

DICTION III (MUSC 3211), Spring 2024

Mon / Wed 3:00-3:50pm

Dr. Thomas Wininger

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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. Wininger 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. Wininger 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 IPA — English

25 IPA — English

30 IPA — English Intro to Latin

Feb 1 Intro to Latin

6 Latin syllabification Latin stress

8 Latin vowels

13 Latin consonants

15 Latin practice

20 Latin practice

22 Latin practice

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 Midtern exam — Latin
- 26 Intro Italian
- 28 Holiday Break
- 9 Intro Italian
- 11 Italian syllabification / stress
- 16 Italian syllabification / stress Italian vowels
- 18 Italian vowels
- 23 Italian consonants
- 25 Italian consonants
- 30 Italian practice
- May 2 Italian performance / final exam review
- 4 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.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Inclement Weather Statement

Key decision-makers will monitor weather projections and communicate with local news agencies and WFISD leadership to make a delay or cancellation decision. Notification occurs through official campus channels and in communication with the local news networks. MSU channels include MSU Alert, MSU Safety app, Postmaster, website headers, MSU Police, and the Office of Marketing and Public Information. The timeline is as follows:

Event	Time	Day	Decision
Inclement weather occurs during regular work/class day	3:30 PM	Day of inclement weather	Cancel classes/events after 5 PM
Overnight inclement weather expected	8 PM	Day before inclement weather	Close campus or delay opening
Delay called the day before but change to closure due to the extent of weather impact	6:15 AM	Day of delay	Close campus
No cancellation or delay decision made the night before	5:30 AM	Day after no decision made the night before	Close campus or delay opening

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.