**** College of Music - Vocal Studies

MUAG 1905 - English Diction for Singers

Dr. Daniel Bubeck, Instructor

OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment - Bain Hall 201

Email: daniel.bubeck@unt.edu

Fall - 2021 Class meetings: Monday & Wednesday – 11 AM to 11:50 AM – MU289

REQUIRED TEXT

1. Kathryn LaBouff. *Singing and Communicating in English*

**Course Description**

MUAG 1905 is introductory course for voice majors that is designed to acquaint the student with the basic symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet used in spoken and lyric diction, and the rules for pronunciation in the English language in classical vocal music.

**Course Objectives**

1. A basic understanding of IPA (the International Phonetic Alphabet) and techniques of enunciation, in singing in English: American Standard, the neutral pronunciation used for North American repertoire; Received Pronunciation, often used for repertoire by composers of the British Isles; and Mid-Atlantic (MA), a hybrid of North American and British diction.
2. The ability to transcribe English (Language) songs and aria texts using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
3. A basic knowledge of the function of articulators that make the sounds used in speech and singing.

**Upon completion of this course students should be able to:**

1. Employ the International Phonetic Alphabet as a valuable tool to aid diction choices, demonstrate proper pronunciation of all basic IPA symbols as well as transcribe the various sounds into IPA when heard.
2. Prepare vocal texts using rules for pronunciation, enunciation, and expression taught in *Singing and Communicating in English* by Kathryn LaBouff,
3. Speak and sing texts in English while maintaining clear, resonant vowels and steady breath flow,
4. Access resources such as IPA source, recordings, dictionaries, for pronunciation, meaning, and further research related to diction and expression.

**Grading Policy**

**A**: 90%+higher **B**: 80%+ higher **C**: 70%+ higher **D**: 60%+ higher **F**: Below 60%.

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| --- | --- |
| Grading Criteria | Percentage of Final Grade |
| Attendance and participation in class; day-to-day speaking and singing | 20% |
| Quizzes & Assignments (written IPA homework, listening assignments, etc.) | 20% |
| In class presentation: Compare and contrast the diction of 2 different performances of the same song. Further details to be given later in term. | 20% |
| Song presentation (IPA, recitation and singing of assigned song) | 20% |
| Written/Oral Final Exam – Students will read and sing from both prepared and unprepared texts and be given texts to transcribe IPA | 20% |

**Song presentation**: Students will present a song/aria in English to the class: During presentation you will first provide relevant background to the text (poet, relative date of poem/text and relative date of musical setting, genre (opera, oratorio, artsong, etc) meaning of text and occasion or purpose for composition. Then you will declaim the text of poem by memory followed by singing the composer’s setting of text with piano accompaniment. You may use accompaniment track or request a live pianist for presentation. After singing you will then receive productive, critical feedback from professor and classmates. Then you will attempt to apply some of this feedback.

**Important:** Please provide handout for each member of the class or you may project your document using classroom computer/monitor. This handout should include all of the following: background info of song/aria, text of song with IPA clearly written underneath each word of the text.

**Attendance/Participation Grade**: This includes class attendance, participation, preparedness, and demonstrating personal growth with using IPA and knowledge of material. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. After the first two “unexcused” absences, each additional “unexcused” absence will lower your final grade by 2 points.

* Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course.  It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of the course learning goals.  Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.  Contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**(Subject to change)**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Fall – 2021 | Monday | Wednesday |
| Week 1  AUG 23/25 | Introduction, Syllabus | Read Chapter 1 |
| Week 2  AUG 30/SEP 1 | Complete Ex. 1 & 2 pp. 14 - 15 | Read Chapter 2 & 3 |
| Week 3  SEP 6/8 | Labor Day – No Class | Quiz on IPA at beginning of class  Read Chapter 4 (Fronting Vowels) |
| Week 4  SEP 13/15 | Read Chapter 5 (Backing Vowels) | Read Chapter 6 (Mixed Vowels) |
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| Week 5  SEP 20/22 | Read Chapter 7 (Diphthongs) | Read Chapter 8 (Semi-vowel glides) |
| Week 6  SEP 27/29 | Read Chapter 9 (Intro to consonants) | Read Chapter 10 (Plosives) |
| Week 7  OCT 4/6 | Read Chapter 11 (Fricatives) | Read Chapter 12  (Nasal consonants & lyrical L) |
| Week 8  OCT 11/13 | Read Chapter 13  (Connecting the Dots) | Read Chapter 14 &15  British Received & Middle Atlantic |
|  |  |  |
| Week 9  OCT 18/20 | Song Comparisons | Song Comparisons |
| Week 10  OCT 25/27 | Song Comparisons | Song Comparisons |
| Week 11  NOV 1/3 | Song Presentations | Song Presentations |
| Week 12  NOV 8/10 | Song Presentations | Song Presentations |
| Week 13  NOV 15/17 | Review | Review |
| Week 14  NOV 22/24 | THANKSGIVING WEEK | THANKSGIVING WEEK |
| Week 15  NOV 29/DEC 1 | Jury Week | Jury Week |
| Week 16  DEC 6/8 | FINALS WEEK – NO CLASS | |

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf>

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu/). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

LINK:  [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**ODA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester.For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](https://disability.unt.edu/)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**UNT Policy Statement on Diversity**

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: [Diversity Statement](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf)

Link: <https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf>

**Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

**Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021**

See: [Academic Calendar](https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2021_Academic_Calendar.pdf)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2021_Academic_Calendar.pdf>

**Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid.  Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered.   Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program.  If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

**RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

**COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center’s website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](https://speakout.unt.edu/)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741

[Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu)

**ADD/DROP POLICY**

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed “Request to Drop” form to the Registrar’s Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall, 2021 is November 12. Information about add/drop may be found at:

See: [Dropping a Class](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf)

Link: <https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf>