262-269	Claude Debussy Pg. 267-269 Visual Art and Vocal Colors Individual Coachings with Dr. Smith	Chausson and Duparc Pg. 269-273 Text/IPA/Word-by- Word and Poetic Translations due in Class on Friday, April 11, 2025
April 14	Emmanuel Chabrier Pg. 273-276 Ravel, Poulenc, and Satie Pg. 278-285 Rehearsals with Nansi Carroll	Reynaldo Hahn Pg. 276-278	Comparative Settings of Fauré, Debussy, and Hahn
April 16 and 18	Class Presentations	Class Presentations	Attendance at class presentations is mandatory.
April 21 April 22	Final Dictation Final Exercise	Final Assessments	Prompt arrival at assessment events is recommended. In the case of late arrival, extra time is not guaranteed. Final Project Due
April 25	Final Project Due by 5 pm		

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/scsr/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.

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.

Student Mental Health Services (245 Student Health Center, 392-1171).

