

University of North Texas – College of Music
MUAG 1905-003: English & Spanish Diction | Semester: Fall 2026
Class Meetings: Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:00 AM - 8:50 AM | Music Building Room # 322
Instructor: Francisco Bedoy (Mr. Bedoy) | **e-mail:** francisco.bedoysolorzano@unt.edu

Collaborative Pianist: **E-mail:**
Office: Bain Hall Room 220 | Office Hours: By appointment
Credits: 1

Course Information:

This course is designed to equip students with the fundamentals of stage pronunciation in English and Spanish. Students are introduced to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a standard tool to learn neutral pronunciations of both English and Spanish, as well as regional variations, syllabification, connected speech, and text communication. Students will develop clear, natural, and communicative expression. Activities for the class include quizzes, spoken, written, and sung exercises, as well as four student performances (two songs in English [the second song sung from memory] and two songs in Spanish [the second song sung from memory]). This is a complementary course to your weekly voice lessons, and the music learned for this class can be used for juries if your voice teacher approves the repertoire learned.

I. Learning Objectives

General Course Objectives

After completing this course, students are expected to:

- Gain a basic understanding of IPA and its application to English and Spanish lyric diction.
- Develop strategies to learn and memorize vocal music.
- Perform vocal music in English and Spanish with clarity, ease, accurate diction, and musical expressiveness.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- **Knowledge/Understanding:**
 - Identify and pronounce IPA symbols for both English and Spanish vowels, consonants, diphthongs, and triphthongs.
 - Recognize the characteristics of neutral pronunciations, including American Standard, British Received Pronunciation (RP), and Castilian and Latin American Spanish.
- **Application:**

- Accurately transcribe English and Spanish texts into IPA using established diction rules and phonetic principles.
 - Apply rules for syllabification, word stress, and connected speech to format texts for musical settings properly.
- **Analysis:**
 - Analyze the hierarchy of syllabic stress within musical phrases (e.g., emphasizing nouns and active verbs) to determine appropriate vocal weight.
- **Evaluation:**
 - Evaluate your own and your peers' oral performances, providing constructive feedback on vowel formation, consonant articulation, and phrase connection.
 - Assess how effectively precise diction enhances the communication, expression, and storytelling of a vocal piece.
- **Creation/Performance:**
 - Perform English and Spanish art songs (or Zarzuela arias) with accurate articulation, clarity, and expressive nuance.
 - Synthesize correct diction rules with healthy vocal technique to create seamless, legato musical phrases free of tension.

II. Required Materials

Required Textbooks:

English Lyric Diction Workbook by Cheri Montgomery ISBN: 9781733863155

Spanish Lyric Diction Workbook by Cheri Montgomery ISBN: 9781735211497

Note: Unauthorized copies of course materials (physical or digital) violate U.S. copyright law and UNT Policy 08.001 (Use of Intellectual Property Owned by Third Parties). Students are expected to use only legitimately acquired copies. Acceptable options include materials purchased new or used, rented, accessed through UNT Libraries course reserves or licensed electronic resources, or older editions when the instructor has explicitly approved them.

Use of an unauthorized personal copy may result in a grade penalty for daily participation. Distributing, posting, uploading, or otherwise sharing course materials (including on commercial study sites) is a more serious matter. Such conduct may constitute facilitating academic dishonesty under UNT Policy 06.003 (Student Academic Integrity) and/or a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. It may be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other Materials:

- Pencil / Pen
- Notebook (Portfolio)
- Access to Canvas

Required Repertoire

Each student selects (in consultation with their voice teacher) four songs meeting the criteria below. Selections should represent contrasting style periods or composers where possible, to broaden each student's exposure to diction challenges.

	Language	Approx. Timing	Performance Mode	Assessment
1	English	Weeks 1-3 Start: August 17 End: September 2 nd & 4 th	With music (recording submitted in Canvas)	5%
2	English	Weeks 4 -9 Start: Sept. 21 st End: Oct. 9 th	Memorized and Performed in Class (IPA submitted in Canvas)	20%
3	Spanish	Weeks 10 – 12 Start: Oct. 9 th End: Oct. 30 th	With music (recording submitted in Canvas)	5%
4	Spanish	Weeks 13 – 16 Start: Oct. 23 rd End: Dec. 9 th and 11 th	Memorized and Performed in Class (IPA submitted in Canvas)	20%

III. Grading:

Component	%	Description
Participation	10%	Active engagement in discussions, in-class exercises; professionalism, & respectful behavior.
English & Spanish songs	10%	Songs submitted on Canvas (5% each song)
Midterm	20%	English song performed from memory. Submission of IPA via Canvas.
Final Performance	20%	Spanish song performed from memory—submission of IPA and translations via Canvas.

