Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
The School of Arts, Media & Communication
Department of Music
Diction for Singers I: MUSI 3162.001
Course Syllabus – Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Hope Fairchild Thacker
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Course Meeting time: TR 2-3:15 pm
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

I. Course Description
Learning to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) with sufficient fluency to effectively teach and learn proper pronunciation of song texts in English and German.

II. Required text


Optional Texts/Resources:
PONS: free online dictionary and IPA resource
http://en.pons.com/translate?gclid=CJDq7_GHI7wCFdHm7AodRTYA8w

IPA Help program – available for free download at:
http://www.sil.org/computing/ipahelp/ipahelp_download.htm

III. Student Learning Outcomes
As a result of completing this course, the successful student will:
1. Correctly identify, speak, sing and apply use of symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) which are used in transcribing the primary singing languages (English, Latin, French, German, and Italian).
2. Transcribe English and German text into IPA correctly, and accurately speak and sing words in these languages which have already been transcribed into IPA.
3. Know the rules of pronunciation for written German, English, and Church Latin, and be able to apply those rules to correctly pronounce texts in these languages, both spoken and sung.

IV. Class Activities
Major Projects: lengthier assignments in IPA transcription, translation, preparation and performance of German & English vocal literature. (2 @ 10% each = 20%)
Weekly Quizzes: Four English and Six German; given at the beginning of class (20%)
Midterm & Final Exam: Comprehensive, held during midterm & finals week (20% of grade)
Homework Assignments: short assignments in IPA transcription and other aspects of diction will be assigned in most class sessions or posted on Blackboard, due the following class meeting (20% of grade)
Blackboard: check Blackboard frequently, as you may have assignments posted that must be completed before most class periods. This may include listening assignments.
Class Participation: very important aspect of this class! We will be practicing diction as a class and in small groups so that you can provide auditory and visual feedback to each other (20%)

V. Grading Scale (percentage)

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = below 60

VI. Course Schedule (may be adjusted slightly according to the needs of the class)

Week/Day Topic
Weeks 1-5 English lyric diction
Weeks 6-14 German lyric diction
Final Exam – see university academic calendar

VII. Course Policies

A. All students will be complete diction nerds by the end of the semester! 😊
B. Late work will not be accepted. All work is due at the beginning of class.
C. Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in an automatic 0/F on the assignment; repeated plagiarism and/or cheating will result in removal from the course and disciplinary action for Academic Misconduct
D. Makeup for Exams will only occur if the student has obtained prior permission from the instructor.
E. Tardy students will not be allowed to make up Daily Quizzes or other work missed. Tardy students are responsible for personally showing the instructor homework in order to receive credit.
F. Attendance is required. Students will take full responsibility for making up all work missed and bringing it to the instructor in a timely manner. (a timely manner is defined by the instructor, not the student) More than 2 absences will result in the lowering of the final grade by 10% for each subsequent absence. Students will be removed from the course with a failing grade after 6 absences.
G. There is no extra credit.
Required: CLA Syllabus Statements

Disabilities Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Academic Advising

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is November 8, 2019.

Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

Classroom/professional behavior

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom
behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in (                 ).

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.