

DICTION I (MUSC1211), Spring 2024

Mon / Wed 3:00-3:50pm

Dr. Thomas Winger

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Room: FA-117A

Required Text:

Wall Joan et al., *Diction for Singers*, Division of Celumbra, Redmond (latest edition)

Prerequisite: None

Grading Policies: This course will use a portfolio grading system. Students will create a portfolio of their work over the course of the semester to be submitted during finals week along with a one-page grade suggestion and justification. In the issue of a discrepancy between a student's grade suggestion and my perception of their performance in the course, the student and I will meet to discuss. I reserve final grading authority.

Grades will be based on weekly assignments, attendance, performance grades, and test / exams to be broken down as follows:

Weekly Assignments (20 points per, 300 points total) — Assignments will consist of topical, practical work to be submitted Tuesdays by midnight. I will grade these Wednesday and address any issues Thursday in class.

Attendance (10 points per, 300 points total) — Students will receive full credit for attendance up until their fourth unexcused absence (see absence policy). Each absence from the fourth onward will result in a demotion of one-half letter grade (50 points). Extra credit opportunities may become available if needed, talk with Dr. Winger for details.

Performance Grades (50 points per, 100 points total) — Students will have two performance opportunities during the semester, one in Latin and one in Italian. Performances can be spoken aloud or sung. Students will submit a full IPA transcription to Dr. Winger at the time of the performance.

Midterm Exam (100 points) — Latin exam to include both written and spoken elements. Details will be provided closer to exam week.

Final Exam (200 points) — Cumulative, though heavy on Italian, exam to include both written and spoken elements. Details will be provided closer to exam week.

This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. The following numerical equivalents for grades are used: A = 895–1,000 points; B = 795–900 points; C = 695–800 points; D = 595–700 points; F = <595 points.

Absence Policy: Students must notify the professor of absences. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic drop of one-half letter from your final grade in the class via a 50 point deduction in attendance points. 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 Italian and Latin. The student is expected to apply and integrate what is learned in this class into the singing of Italian and Latin song literature.

Daily Topics:

Jan.	23	IPA — English
	25	IPA — English
	30	IPA — English
Feb	1	IPA — English
	6	Intro to Latin
	8	Intro to Latin
	13	Latin syllabification
	15	Latin stress
	20	Latin vowels
	22	Latin consonants
	27	Latin practice
	29	Red River Valley Choral Festival
Mar	5	Latin practice
	7	Latin practice
	12	Spring break
	14	Spring break
	19	Latin performance / Midterm review
	21	Midterm exam — Latin
	26	Intro Italian
	28	Holiday Break
Apr	2	Intro Italian
	4	Italian syllabification / stress

	9	Italian syllabification / stress
	11	Italian vowels
	16	Italian vowels
	18	Italian consonants
	23	Italian consonants
	25	Italian practice
	30	Italian performance / final exam review
May.	2	Final exam — cumulative

Finals Week — Schedule portfolio review and grade discussion

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 refer to the available office hours posted on my door, or set up an appointment.

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>.