



## Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to German diction (the fundamentals of phonetics and sound production as applied to singing and speaking German) with appropriate modifications for singing. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) will continue to be introduced and used. Class periods will consist of lecture and participatory components, with an emphasis on student participation in singing and speaking exercises and repertoire (Lieder, arias and recitatives). Assignments will include listening, reading, writing, practicing and preparing repertoire. Outside of class, the student will be expected to prepare assigned repertoire and to complete written assignments. By the end of this course, students can expect to be able to successfully address and solve German diction issues that they will face on the concert and operatic stage.

## Required Resources

Course website: [www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu)



German for Singers: A Textbook of Diction and Phonetics  
Odom, William and Benno Schollum  
Boston: Schirmer Cengage Learning, 1998.  
ISBN-10: 0-02-864601-0 (Mistake on p. xvii)  
Call# MT883.035 1997



Langenscheidt Standard German-English English-German  
Dictionary  
ISBN:978-3-468-98046-6  
Call# PF3640.L2435 2011

## Suggested Resources



Diction for Singers  
Wall, Joan and others.  
ISBN: 978-4477700 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
Call# MT872.D43 2012

## Standard Reference



Deutsche Aussprache  
Siebs  
ISBN 10: 311 0003252  
Call# PF3137.S46 1969

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### Class Meets

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
11:00am – 11:50am  
Room 3164

### Office Hours

By Appointment

### Credits

1

### Course Communication

Communication outside of class (regarding matters such as class cancellations, meeting and rehearsal times, room changes, etc.) will be via email only. Here is a link with helpful guidance on writing professional emails ([ter.ps/email](http://ter.ps/email)).



## Course Expectations and Policies

### Assignments

Students are expected to have read the appropriate, assigned materials **before** they are discussed in class. Written exercises, which will include basic translation and use of IPA, will periodically be assigned and will be due at the next class meeting. **Late written assignments will not be accepted.** Students will be assigned various arias, recitatives and/or songs that they are to sing at a specified time. Failure to be prepared or to perform at a high level on your assigned date will result in a greatly reduced grade for that day. The accumulative total of these performances equals 45% of the final grade and each performance will be graded.

### Class Performances

1. Selections will be chosen by the professor with the approval of the studio teacher.
2. Students must be prepared for in-class coaching/performances on their assigned days. These pieces do not need to be memorized, but are expected to be as close to performance level as possible. This will be arranged by the middle of the semester. Rescheduling will only be permitted if the student presents a written excuse from a physician of his/her studio teacher. Failing to be present for a coaching/performance means a failing grade for the assignment.
3. A pianist will be provided for the students' in-class coaching and performances. Additional practice time with the class accompanist is limited. It is not the accompanist's responsibility to teach music to the students. While each student is performing or receiving individual in-class coaching on diction, all other students must actively and respectfully observe their colleagues' performances.
4. Evaluation of the performances will be based on preparation and improvement.
5. The final performance will be memorized.

### Grading

Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion and to attend all class meetings. The final grade will be based on the quality of preparation and performances of assigned repertoire, written work, and class participation.

45%	In-class performance of assigned repertoire
30%	In-class participation, repertoire preparation and class attendance
25%	Quizzes and other written work/homework

<b>A+, A, A-</b>	Excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship
<b>B+, B, B-</b>	Good mastery of the subject and good scholarship
<b>C+, C, C-</b>	Acceptable mastery of the subject and the usual achievement
<b>D+, D, D-</b>	Borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, unsatisfactory progress toward a degree
<b>XF</b>	Failure due to academic dishonesty (From the University of MD grading system)

Written quizzes will be given periodically throughout the semester (no pop quizzes). There is a written midterm however there is no written final exam.



Grades are not given, but earned. Your grade is determined by your performance on the learning assessments in the course and is assigned individually (not curved). If earning a particular grade is important to you, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester so that I can offer some helpful suggestions for achieving your goal.

### **Use of Electronic Devices**

All laptops, phones, or other electronic devices are to be turned off during class.

### **Attendance Policy**

As a performance based class, attendance matters. Attendance is expected and punctuality is required. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences and the instructor must approve all such absences in advance. It is also the student's responsibility to notify the instructor within the first 3 weeks of class regarding any religious observance absence(s) for the entire semester. Except for illness or other emergencies, any student expecting to miss a date, a class, or a course deadline, must have the approval of the instructor. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0 for that day and will affect your class-participation grade. If you are ill (especially with the flu), please do NOT come to class. If you miss several classes due to illness or otherwise, your sung assignments will be made up by appointment and written assignments will be sent to you via the Internet. The full university attendance/absence policy can be found here: <http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>. The student is responsible for pursuing work missed during an excused absence.

### **Campus Closing**

In the case of inclement weather, or other emergency that may close the university, the student is asked to check the school website for information. If the campus is to be closed for an extended period of time, the course, in this case, will be continued via the Internet.

### **Communication Outside of Calls Meetings**

Communication outside of class (regarding matters such as class cancellations, meeting and rehearsal times, room changes, etc.) will be via email only. This information will not be texted to you or appear as a tweet on your phone. Faculty and advisors use email to convey important information, and students are responsible for keeping their email address up to date and must ensure that forwarding to another address functions properly. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding, and returned emails are the responsibility of the student and do not constitute an excuse for missing announcements or deadlines.

### **Special Considerations**

The University of Maryland is committed to providing appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor within the add-drop period if academic accommodations will be needed. NB: You are expected to meet with your instructor in person to provide her with a copy of the *Accommodations Letter* and to obtain your instructors signature on the *Acknowledgement of Student Request* form. You and your instructor will plan together how accommodations will be implemented throughout the semester. To obtain required Accommodation Letter, please contact Disability Support Service at [dissup@umd.edu](mailto:dissup@umd.edu). Additionally, the University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in this course. For more information about the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu/code.html>.



Here at the University of Maryland we are committed to providing support and resources, including academic accommodations for students who experience sexual or relationship violence as defined by the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy. For more information: <http://www.umd.edu/ocrsm/>

We also highly value the diversity of our student body. We are committed to providing a classroom atmosphere that encourages the equitable participation of all students regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

### Copyright Notice

Class lectures and other materials are copyrighted and they may not be reproduced for anything other than personal use without written permission from the instructor.

**This syllabus and the course outline are both subject to change.** Students will be notified in advance of important changes that could affect grading, assignment dates, etc.

### Academic Integrity

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered but the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation and plagiarism. For info on the UMD Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, visit <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

### Get Some Help!

You are expected to take personal responsibility for you own learning. This includes acknowledging when your performance does not match your goals and doing something about it. Everyone can benefit from some expert guidance on time management, note taking, and exam preparation, so I encourage you to consider visiting <http://ter.ps/learn> and schedule an appointment with an academic coach. Sharpen your communication skills (and improve your grade) by visiting <http://ter.ps/writing> and schedule an appointment with the campus Writing Center. Finally, if you just need someone to talk to, visit <http://www.counseling.umd.edu>.



Everything is free because you have already paid for it, and **everyone needs help**... all you have to do is ask for it.