

**COURSE SYLLABUS: SINGER'S DICTION—GERMAN**  
**MUSI 2160.01: 1HR CREDIT—SPRING 2018**

**COURSE TITLE:** Singer's Diction—GERMAN (MUSI 2160)  
**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Tony Boutté  
**E-MAIL:** Boutte@shsu.edu  
**OFFICE:** GPAC 220J  
**PHONE:** (936) 294-2634  
**CLASS TIME:** Tuesday/Thursday 11:00-12:20  
**CLASSROOM:** GPAC 240  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 1  
**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** MUSI 2160: Singer's Diction: GERMAN. Prerequisite: MUSI 1160. This course is designed to familiarize singers with the pronunciation of each language as sung in choral music, recital literature, and opera. It is one credit hour.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Montgomery, Cheri. GERMAN Lyric Diction Workbook. Nashville: S.T.M. Publishers, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2014). ISBN: 9780981882963

**BRING THIS TEXT TO CLASS EVERY DAY!**

Collins Robert GERMAN Unabridged Dictionary, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Collins Language) 2007  
ISBN-13: 9780061374906 This will only need to be brought to class on specific days. It will serve as your reference book for translations.

You will be required to have sheet music for songs throughout the semester. You may purchase anthologies, books of composers' music, check music out of the library, or find a legal online site of music in public domain.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The primary objective of this course is to enable you to pronounce and sing the German language correctly and beautifully. This rather complex language entails many rules in regards to its pronunciation, and these rules will be learned and applied in written, spoken, and sung exercises. Even though you will not be taught to understand the meaning of most words in the German language (this would be done in a regular German grammar course rather than a diction class), you will be able to pronounce and sing them effectively. Therefore, learning to write and read the proper IPA symbols is essential to succeeding in this class, and will be critical in all of your future performing and teaching endeavors.

**COURSE STRUCTURE/DESCRIPTION:** Like your earlier classes in Diction and IPA, this class will be approached in a systematic and practical way. My hope is to not only ensure that you learn the proper sounds of the German language and the rules that govern their pronunciation, but also that you begin to apply your learning as quickly as possible. Therefore, there will be several occasions throughout the semester when we will recite different art song/aria texts together in class, so that we are better able to absorb the sounds of the language more quickly.

We may also sing many examples of German Lieder from the standard repertoire so the rules of singing German can be drilled and retained. Class time will also be spent addressing the issues of correct interpretation of German song and how to achieve the most expressive performance possible.

My hope is that the class will not be one of just learning the rules, but will be one of practical and helpful application. My desire is that you integrate the rules of lyric diction into singing for the ultimate goal of creating an effective and immediate communicative connection with the audience. I want you not only to become excellent singers of the language, but also excellent teachers. Hopefully, you will be knowledgeable and resourceful enough to master any German piece you sing.

**ATTENDANCE:** Class attendance is both essential and mandatory. In order to learn the proper rules and sounds of the German language, you must be present in EVERY class. Absences will inevitably affect your homework and exam grades. Many of the processes and practical exercises will be presented and drilled in class and are nearly impossible to learn solely from a book. University policy allows 3 absences. After these 3 absences (whether excused or unexcused) have accrued, your final grade may be dropped 5%. School-related absences, such as NATS and ensemble tours will not affect your attendance grade. It is also important that you show up to class ON TIME. After three tardy arrivals, your final grade may be lowered 2% every time you are late to class. If you have any type of class conflict, please let me know as soon as possible.

Throughout the semester, exams will be given. Make-up exams will only be given in case of emergencies. Otherwise, if you miss an exam, no make-up will be allowed. The course outline in this syllabus provides the dates for these exams. Carefully review them and be aware of when they are occurring (see Course Timeline at the end of the syllabus).

**ASSIGNMENTS:** The types of assignments that you will complete in this class are as follows:

- \* Reading the required text/handouts and completing questions that relate to the reading
- \* Listening to both spoken and sung examples and practicing them outside of class
- \* Transcribing German songs or arias
- \* Completing IPA worksheets to increase your learning and understanding
- \* Learning various standard songs from the German repertoire to sing individually

These assignments must be completed and ready to turn in at the beginning of each class period, unless otherwise stated. Late assignments will not be accepted or counted for credit. If you are absent from class when a homework assignment is due, you can either turn it in early, or get it to my email, office, or mailbox before the class period begins. Exceptions for this late work policy will only be made in case of emergencies. Even if you are having trouble understanding or remembering some aspects of IPA transcription, do the best you can and complete your work. Don't turn it in only half completed. Credit will be given for effort. Also, when you have assigned readings, you can count on having some kind of discussion about what you have read, as well as assigned reading questions. Part of your grade in this class is participation – make sure you are ready to discuss the assignments you are given, or sing any song that is assigned to the class to prepare.

