
MUAG 1907 : GERMAN DICTION

FALL 2025 COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Samantha Dapcic
Room: MU 320
Class Meets: W/F 12:00–12:50 PM

Zoom Office Hours by Appointment
Email: Samantha.Dapcic@unt.edu

Course Description

MUAG 1907 is a required class for vocal performance music majors to learn diction/pronunciation skills for singing in German. This class will include an introduction to phonetic analysis of vocal music in German.

Course Objectives

- A basic understanding of the rules of pronunciation for singing in German
- The ability to transcribe German song and aria texts into IPA
- An understanding of the basics of German grammar in order to facilitate translation and transcription

Course Materials

- *German Lyric Diction Workbook*, Fifth Edition, by Cheri Montgomery
- Additional readings will be passed out in class and/or available on Canvas <https://unt.instructure.com>

Grading Policy

Attendance is expected. Advanced notice of an absence (illness, family or personal emergency, professional opportunity, official university function, etc.) is expected when possible.

ASSIGNMENT	PERCENTAGE
Attendance & Participation	Expected
Assignments/Quizzes	30%
Midterm Exam	15%
In-Class Song/Aria Presentations & IPA	25%
Oral Final Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%
TOTAL	100%

Grade Scale

A	(90% – 100%)
B	(80% – 89.9%)
C	(70% – 79.9%)
D	(60% – 69.9%)
F	(59.9% or less)

Class Participation

In class, I expect you to be fully engaged in the lecture and discussion. A large part of the learning process is through active observation, listening, and discussion.

Homework Assignments & Quizzes

Homework will be assigned at the end of class and is due (in person or by email) by the start of the next class. Late assignments will be given 75% credit if turned in at the beginning of the next class period. Any assignments beyond one class period late will be given 50% credit. These assignments are meant to help you process the information presented during class. Your cumulative quiz and homework assignment score will be weighted at 30%.

- Homework assignments will typically be one or two pages from the workbook.
- Quizzes will be taken in class at the beginning of the period. We will move on with our lessons once everyone has finished the quiz.

Exams

There will be two exams over the course of the semester—a written midterm and a final exam that will have written, oral, and sung components. Each of these exams are cumulative and will be taken in class. Written exams may include fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, true/false questions, and IPA transcriptions. In the oral component of the final exam, students will read from both unprepared and prepared text. These will be one-on-one with the instructor.

In Class Song Presentation, IPA Transcription, and Word-for-Word Translation

Students will select two songs or arias to perform live during class time. These songs/arias should be selected in consultation with their teacher and approved by the instructor by **Sep. 3rd**. Students will perform each song twice in class—once with music (masterclass format) and once memorized (recital format).

For both songs, students will submit a digital document (original to them) with their first song's original text, IPA transcription, and a word-for-word translation. (Preferably this is written into the score itself, in which case the original text is already provided). On the days of the student's scheduled presentations, the student will recite the text and perform the song. The student's submitted (ungraded) musical score with IPA/translations will be projected during the song performance. I will give feedback in a masterclass format and ask for constructive feedback from the class. IPA/Literal Translations for Song 1 are due **Oct. 15th**. IPA/Literal Translations for Song 2 are due **Oct. 24th**.

Performance attire and memorization is expected in the final performance.

I am hoping that we will have an assigned class pianist, but that is TBD. If a class pianist is not provided, students will need to hire their own pianist for performance days. Students will send the pianist their musical scores (with word-for-word translations included) by **Sep. 3rd**, though sooner is better. It is also expected that the student will have rehearsed with the pianist before their in-class performances.

Jury Scheduling

Students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.

