

DICTION I (MUSC1211), Spring 2025

Mon/Wed 2:00-2:50PM

Billy Brasfield, Adjunct Professor

Office Phone: N/A

Email: Wilburn.Brasfield@msutexas.edu Room- FA C-117C

Office Hours: N/A

Required Text:

Wall Joan et al., Diction for Singers, Division of Celumbra, Redmond WA, 2nd Edition, 2012. Prerequisite: None

Grading Policies: Grade will be based on scheduled tests, daily participation and attendance. This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. The following numerical equivalents for grades are used: A=100-90%; B=89-80%; C= 79-70%; D=69-60%; F=59-0%. See absence policy below.

Absence Policy: This class is offered in a synchronous fashion. You are encouraged to attend all classes. More than two unexcused absences will result in an automatic drop of one letter from your final grade in class. Each additional unexcused absence will result in successive lowering of the final grade.

Course Objectives: This course is designed as a beginning study of the principles of diction as it relates to the training of the singing voice. The International Phonetic Alphabet will be learned as a tool to be applied to the pronunciation of English, Italian and Latin.

The student is expected to apply and integrate what is learned in this class into the singing of English, Italian and Latin song literature.

Weekly Schedule:

Jan. 22 — Introduction to class objectives and the IPA

27, 29 – Continued Introduction to IPA (vowels and consonants) plus aural examples

Feb 3, 5 – Final IPA intro (forward and back vowels)

10, 12 – English (transcription of IPA to English with aural examples)

17, 19 – Detailed English IPA pp 13 – 49 in Diction for Singers

Feb 24 – Conclusion of English

Feb 26 – Begin Italian pp 50 – 124 in Diction for Singers

Mar 3, 5 - Continue Italian

10, 12, 17, 19, 24. 26, 31 Continue Italian

April 2, 7 – Continue Italian

April 14 – Final Italian

April 16 – Begin Latin; pp 126 – 159 in Diction for Singers

April 17 – 20 – HOLIDAY BREAK

April 21, 13, 28, 30 – Continue Latin

May 5 – Final Latin

May 7 – Review of English, Italian, and Latin in Diction – Reviews of final assignment

GRADING POLICY: The following will be used for the preparation of grades:

30% - Attendance and Participation

30% - Tests on each section of English, Italian, and Latin

30% - Performances in Italian and Latin

10% - Final (project)

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Dean of Students' Office.

DISRUPTION OF TEACHING: Disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary proceedings, or other university activities authorized to be held or conducted on the premises of Midwestern State University. Such activity includes classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program.

INSTRUCTOR DROP: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct.

OFFICE HOURS: If for any reason you need to talk to me out of class, please contact the music office to either set up an appointment or a digital meeting.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

Social justice is one of Midwestern State University's stated core values and the professor considers the classroom to be a place where students will be treated with respect as human beings, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Moreover, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided the students can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students be able to consider the classroom a safe environment.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information that needs sharing, or if you need special accommodations

in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Federal privacy law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

Managing Stress

Students may experience challenging situations that could interfere with learning and interpersonal

functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend

or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless, or relationship problems. MSU provides

the following resources to students, and you don't have to wait until your situation is a crisis before

accessing them:

MSU Counselling Center (940.397.4618)

Vinson Health Center (940.397.4231)

Redwine Student Wellness Center (940.397.4206)

Further, additional resources may be available through MSU to address concerns of difficulty affording adequate food or housing and similar issues. I may be able to connect you to such resources, and anything along those lines that you choose to share with me will remain fully confidential.

In case of an emergency, contact the MSU Police Department (940.397.4239) or dial 911. If you or someone you know faces a sexual assault or domestic violence situation, call the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline (1.800.621.8504) for guidance or information.

Campus Carry

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