

SYLLABUS

T/Th 10:00-10:50 a.m., Room 250

Dr. José Miguel Santelices

Office Hours: Th 9:30-10:00 a.m.

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Teaching Assistant (Collaborative Pianist): Jiaxin Ou

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course trains singers to perform English and Spanish repertoire with accurate, consistent, and expressive diction. We begin with an introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), building the skills to transcribe and pronounce texts precisely. The first half of the semester focuses on English diction in the classical style; the second half explores Castilian and Latin American Spanish, with attention to cultural and stylistic nuances. Instruction combines lecture, transcription work, repertoire study, coaching, and performance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Use IPA to transcribe and prepare English and Spanish song texts.
- Apply accurate pronunciation and clear articulation to repertoire.
- Identify and correct common diction issues in both languages.
- Perform selected works in English and Spanish with attention to clarity, style, and context.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

English Lyric Diction Workbook by Cheri Montgomery, ISBN-13: 9781733863155

Singer's Manual of Spanish Lyric Diction by Nico Castel, ISBN-13: 9780962722691

GRADING

Student grades will be determined according to the following components:

Attendance/Participation	15%	10% attendance/participation, 5% individual consultations
Group Presentations	10%	2 at 5% each
Quizzes	10%	2 at 5% each
Worksheets	10%	4 at 2.5% each
Repertoire Assignments	10%	2 at 5% each
Coaching Sessions	15%	3 at 5% each
Test #1	15%	English Piece Performance (With Score)
Test #2 (Final Exam)	15%	Spanish Piece Performance (Memorized)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Due to the experiential and performance-based nature of this course, regular attendance and active participation are essential and will be assessed at every class meeting.

At each class session, students may earn up to 10 points total toward the attendance/participation grade:

- 5 points for timely attendance
- 5 points for active, prepared in-class participation

Attendance points require arriving on time and remaining for the full class. Late arrival will result in a partial or full deduction of the attendance portion for that day. Participation points are earned through consistent engagement in class activities, including IPA work, transcription, singing, coaching, and discussion. Passive presence does not constitute participation.

Because skill development in diction requires in-person listening, speaking, and singing, absences are strongly discouraged. Absences will be excused only in cases of documented emergency, required religious observances, or official university obligations, and only when the instructor is notified in advance whenever possible. Documentation may be required.

Each unexcused absence will result in a deduction from the attendance/participation grade. Excessive absences may significantly impact the final course grade. Students are expected to arrive prepared to sing and participate fully. This includes appropriate physical and vocal readiness and avoiding choices that may negatively affect vocal performance during class.

Extra credit opportunities related to attendance, participation, or course enrichment may be offered at the instructor's discretion throughout the semester.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Phones and other electronic devices must be silenced and put away during class unless specifically needed for course-related activities. Graded work will be returned in a timely manner so students can track their progress, particularly for major assignments, projects, and exams. Students should avoid scheduling end-of-semester juries during regular class meeting times.

In accordance with university policy, all undergraduate syllabi for lecture courses must be made publicly available. At UNT, syllabi must be uploaded to the Faculty Information System by the 7th class day of the semester.

SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS

This syllabus is intended as a guide and may be adjusted as needed to support student learning, respond to class progress, or accommodate university-related circumstances. Any changes to course policies, assignments, or schedules will be communicated clearly in class and via Canvas.

SCHEDULE

January	13	Introduction, Syllabus, Canvas Activity (Online, Canvas, Zoom)
	15	Unit 1 (Montgomery)
	20	Units 2, 3 (Montgomery)
	22	Units 4, 5 (Montgomery), <i>Worksheet #1 due</i>
	27	Units 6, 7 (Montgomery), <i>Repertoire Assignment #1 due</i>
	29	Units 8, 9, 10 (Montgomery), <i>Worksheet #2 due</i>
February	3	Group Presentations #1 (Online, Canvas)
	5	Group Presentations #1 (Online, Canvas)
	10	Quiz #1 (Canvas)
	12	Coaching Session w/Pianist 1
	17	Coaching Session w/Pianist 1
	19	Coaching Session w/Pianist 1
	24	Coaching Session w/Pianist 1
March	26	Test #1 (With Score)
	3	Chapters 1, 2, 3 (Castel)
	5	Chapters 4, 5 (Castel), <i>Worksheet #3 due</i>
	10	Spring Break
	12	Spring Break
	17	Group Presentations #2 (Online, Canvas)
	19	Group Presentations #2 (Online, Canvas)
	24	Chapter 6 (Castel), <i>Repertoire Assignment #2 due</i>
	26	Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10 (Castel)
April	31	Chapters 11, 12 (Castel), <i>Worksheet #4 due</i>
	2	Individual Consultations
	7	Individual Consultations, Quiz #2 (Canvas)
	9	Coaching Session w/Pianist 2
	14	Coaching Session w/Pianist 2
	16	Coaching Session w/Pianist 2
	21	Coaching Session w/Pianist 2
	23	Coaching Session w/Pianist 3 (Mock Exam)
	28	Individual Consultations
May	30	Individual Consultations
	7	FINAL EXAM (MEMORIZED): MAY 7, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & RESOURCES

The following university policies and resources apply to all students enrolled in this course.
From Dr. Warren Henry, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Music:

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 (by the water fountains).

Academic Integrity | Link: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Student Behavior | Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Access to Information – Eagle Connect | Link: eagleconnect.unt.edu

Oda Statement | Link: disability.unt.edu | Phone: (940) 565-4323

Health and Safety Information | Link: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students | Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar & Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2026 | Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/spring-2026-academic-calendar.pdf>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates | Link: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> *Graduates* | Link: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Retention of Student Records | Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Counseling and Testing | Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/>

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

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

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

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

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