SEMESTER CALENDAR

*This schedule is subject to change, **bold** indicates when something is due

W, Aug. 20	Introduction, Syllabus, Exploring German Diction Unit 2: [r] [ʀ] [ʁ] Handouts: ‘r’ cheat sheet (to tape over rules on pg. 12) Suverkrop IPA pronunciation
F, Aug. 22	Unit 3: [ç] [x] HW #1 due
W, Aug. 27	Unit 4: Syllabification, [i:] [i] [ɪ] [ʻ] Handouts: Suverkrop vowels Suverkrop syllabification, shortened Review for Quiz 1 HW #2 due
F, Aug. 29	Unit 5: [e:] [e] [ɛ] [ə] [v] [f] HW #3 due E.C. Quiz 1 Review due
W, Sep. 3	Unit 6: [u:] [u] [ʊ] [ʃ] [ss] Quiz 1 Email Scores of 2 Performance Song Choices to Dr. Dapcic and Pianist due HW #4 due
F, Sep. 5	Unit 7: [o:] [o] [ɔ] [z] [ts] HW #5 due
W, Sep. 10	Unit 8: [y:] [y] [ʏ] [j] [p] HW #6 due
F, Sep. 12	Unit 9: [ø:] [ø] [œ] [ŋ] [k] Handout: Review for Quiz 2 (up through Unit 9) HW #7 due
W, Sep. 17	Unit 10: [a:/ɑ:] [a] [ɛ:] [ɛ], Sounds of ‘c’ HW #8 due E.C. Quiz 2 Review due
F, Sep. 19	Unit 11: Diphthongs [a:e] [a:o] [ɔ:Y], Unvoicing Quiz 2 Handout: Suverkrop Voicing and Unvoicing Worksheet HW #9 due

W, Sep. 24	Unit 12: Elements of a German Word, Types of German Words Handouts: Unit 12: Suverkrop excerpt - German Word Elements, Syllabification, and Stressing Unit 12: Prefix, Suffix, and Ending Charts HW #10 due
F, Sep. 26	Units 13 & 14: Prefixes HW #11 "Identifying Elements of German Words" worksheet
W, Oct. 1	Unit 15: Suffixes Handout: E.C. Midterm Review Sheet HW #12 due Download Kahoot! App on Device
F, Oct. 3	Midterm Review (Kahoot! game) Handouts: Song IPA Assignment Song Performance Rubric HW #13 due E.C. Midterm Review due
W, Oct. 8	MIDTERM WRITTEN EXAM
F, Oct. 10	Unit 16: Inflected Endings
W, Oct. 15	Units 17 & 18: Compound Words & Truncated Endings Song #1 IPA/Literal Translations Due HW #14 due
F, Oct. 17	Song #1 Performances (with music/masterclass) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope, Faye, Ellen, Andrea HW #15 due Sign Up for Oral Exam Time (Zoom appt: Friday, Nov. 14, 9–2)
W, Oct. 22	Song #1 Performances (with music/masterclass) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riley, Ty, Trinity, Cassidy HW #16 due
F, Oct. 24	Song #1 Performances (with music/masterclass) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria, Justin, Sean, Rowan Handout: Oral Exam Prepared Sheets Song #2 IPA/Literal Translations Due HW #17 due

W, Oct. 29	<p>Song #1 Performances (with music/masterclass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra, Adrianna, Maddie (song #1) • Hope (song #2) <p>HW #18 due</p>
F, Oct. 31	<p>Song #2 Performances (with music/masterclass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faye, Ellen, Andrea, Riley <p>HW #19 due</p> <p>Sign Up for Oral Exam Time Due (Zoom appt: Friday, Nov. 14, 9–2)</p>
W, Nov. 5	<p>Song #2 Performances (with music/masterclass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ty, Trinity, Kassidy, Victoria <p>HW #20 due</p>
F, Nov. 7	<p>Song #2 Performances (with music/masterclass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin, Sean, Rowan, Sandra <p>HW #21 due</p>
W, Nov. 12	<p>Song #2 Performances (with music/masterclass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adriana, Maddie <p>Review for Oral Exams</p> <p>HW #22 due</p>
F, Nov. 14	Final Exam, pt. 1: Oral Exams (schedule individually over Zoom) NO CLASS
W, Nov. 19	Final Exam, pt. 2: Class Performances of both songs (memorized/recital)
F, Nov. 21	<p>Final Exam, pt. 2 (continued): Class Performances of both songs (memorized/recital)</p> <p>Handout: E.C. Final Review</p>
W, Nov. 26	THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS
F, Nov. 28	THANKSGIVING BREAK, NO CLASS
W, Dec. 3	<p>Review for Written Final Exam</p> <p>E.C. Final Review due</p>
F, Dec. 5	READING DAY, NO CLASS
W, Dec. 10	FINAL EXAM 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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. 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. (*Also see below, UNT Care Team*). 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. 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 Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation. 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: Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, Fall 2025: Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so. 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 Blackboard 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. 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: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.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: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

RESPONDING TO STUDENTS IN DISTRESS: UNT CARE TEAM

Please visit the CARE Team website to tips to recognize students in distress and what you need to do in cases of extreme behavior or references to suicide. Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>