**EXAMS:** There will be quizzes, a midterm exam, and a final exam given during the semester: The final exam will cover the entire semester and is divided into three parts: written, spoken, and sung.

\*The WRITTEN portion will be administered on THURSDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>.

\*The SPOKEN portion will be administered during the final exam time with the sung portion. You will read a text of my choosing for the class. This, as well as the sung portion will be during the final exam time: TBA.

\*For the SUNG portion of the exam you will choose a German song with the help of your voice teacher. The due date for having these pieces picked is Thursday, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>. No one will be permitted to sing the same song as another student, so the earlier you choose your song, the better.

\*The song that you choose must have at least 6 lines of text.

\*It can be either an art song (*Lied*) or an aria.

\*You will turn in a typed transcription and translation of this song/aria a few weeks before you are to sing it. Corrections (if any) will be made and then you will make enough copies for the entire class.

\*You will MEMORIZE the song/aria and sing it for the class DURING THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD.

#### GRADING:

Participation	10%
Assignments (Written, Listening)	20%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30% (Written 10% + Spoken 10% + Sung 10%= 30%)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY** The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

**PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR** Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins.

Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, using phones, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of disruption. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave the class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with University policy.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** The Faculty Handbook states regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act: "According to University policy, requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS** A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holiday shall present to each instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day. This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments are to be completed.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM** The Faculty Handbook states that unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Course Outline  
(This outline is subject to change as needed during the semester.)

Due Date	Assignment	Quizzes/Exams	Chapters/units covered
Jan. 18			Unit 1: Articulatory Phonetics
Jan. 23	Unit 1: pp. 7-8, 44	Consonant voicing quiz	Unit 2: [ɾ] and [ʁ]
Jan. 25	Unit 2: pp. 12-19, 20	Vowel quiz	Unit 3: [ç] and [χ]
Jan. 30	Unit 3: pp. 24-31, 56	Points of articulation quiz	Review, page 32
Feb. 1	Study for quiz, page 32	Units 2 and 3 quiz	Unit 4: [i:], [ɪ], [h], and [ʔ]
Feb. 6	Unit 4: pp. 36-43, 68	Manner of articulation quiz	Unit 5: [e:], [ɛ], [ə], [v] and [f]
Feb. 8	Unit 5: pp. 48-55	Song DUE	Unit 6: [u:], [ʊ], [ʃ], [s], Eszett
Feb. 13	Unit 6: pp. 60-67		Unit 7: [o:], [ɔ], [z] and [ts]
Feb. 15	Unit 7: pp. 72-79		Review, page 80
Feb. 20	Study for quiz, page 80	Units 4-7 quiz	Unit 8: [y:], [ʏ], [j], final -ie and -ik, p. 92
Feb. 22	Unit 8: pp. 84-91, 92		Unit 9: [ø:], [œ], [ŋ] and [k], p. 104
Feb. 27	Unit 9: pp. 96-103, 104	Singing Quiz	Unit 10: [ɑ:], [a], [ɛ] and th, p. 116
Mar. 1	Unit 10: pp. 108-115, 116	Exception words quiz	Unit 11: Diphthongs [ao], [ae], and [ɔø]
Mar. 6	Unit 11: pp. 120-127	Transcription/translation of song due	Review, p. 128
Mar. 8	Study for quiz, pg. 128	Units 8-11 quiz	Review for Midterm
Mar. 20	Study for midterm	Midterm	
Mar. 22			Unit 12: Multiple elements
Mar. 27	Unit 12: pp. 131-138		Unit 13: Open vowel prefixes
Mar. 29	Unit 13: pp. 141-148		Unit 14: Closed vowel prefixes
Apr. 3	Unit 14: pp. 151-158		Unit 15: Suffixes
Apr. 5	Unit 15: pp. 161-168		Review, p. 169
Apr. 10	Study for quiz; pp. 169	Units 12-15 quiz	Unit 16: Inflectional endings
Apr. 12	Unit 16: pp. 173-180		Unit 17: Truncated words
Apr. 17	Unit 17: pp. 183-190		Unit 18: Compound words
Apr. 19	Unit 18: pp. 193-199		Review, p. 200
Apr. 24	Study for quiz, pg. 200 Transcription/translation of final song due	Units 16-18 quiz	Unit 19: Transcription within the phrase
Apr. 26	Unit 19: pp. 204-210		Unit 20: German art song literature
May 1	Unit 20: pp. 213-230		Review, pp. 225-230
May 3	German art song	Performance Class	
TBD	Study for final: pp. 225-230	German Final (written)	
TBD		Final Exam (spoken & sung)	

By signing this page, I acknowledge that I have read the syllabus and understand the course requirements for the class:

Singer's Diction: German; MUSI 2160—SPRING 2018

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date