In-class work	20%	Listening and written activities in class, declamation of texts & other activities.
Worksheets & Canvas Submissions	20%	Worksheets from both English and Spanish lyric diction & songs

The standard UNT grading scale will be applied for this course:

A: 90% - 100%

B: 80% - 89.9%

C: 70% - 79.9%

D: 60% - 69.9%

F: 59.9% or less

Description of Graded Components

Participation (30%): This part of your grade is all about showing up and bringing the materials needed for the class. That means joining class discussions, practicing diction, and participating in group activities—basically, being present and engaged. Make sure you come to class prepared by checking out any readings and music in advance. Being respectful and encouraging your classmates also counts here, because a positive and supportive atmosphere helps everyone learn and grow. Consistent participation is key to getting the most out of this course and succeeding in vocal performance.

Final Performance (15%):

Two Song Research Assignments (Integrated):

Singing Performance Final (Integrated):

- Use of electronic devices is allowed only when required for scheduled activities, such as accessing course materials. All personal electronic devices, including phones, smartwatches, tablets, and laptops, must be set to “do not disturb” mode.

Assignments & Professional Responsibility

1. Timeliness as a Professional Standard

You are responsible for submitting all assignments by the date and time specified in the course calendar/Canvas.

2. Late Work Protocol

Unless you have received prior approval from the instructor or have a documented University-Approved excuse:

- **Late Penalty:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a deduction of 10% or one letter grade per day.
- **Cut-off:** Assignments will **not be accepted** more than 3 days past the original due date and will result in a grade of zero.
- **Feedback:** Late assignments may not receive the same level of detailed feedback as on-time submissions, as the grading cycle for the class will have concluded.

3. Technology & Submission Format

- **Canvas:** All written assignments must be submitted via Canvas in PDF or Word. **Links to Google Docs are not accepted.**
- **Technology Failures:** Computer malfunctions, wi-fi issues, or Canvas outages are not valid excuses for late work. As a professional standard, you should aim to submit assignments at least 12 hours before the deadline to account for potential technical difficulties.

4. Extensions & Accommodations

- **University-Approved Absences:** Students with a university-excused absence (see Attendance Policy) will be granted a reasonable extension equivalent to the number of days missed, provided they contact the instructor immediately upon their return.
- **ODA Accommodations:** Students registered with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) who have accommodations regarding deadlines must meet with the instructor during the first week of classes to agree upon a specific protocol for utilizing this accommodation.

Attendance Policy

1. The "Professional Standard" (Course Policy)

Consistent with the *Division of Music Education Student Handbook*, attendance is expected at all scheduled class meetings.

- **Unexcused Absences:** You are allowed a maximum of **three (3)** unexcused absences during the semester. You are still responsible for completing in-class and homework assignments promptly.
- **Consequences:**

- **4th Unexcused Absence:** Your final letter grade will be lowered by one full letter (e.g., A becomes B).
 - **5th. Unexcused Absence:** You may be administratively dropped from the course or receive a failing grade (F) for the semester.
- **Tardiness:** Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the learning environment. Two tardies count as one unexcused absence. Leaving class twice without notifying the instructor also counts as an absence.

2. Communication Protocol

- **Advance Notice:** If you know you will be absent (e.g., for a TMEA conference, ensemble tour, or medical appointment), you must e-mail the instructor **at least 24 hours in advance and provide documentation.**
- **Emergency Notice:** In the event of a sudden illness or emergency, e-mail the instructor as soon as it is safe to do so. **Lack of communication will result in the absence being marked as unexcused.**

4. University-Approved Absences (UNT Policy 06.039)

Absences for the following reasons are **excused** and do not count toward your "three free absences" limit, provided you supply appropriate documentation:

- **Religious Holy Days:** In accordance with UNT policy, you must notify the instructor designated for the course of your absence to observe a religious holy day.
- **Active Military Service:** Absence for active military service (including travel) is excused. (with proper documentation)
- **Official University Functions:** Participation in official university activities (e.g., scheduled ensemble tours, athletic events) is excused with documentation from the sponsor/director.
- **Dean of Students Notification:** For absences exceeding 5 days (due to illness, family emergency, etc.), students should contact the **Dean of Students Office** to obtain a formal verification notice to share with instructors.

5. Illness & Wellness

If you are exhibiting symptoms of a contagious illness (flu, COVID-19, etc.), **do not come to class.**

- Please e-mail your instructor immediately.

- While mild, short-term illness is generally counted toward your allowed 3 absences, communication is key. If you have exhausted your allowed absences due to chronic illness, you must meet with the instructor to discuss a continuity plan.

IV. Course Schedule:

- This schedule is subject to change. For more accurate class schedules, follow the syllabus on Canvas.

