Westminster College  
School of Music  
Latin and Italian Diction MUS 207  
Syllabus - Fall 2017

Latin and Italian Diction MUS 207  
Instructor: Dr. Anne Hagan Bentz  
Time: Tuesday and Thursday 10:10-10:50  
Tel.: 724-946-6045  
Office Hours: M 10:30-1:00 and W 12:30-2:00  
email: bentzah@westminster.edu

I. Course Description

This class is designed for both performers and music educators to teach the proper pronunciation of Latin and Italian as they are performed by singers. Students will learn the principles of proper pronunciation and the teaching of these two languages using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as the basis for instruction. **Student learning will be, as always, primarily a function of student effort and preparation.**

II. Required Materials

- Handbook of Diction for Singers by David Adams (Oxford University Press 1999)
- Webster's New World Italian Dictionary
- Twenty-Four Italian Songs and Arias of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (G. Schirmer) for your voice type
- Singer’s Liturgical Latin by Robert S. Hines
- Mirror

III. Outcomes and Assessment

Students will learn the rules required to apply the international phonetic alphabet to the pronunciation of both Latin and Italian. By the end of the course students will be able to transcribe, read and sing songs in each of these languages using the IPA.

IV. Assignments

1. Students will be given a text in Latin or Italian and will demonstrate a working knowledge of the IPA by transcribing it.
2. Given a text in IPA, the student will read it aloud.
3. Given a text in Italian or Latin the student will read aloud without IPA
4. Each student will demonstrate the application of these skills to singing by performing pieces in Italian and Latin from the “Twenty four Italian Songs and Arias” anthology listed above.
5. Each student will turn in an IPA transcription of each piece for review and feedback from the instructor prior to their in-class performances. Songs must be memorized.

**Note:** Because mastery of the IPA and the rules that govern its use require much drill, emphasis will be placed on daily homework, weekly quizzes and phonetic transcriptions. Homework assignments should be brought to class completed and students should be ready to discuss them.

V. Basis for Grading
Weekly Homework Assignments - 20%
3 Quizzes - 30%
4 Songs (2 in Italian, 2 in Latin) - 20%
1 Midterm and 2 Finals (1 in Italian, 1 in Latin) - 30%

VI. Grading Scale

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<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>63-65</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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VII. Absences

Two absences are permitted. The third absence will lower your grade by one letter. **It is the student's responsibility to makeup missed assignments and to come prepared to the next class.** Any makeup work to be turned in will not be accepted later than the next class. Quizzes and exams will only be made up in the case of dire illness and only with a doctor's excuse. (Sick in room is not acceptable).

VIII. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the purpose of any academic community. We ask that you read the section in the catalog entitled "Academic Integrity" which includes the following definition:

> Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of the expected code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, purposely altering the work of another (without that person's permission), misrepresentation of attendance in class or at college events, misrepresentation of work, facts, or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another's computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and unauthorized use of library materials and privileges, or engaging in any activity which attempts to alter or harm another's academic standing...

*Westminster Handbook*

Of special concern is the issue of plagiarism, which is defined as leading your reader or listener to believe that what you have written or said is your own work, when, in fact, it is not. The range of plagiarism includes word-for-word copying of another's text, to even the unquoted borrowing of apt phrases or terms. All of these degrees of plagiarism are equally unethical and may be penalized with failure for the assignment, or, in extreme cases, failure for the course.

IX. Conduct

"The mission of Westminster College is to help men and women develop competencies, commitments, and characteristics, which have distinguished human beings at their best. The abuse of alcohol and other drugs serves only to undermine the achievement of these goals. The faculty therefore expects all students, as they do of themselves, to take seriously the implications of such risk taking behaviors in their pursuit of a Westminster education."

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Please note: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.