

**MUS 170**  
**Italian and Latin Diction for Singers**  
**MW 9-9:50**

**Anne Albert, Instructor**

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**Office:** Room 329

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**Texts and Materials:** A Handbook of Diction for Singers, by David Adams

A three-ring binder

Pencils, erasers, paper

**Course Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to give students the tools to read and understand the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) in relation to ecclesiastical Latin and Italian lyric diction. The course will be approached from the singer's perspective with regard to special considerations that pertain to singing in Italian and Latin. A large focus of the course will consist of striving for a pure, Italian sound.

**Attendance and Participation:**

Participation in class is of primary importance in a class of this nature. Therefore, attendance is mandatory and participation required. Three absences are permitted before the lowering of the student's final grade by half letter for each unexcused absence.

**Assignments and Daily Work:**

Homework (15%)

Homework consists of weekly reading assignments, handouts, IPA transcriptions, and possibly other assignments.

Quizzes (30%)

Weekly quizzes will occur on the new material covered. If you miss a quiz, you may not make it up. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Tests (40%)

There will be three tests and a final exam, each worth 10% of your final grade.

Sung Presentation and Peer Evaluations (15%)

An Italian art song of your choice will be prepared and presented for the class. You are expected to bring your own accompanist at the time of the performances. More details to follow.

**Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability that interferes with your studies, please make me aware of it as soon as possible so that I may better assist you in this course.

| <b>DATE</b>  | <b>Course Schedule<br/>TOPIC</b>                                | <b>ASSIGNMENT</b>                          |
|--|---|--|
| Week 1: M-August 14 <sup>th</sup><br>W-August 16 <sup>th</sup>       | Syllabus and Intro to IPA<br>IPA Symbols                        | Read Adams Preface<br>Memorize IPA symbols |
| Week 2: M-August 21 <sup>st</sup><br>W-August 23 <sup>rd</sup>       | Quiz; Latin vowels<br>Latin consonants                          | Memorize Latin rules                       |
| Week 3: M-August 28 <sup>th</sup><br>W-August 30 <sup>th</sup>       | Latin rules<br>Quiz; Latin transcriptions                       |  |
| Week 4: M-September 4 <sup>th</sup><br>W-September 6 <sup>th</sup>   | Labor Day- No Class<br>Quiz; Latin transcriptions               |  |
| Week 5: M-September 11 <sup>th</sup><br>W-September 13 <sup>th</sup> | TEST 1-LATIN<br>Introduction to Italian                         | ADAMS (1-9)                                |
| Week 6: M-September 18 <sup>th</sup><br>W-September 20 <sup>th</sup> | Syllabification, Word Stress<br>Quiz; Appocation, Vowel length  | ADAMS (9-10)                               |
| Week 7: M-September 25 <sup>th</sup><br>W-September 27 <sup>th</sup> | [a], [i], [u]<br>Quiz; e and o                                  | ADAMS (11-13)<br>ADAMS (14-18)             |
| Week 8: M-October 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>W-October 4 <sup>th</sup>       | Glides, diphthongs and triphthongs<br>Quiz; Practice and Review |  |
| Week 9: M-October 9 <sup>th</sup><br>W-October 11 <sup>th</sup>      | FALL BREAK-No Class<br>Quiz; Consonants, b, d, f, l, m, p, t, v | ADAMS (19-21)<br>ADAMS (22-28)             |
| Week 10: M-October 16 <sup>th</sup><br>W-October 18 <sup>th</sup>    | r, s, z, c, g, h<br>Quiz; sc, gn, gli, nc, ng, nq, ps, pu       | ADAMS (28-32)<br>ADAMS (32-36)             |
| Week 11: M-October 23 <sup>th</sup><br>W-October 25 <sup>st</sup>    | Double consonants, practice<br>Quiz; Practice                   |  |
| Week 12: M-October 30 <sup>th</sup><br>W-November 1 <sup>st</sup>    | TEST 2-ITALIAN<br>Transcribing                                  | ADAMS (37-53)                              |
| Week 13: M-November 6 <sup>th</sup><br>W-November 8 <sup>th</sup>    | Quiz; Transcribing<br>Transcribing                              |  |
| Week 14: M-November 13 <sup>th</sup><br>W-November 15 <sup>th</sup>  | TEST 3-ITALIAN TRANSCRIPTION<br>Sung Presentations              |  |
| Week 15: M-November 20 <sup>th</sup><br>W-November 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sung Presentations<br>THANKSGIVING- No Class                    |  |
| Week 16: M-November 27 <sup>th</sup><br>W-November 29 <sup>th</sup>  | Sung Presentations<br>Review                                    |  |
| Week 17: M-December 4 <sup>th</sup>                                  | TEST 4- FINAL EXAM  |  |