Week	Topic/Reading	Assignment / Activities
W 1.1 (August 17th-21st)	Introduction to course, Syllabus, Why diction matters for singers?	Syllabus Contract Syllabus Contract review (on Canvas)
English		
W 1.2	Unit 1 Classification of Symbols.	Worksheet #1
W 2.1 (August 24th - 28th)	Unit 2 Flipped [ɾ], retroflex [ɭ], and silent r	Enunciation, exercises, rules for transcription, application of rules, individual exercises
W 2.2	Unit 3 Fricatives [θ], [ð],[ʒ],[ʃ] and affricates [tʃ], [dʒ]	Worksheet #2
W 3.1 (August 31st-Sept. 4th)	Review Units 1-3	Worksheet #3 Song I English Due (Canvas submission)
W 3.2	Quiz 1 (Units 1-3) Introduction to Art Song repertoire and study of vocal score	In-class 10-minute quiz

W 4.1 (Sept. 7th [Labor Day] - 11th)	Unit 4 Front [i], [I], [ɛ], central [æ], and consonants [ŋ], [t], [d], [s], [z]	
W 4.2	Unit 5 Central [ɑ], back [u], [ʊ], [ɔ], and [j], [ʌ], [w], [m], [n]	Worksheet #4
W 5.1 (Sept. 14th - 18th)	Quiz 2 (Units 4-5)	Worksheet #5
W 5.2	Unit 6 Central [ʌ], and [ɜ], unstressed [o]	
W 6.1 (Sept. 21st - 25)	Unit 7 Initial unstressed syllables and lip consonants [p], [b], [f], [v]	Worksheet #6
W 6.2	Quiz 3 (Units 6-7)	Worksheet #7
W 7.1 (Sept. 28th - Oct. 2nd)	Unit 8 Diphthongs and velar [k] and [g]	Song I Score with IPA Submission via Canvas
W 7.2	Unit 9 Schwa replacement of <i>r</i> , fricative [h], and glottal stop	Worksheet #8 Sign up for English song II (On Canvas)
W 8.1 (Oct. 5th - 9th)	Unit 10 When to sing [ɑ] and final b,d, g	Worksheet #9
W 8.2	Unit 11 Lyrics from English Art Song Repertoire, and Review units 8-10	Worksheet #10
W 9.1 Week 9 (Oct 5th- 9th)	Quiz 4 (Units 8-10) Performance	<i>English Song II Due (Memorized) in class presentation</i>
W 9.2	Performance	<i>English Song II Due (Memorized) in class presentation</i>
Spanish		
W 10.1 Week 10 (Oct. 12th - 16th)	Unit 1: Classification of symbols	Listening assignment Enunciation exercises Application of rules Individual exercises

W 10.2	Unit 2: Classification of symbols. Enunciation of monophthongs, glides, bilabial <i>p</i> , dental <i>t</i> , and alveolar <i>l</i> and <i>r</i>	Vowel quiz Worksheet #1, Classwork #2,
W 11.1 Week 11 (Oct. 19th - 23rd)	Unit 3: Transcription of monophthongs and syllabic division	Worksheet #2, Classwork #3,
W 11.2	Unit 4: Diacritical marks, glides and vowels in hiatus	-Rules for transcription; application of rules; individual exercises; phrases Worksheet #3 Classwork #4,
W 12.1 (Oct. 26th - 30th)	Unit 5: Enunciation of bilabial, labiodental, dental, alveolar, and palatal consonants	-Listening assignment, Enunciation exercises, Application of rules, Individual exercises, Enunciation quiz. -Rules for transcription, Application of rules, Individual exercises, Phrases Worksheet #4, Classwork #5, Enunciation quiz
W 12.2	Unit 6: Transcription of bilabial, labiodental, dental, and alveolar consonants	Classwork #6 Worksheet #5 Song I Due (Canvas submission)
W 13.1 (Nov. 2nd - 6th)	Unit 7: Transcription of <i>r</i> , prepalatal, and palatal consonants	Classwork #7 Worksheet #6
W 13.2	Unit 8: Enunciation of <i>c</i> , <i>g</i> , and <i>j</i> spellings	Worksheet #7 Classwork #8 Enunciation and phonetics quiz
W 14.1 (Nov. 9th - 13th)	Unit 9: Transcription of <i>c</i> and <i>qu</i> spellings	Worksheet #8 Classwork #9 <i>Final performance Sign-up opens on Canvas</i>
W 14.2	Unit 10: Transcription of <i>g</i> , <i>j</i> , <i>h</i> , <i>x</i> , and [ŋ]	Worksheet #9 Classwork #10
W 15.1 (Nov. 16th - 20th)	Unit 11: Transcription of vowel clusters: diphthongs and vowels in hiatus	Worksheet #10 Classwork #11

15.2	Unit 12: Transcription with the phrase	Worksheet #11 Classwork #12 <i>Final performance sign-up closes</i>
W 16 (Nov. 23rd - 27th) - Thanksgiving Break		
17.1 (Nov. 30th - Dec. 4th [Reading Day])	Review week	Worksheet #12
17.2	Reading Day (No class)	
18.1 (Dec. 7th - 11th) [Finals Week]	Final performance Spanish song sung from memory, in-class performance.	(IPA & translations submitted in Canvas)
18.2	Final performance (Continuation)	

University Policies

[Academic Integrity UNT Policy Statement on Diversity](#)

[Student Support Services & Policies](#)

[UNT Drop Policy](#)

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk

- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

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](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

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](#)

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. 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](#)

LINK: 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](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

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

Academic Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall 2026 Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2025

See above

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: Counseling and Testing

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

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. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

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

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to students, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>