

MPVA 560: Graduate Italian Diction (2 units)
Fall 2022 Mondays 10:00-11:50am, MUS 208
Jeremy Frank
Office Hours: Email to set-up appointment
Contact: jmfrank@usc.edu

This syllabus is subject to change based on enrollment and level of students.

Course Description

This is a performance-based course designed to give graduate voice majors and keyboard collaborative artists (8-12 students) a review of the basic rules of pronunciation, International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and grammatical structure of the Italian language through the study and preparation of Italian secco and accompagnato recitative and operatic arias (time permitting).

Learning Objectives

In this course students will:

- Transcribe recitative and aria texts into IPA
- Provide word-for-word and paraphrased translations of assigned texts
- Musically prepare and perform one secco recitative, one accompagnato recitative, and one aria (time permitting).

Required Texts

Stapp, Marcie. *The Singer's Guide to Languages*. San Francisco:
Teddy's Music Press. 1996.

[Course flashcards]

<https://quizlet.com/join/7x4bUpThb>

Recommended Resources

Martini, Ursula. *Barron's Foreign Language Guides: Italian-English Dictionary*. Second Edition
Barron's Educational Series, Inc. 2016

Zingarelli, Nicola. *Lo Zingarelli Vocabolario della lingua italiana*.
Zanichelli. 2019.

Online Resources

- Collins online free dictionary: <http://www.collinsdictionary.com>
- Online *Dizionario di Pronuncia Italiana*: <http://www.dipionline.it/dizionario>
- <http://www.wordreference.com>

Optional Resources

Colorni, Eveline. *Singers' Italian: A Manual of Diction and Phonetics*.
Cengage Learning. 1995.

Castel, Nico. Italian Opera Libretti (various volumes)
Leyerle Publications

Supplemental listening assignments as determined by instructor

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Students will be assigned recitatives from the major operatic repertoire and are encouraged to, with the input of their individual instructor, suggest appropriate repertoire. The selections may be solo or ensemble recitatives, and arias from the standard Italian operatic literature.

- The text of each assigned musical excerpt will be prepared in IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) transcription and both word-for-word and paraphrased translations.
- Assignments must be typed and printed, and student must bring enough copies for each classmate and the professor on the assignment date. **A draft copy must be turned in to Professor Frank one week before the assignment is due.**
- Assigned texts will be recited as a spoken text, as well as sung, for critique and grade. Keyboard Collaborative artists and singers will practice coaching each other on Italian diction, with supervision of professor.
- At the beginning of Unit 2, students will listen to three recordings of Italian singers and write a blog post on Blackboard, critiquing the performances.
- In addition to live text work for Unit 3 (arias), students will record themselves speaking their text with prerecorded tracks from G. Schirmer Opera Anthology Diction Coach series (provided by instructor).
- A brief, weekly graded quiz will be presented to drill familiarity with high-frequency opera words and common irregular verb conjugations. [ie. avere, essere]
- A sung final exam (from memory) will be performed for critique and grade.
- A written final exam will be given during Finals' week.

Grading Breakdown

Grading will be based on:

Musical and written preparation of assignments	50%
Final performance and written final exam	25%
Weekly flashcard quizzes	10%
Class participation	15%

Course Schedule (subject to change): A Weekly Breakdown

Week 1 – August 21, 2023

- Review Syllabus
- Survey possible repertoire for class assignments, assign groups for Unit 1
- Discussion of Dictionaries, Castel Libretti, Schirmer “Diction Coach” Anthologies
- Overview of IPA, Italian Spellings, and Pronunciations Part 1
- **Assignment:** Read Marcie Stapp, p. 87 - 103

Week 2 – August 28, 2023

- Overview of IPA, Italian Spellings, and Pronunciations Part 2
- Avere/Essere conjugations
- Introduction to Musical Settings of Diphthongs and Triphthongs
- **Assign secco recitativo excerpts for Unit 1**

Week 3 – September 4, 2023

LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)

Week 4 – September 11, 2023

- Overview of IPA, Italian Spellings, and Pronunciations Part 3 (if necessary)
- Group A – Secco Recitativo Assignments Due – TEXT ONLY
- Coach pronunciation and dramatic delivery

Week 5 – September 18, 2023

- Group B – Secco Recitativo Assignments Due – TEXT ONLY
- Coach pronunciation and dramatic delivery

Week 6 – September 25, 2023

- Group A – Secco Recitativo – TEXT AND MUSIC – Revised Written Materials Due
 - Coach pronunciation, music, and scenic pacing at performance level
- Assign arias for Unit 2A/2B (Accompanied Recits and Arias)**
Schirmer Diction Coach Tracks Provided for Aria Unit

Week 7 – October 2, 2023

- Group B – Secco Recitativo – TEXT AND MUSIC – Revised Written Materials Due
- Coach pronunciation, music, and scenic pacing at performance level

Week 8 – October 9, 2023

- **Assign Blog review of listening assignment**
- Group A – Accompagnato Assignments – TEXT ONLY
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 9 – October 16, 2023

- **Blog review of listening assignment due**
- Group B – Accompagnato Assignments – TEXT ONLY
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 10 – October 23, 2023

- Group A – Accompagnato Assignments – TEXT AND MUSIC
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 11 – October 30, 2023

- Group B – Accompagnato Assignments – TEXT AND MUSIC
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 12 – November 6, 2023

- Group A – Arias – TEXT AND MUSIC
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 13 – November 13, 2023

- Group B – Arias – TEXT AND MUSIC
- Coach pronunciation, music, and dramatic pacing

Week 14 – November 20, 2023

- **Group A – pre-recorded diction track due**
- Group A – Sung Final Project – Accompagnato and Aria
- Fellow Students review and critique each performer in writing
- Grade is based on performance as well as written commentary.

Week 15 – November 27, 2023

- **Group B – pre-recorded diction track due**
- Group B – Sung Final Project – Accompagnato and Aria
- Fellow Students review and critique each performer in writing
- Grade is based on performance as well as written commentary.

Written Final – December 11, 2023 – 8:00 – 10:00 AM *

- Materials to include IPA and stressed e/o from flashcard vocabulary list., rules of pronunciation, basic grammatical rules, avere/essere conjugations

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**Academic Integrity:**

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.