

Syllabus
MUAG 1906-001—FRENCH DICTION for SINGERS
Fall 2025

Instructor: Jennifer Lane
Classroom: 289

Time: Wednesday/Friday, 11:00-11:50 pm
Office Hour: by appointment

I. PURPOSE:

To learn the proper choice of speech sounds for French lyric diction and to accurately form and enunciate words and phrases from French art song literature.

Topics:

- A. Correct pronunciation using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- B. Consonant/vowel flow in speech and singing
- C. Liaison and elision
- D. Transcription and translation of lyrics

II. OBJECTIVES:

To demonstrate comprehension through:

- A. Presence and participation in class
- B. Achievement of proficiency with IPA through daily workbook checks, board work, homework assignments, and quizzes
- C. Accurate enunciation and expression of French lyric words and phrases
- D. Achievement of competency on written exams, quizzes, and through spoken and sung performances in class

III. REQUIRED TEXTS: Montgomery, Cheri. *French Lyric Diction Workbook*, 4th edition and *Merriam-Webster's French-English Dictionary* are **needed as of the first day of class**. If late to acquire your textbook, it will be quite difficult to keep up with the pace of the class.

IV. RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- Cassell's French-English, English-French Dictionary* (Willis Library)
- Robert, Paul. *Le petit Robert de la langue française. Nouvelle édition*, Vivendi Universal Interactive Publishing, France 2001.
- Grubb, Thomas. *Singing in French*
- Bernac, Pierre. *The Interpretation of French Song* (songs included in Bernac are to be used for poetry and song presentations—check with Professor)
- Adams, David. *A Handbook of Diction*, second edition

V. ABSENCE AND TARDY POLICY:

Classroom instruction and student participation are crucial to success in this course. Attendance is required. Daily quizzes and class work may *not* be made up in the event of an *unexcused* absence. If daily class work or a quiz is late due to an *excused* absence, it should be turned in by the next class session. One point will be taken off the final grade for every *unexcused* absence. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

VI. METHODS FOR EVALUATING ACHIEVEMENT:

- 1. Homework 40%
- 2. Quizzes 30%
- 3. In-Class Participation and Final Presentations 30 %
- 4. Each *unexcused* absence = 1 point deduction from final grade.
- 5. Perfect Attendance = +5% extra credit

VII. GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = less than 60%, I = Incomplete, W = Withdrawal, WF = Withdraw Fail.

IN CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE Participation is expected. The format of our class is a lab setting. The interactive nature of our work together requires certain guidelines. Students are expected to maintain the same manner of respect for others as is required in the lecture setting. Deficiencies in this area may lower the final grade.

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- 1) Arrive on-time, do not leave during class, unless there is an emergency
- 2) No food, gum, candy or beverage (except water) is allowed in classroom
- 3) It will be necessary for the entire class to discuss Diction rules and enunciate in small groups. All conversation is to remain on-topic. Side conversations must be avoided.
- 4) Recitation errors are more exposed in the lab setting. Be sensitive to others' feelings. I will not allow students to make comments in a critical manner about each other's work (in-class errors are fewer from those who carefully prepare each homework assignment). Students may feel exposed at times but we all learn from one another and everyone's experience and background is different. Questions benefit the whole class.

Week	Wednesday	Friday
August 20	Intro to French Diction, Syllabus, IPA; Basics of French Grammar	Unit 1: Classification of Symbols, Unit 2: Closed front [i] and Semi-consonant [j]
August 27	Unit 3: Closed front [e]	Unit 4: Open front vowel [ɛ]
September 3	Unit 4: Open front vowel [ɛ], Review	Unit 5: Bright front vowel [a], Review
September 10	Quiz Units 1-5	Unit 6: Dark back vowel [ɑ]
September 17	Unit 7: Open back vowel [ɔ] and consonants	Unit 8: Closed back vowel [o] Unit 9: Closed back vowel [u]
September 24	Review Units 1-9	Quiz Units 1-9
October 1	Unit 10: Closed mixed vowel [y]	Unit 11 Closed mixed vowel [ø]
October 8	Unit 12: Open mixed vowel [œ]	Quiz Units 1-12
October 15	Unit 13: Schwa [ə], More on open [ɛ]	Unit 14: Dark nasal vowel [ɑ̃]
October 22	Unit 15: Closed nasal vowel [ɔ̃]	Unit 16: Open nasal vowel [ɛ̃]
October 29	Unit 17: Open nasal vowel [œ̃]	Review nasal vowels
November 5	Unit 18: Semi-consonants [j], [w] and [ɥ], Unit 19: Consonants	Review Units 13-19; Unit 20: Intro to Liaison & Elision
November 12	Unit 21: Forbidden and Compulsory Liaison	Review Liaison rules, General Review
November 19	Quiz Units 1-21	Poem transcriptions due
November 26	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
December 3	Poem Recitations	Song Presentations (class time will be extended)

Please see me if you need help with this course. I will always be happy to schedule an appointment with you. To make an appointment, please send me an email that includes your free times. You can also email me questions you have about the class or about assignments. Please include your name in the email. If I do not reply within a day, please resend your email. My email address is Jennifer.lane@unt.edu

NB. This course will require paper homework. Please first photocopy the pages in the book, then fill in the homework. Assignments will be stated in class, not posted online. This course will only use CANVAS for posting the syllabus and noting attendance, *not* for posting grades. Student homework and quizzes will be returned with grades noted. Students are expected to use the returned homework as needed to improve their subsequent work and to keep track of their own homework and quiz grades if they wish to do so.

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EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences include official University or College of Music activities, medical emergencies, and illnesses. Please email me or give me a copy of the documentation for your excused absence from the Dean of Students Office or the Music Office, because I may not receive them directly from these offices. If you have traffic problems or family emergencies, please email me. Excused absences do not count against your attendance or lower your grade. Absences to work a job are NOT excused absences. If you have a chronic medical condition that might affect your class attendance or performance, please see the Office of Disability Accommodations. If you are ill, please email me as soon as possible. If you have an emergency and expect to be absent for several weeks, please contact the Dean of Students Office, which will take your information and notify the faculty. Please email me once a week with an update on when you expect to return to class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Must be turned in on the day due. If you do not understand how to complete an assignment, see me for help before the assignment is due. You can turn in an assignment late for full credit if you had an excused absence. Please reference on the assignment why you are submitting it late.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam. 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. Examples include but are not limited to: separate conversations, giggling, passing notes, making noise, doing other work, texting on a phone, distracting glances or gestures, etc. 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/

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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)

Diversity and Belonging

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.

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 2022

See: [Fall 2022 Calendar and Registration Guide](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Final Exam Schedule (there is no written final for this course—recitation and singing are the final project)

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>

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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. 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 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](#)

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

For more information on mental health issues, 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. 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-registration-guide>

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>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. See: [Care Team](#) Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>