

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MU 1141 01

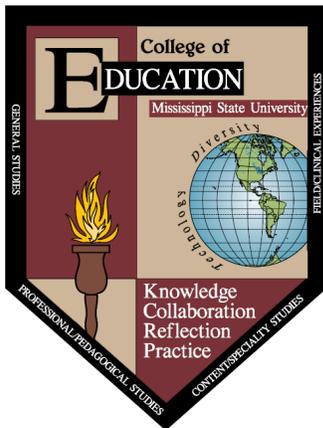
Course Title: Seminar for Voice Majors (English and German)

Credit hours: One (1) credit

Type of Course: Lecture/workshop/student performance

Catalog Description: One hour seminar. Acquiring the skills to pronounce and sing vocal text correctly in various languages by the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Music education majors only.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus

that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Description:

Voice Seminar: Diction for Singers is designed for music education majors and Bachelor of Arts majors with an applied emphasis in voice. It acquaints the student with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols and their application to English and German languages. Correct singing pronunciation of these languages as applied to Western European art song will be the focus of the course.

Course Objectives:

This course will:

1. teach the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet as applied to singing in English and German (InTasc #4 and CFPO #4)
2. encourage critical thinking in observing/analyzing performances (InTASC #4 and CFPO #4)
3. help singers gain confidence in solo performance (InTASC #5, 9)
4. explore the use of spectrogram software in sung text (CFPO #3, 4, 7)

Topics Covered:

1. IPA 5 hrs.
2. English Diction 5 hrs.
3. German Diction 5 hrs.

Texts:

Wall, J., Caldwell, R., Gavilanes, T., & Allen, S. (1990). *Diction for singers*. Dallas, TX: Pst. Inc, ISBN 1- 877761-51-6 (required)

A German/English Dictionary that uses IPA. (required)

Favorite german art songs (High or Low). Hal Leonard Co. ISBN: 9780793562466 (strongly recommended)

Marshall, M. (1953). *The singer's manual of english diction*. ISBN 10: 0028711009 / ISBN 13: 9780028711003 (recommended)

Moriarty, J. (2008). *Diction*. Boston, Massachusetts: E.C.Schirmer. ISBN 09-11318-09-7. (recommended)

Wall, J. (1989). *International phonetic alphabet for singers*. Freeland, Washington: Pacific Isle Publishing. (recommended)

Methods of Instruction:

Instruction will be conducted through:

1. lecture on language characteristics and IPA,
2. workshop with interactive activities, including repetition exercises and the use of *VoceVista* software to analyze vowels and consonants, and
3. individual performances by students in each language.

Suggested Student Activities:

1. Observe applied and private instruction voice teachers while they teach individual lessons, specifically on English and German songs, taking notes and preparing analyses of their collaborative work. Extra credit will be given to any class participants who take advantage of this option. Please consult the professor before beginning, and get the permission of the observed teacher and his/her students before attending lessons. (InTasc #5 and #9)
2. Attend concerts/recitals/programs that program English and/or German art song literature. Extra credit may be obtained through this option by writing a short review of the event and including any program that may be distributed. (CFPO #3, #4 and #7)

MSU Honor Code:

"As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>.

Technology:

VoceVista software will be used to examine vowel acoustic “footprints” and consonant production. Please bring a flashdrive to class and you may obtain this software free of charge as the Department of Music at MSU has a site license.

Diversity:

Diversity will be addressed in this course in the understanding that every person possesses his/her own unique vocal instrument. There is perhaps no more diverse discipline than singing in terms of approaches, exercises, languages, listening skills, and knowledge of repertoire for so many, varied voices. Additionally, this course will explore the German language and German Lieder as part of the course content in learning to sing in German. German composers and poets will be included. English art song involves both music from North America and Britain.

Disability:

Mississippi State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all students and assisting students in making their college experiences successful and positive. MSU complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact Student Support Services (325-3335) for the coordination of services. For more information, please see <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sss/disabilities/>.

Field Component:

There is no field component in this course.

Evaluation of Student Progress:

Assignments

1. IPA homework weekly assignments (100 pts. over the course of the semester)
2. Learn and perform one song in English and one in German: IPA and translation written into the music, and a brief introduction to the class of each song (400 points total - 200 points each)

Assessment

1. Tests (2): one on English diction, and one on German diction (400 points – 200 points each)
2. Attendance and participation in class (100 points)

Grading Scale: 1000 total points

Points	Grade
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C

600-699 D
Below 600 F

Bibliography:

Adams, D. (2007). *A handbook of diction for singers*. Oxford University Press, USA.
ISBN13:9780195325591 ISBN10: 0195325591

Marshall, M. (1953). *The singer's manual of English diction*. ISBN10:0028711009/ISBN
13:9780028711003

Monahan, B. (1978). *The art of singing: A compendium of thoughts on singing published
between 1777 and 1927*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press.

Potter, J. (Ed.) (2000). *The Cambridge companion to singing*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge
University Press.

Wall, J. (1990). *Diction for singers*. Dallas, TX: Pst. Inc, ISBN 1-877761-51-6