

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Music Department**

**MUSG 5335: Special Topics in Music**

CRN: 20988

Spring 2024

Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm-3:50pm

FFA 101, in person class.

Professor Diana Esparza [desparza6@utep.edu](mailto:desparza6@utep.edu)

(915) 747-7797

Office Hours: Tuesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm or by appointment. We can also meet through Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82337205481?pwd=ZG5JUzIYNno1c2F4Mk5OMktUTWNkZz09>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

MUSG 5335 is a three-credit course for graduate voice majors. The special topic covered will be German and French lyric diction for singers. The study of the International Phonetic Alphabet. Department approval is required.





This class will focus on study of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The students will apply the IPA to the different vocal repertoire in German and French. The students will learn how to transcribe the different languages into IPA. They will also learn how to correctly pronounce the IPA transcriptions for each language covered. The students will practice writing IPA, reading IPA, and correctly pronouncing the different languages while singing.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Know the International Phonetic Alphabet rules for the covered languages.
- Pronounce accurately the IPA symbols.
- Transcribe the different languages into IPA.

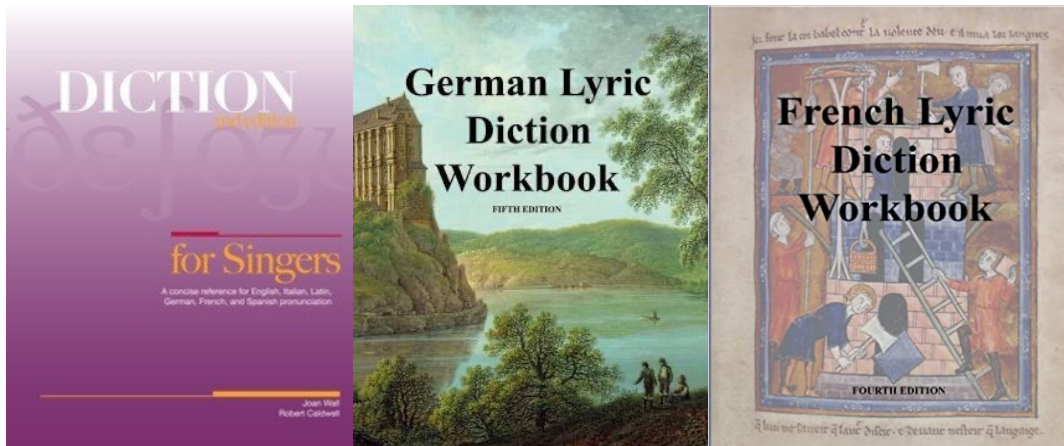
- Sing in the different languages covered using accurate pronunciation.
- Further develop a variety of repertoire in the covered languages.
- Research specific diction cases related to both German and French languages.

<u>Student Learning Objective</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
Objectively assess their own performance in regards of accurate pronunciation as well as their peers through class performance.	 Teamwork Skills
Identify, discuss, and demonstrate consistent application of German and French IPA rules of self and peers.	 Critical Thinking Skills
Engage as a community of student singers to address performances in terms of diction assessment, being able to describe the strengths and weaknesses of performers in the covered languages.	 Communication Skills
Be appreciative and respectful of peer performance no matter the level of skill each student has.	 Social Responsibility

## LEARNING MODULES

This course is designed using a modular format—that is, we will divide the semester into modules, each language is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, singing rounds will be focused on one language at a time.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS



Wall, Joan. *Diction for Singers* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2012).

ISBN: 978-193-447-7700

You can find the book at: [dictionforsingers.com](http://dictionforsingers.com)

Montgomery, Cheri. *German Lyric Diction Workbook*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

ISBN: 978-098-188-2963

Montgomery, Cheri. *French Lyric Diction Workbook*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition

ISBN: 978-099-165-5915

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing to “View Rubric” from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Grade Distribution:

90-100 = A      80-89 = B      70-79 = C      60-69 = D      59 and Below = F

- 30 points: Homework assignments (Includes: transcriptions, phonetic readings, singing videos, listening assignments, etc.)
- 10 Points: German song
- 25 Points: German test
- 10 Points: French song
- 25 Points: French test

IPA transcriptions: To master the use of IPA we must practice applying the IPA rules while transcribing. Students will be assigned weekly song transcriptions and vocabulary using the textbook.

The phonetic readings will be submitted (voice memo). This will provide feedback from the instructor/TA in order to master the accurate pronunciation.

There will be singing rounds for each language module, the students will submit their recorded videos for a grade and class assessment.

There will be listening assignments for each module, this will provide the students with exposure to native singer's pronunciation, and a knowledge of repertoire in the different languages.

Most of these activities will either be submitted on Blackboard and/or a one drive folder. Students will be able to look at their records on Blackboard.

Participation: For this online course, students will be required to participate in weekly discussion boards – both an initial post and responses to your peers. Students will also have a collection of smaller assignments throughout the week that will work to build toward the larger projects. Each of these activities will be given point values that add up to the total 100-point participation grade. These points cannot be made up, so students are expected to stay active in the course by logging in at least three times a week.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

The class will meet face to face, but course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**Course Communication:** How we will stay in contact with each other

**Office Hours:** Tuesday from 4:00pm to 5:00pm or by appointment. We can also meet through Zoom, here is my link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82337205481?pwd=ZG5JUzIYNno1c2F4Mk5OMktUTWNkZz09>

Schedule a meeting by e-mail appt.

**Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

- **Discussion Board:** If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

## NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**Course Policies:** What do you need to do to be successful in the course

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the "grading information" area of each forum)
- Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions ○ Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

### **OR**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

## **FACE TO FACE SESSIONS**

This class requires that you attend face to face Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 3:50pm

I will have a Zoom option only for official, documented COVID cases, we will talk more about it in class.

Depending on the case, students will be expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

## **DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Major Writing Assignments/Homework

- Major writing assignments/homework will be due on Saturday no later than 6:00pm. No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

This includes song transcriptions, phonetic reading recordings, singing recordings, etc. You will submit your homework through OneDrive folder.  
Tests/Singing Assignments

- All tests and singing assignments will be face to face during class, but in the case that you have COVID we will arrange depending on your condition.

## **MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive

preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

## **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

## **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-7475148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

### **COVID-19 Accommodations**

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

**(classes with on-campus meetings)** Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

## **SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and

collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## CLASS RECORDINGS

In the case that you get COVID and need to quarantine, we will record the class on Zoom. The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

## GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### AI prohibited.

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **not allowed** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

### AI allowed only with prior permission from instructor

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used**. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.

If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query."  
Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgement.



Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is **only allowed with proper attribution given for its use**.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). "Text of your query."  
Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

#### Using AI for brainstorming

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often "hallucinate" or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

#### Free use of AI without acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.

## **PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE**

Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## **COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has

received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

**(classes with on-campus meetings)** Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

## **COURSE RESOURCES:** Where you can go for assistance.

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit [https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html).



## Weekly Calendar (Subject to Change)

This calendar provides an overview of the course. More details and a weekly checklist are available in the weekly modules in Blackboard. The due date for major writing assignments is ALWAYS Sunday at 11:59 PM (MST). No late work will be accepted.

KEY:

IPA= International Phonetic Alphabet

VR= Video recording

Bb= Blackboard

DFS= Diction for Singers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

	Topic	Reading/ Practice Due	Assignments Due	Notes
Week 1 1/16-1/18	Class introduction, syllabus.	Review syllabus, Bb DFS pgs. 161-163	Syllabus reading and signing electronic consent consent	
Week 2 1/23-1/25	Introduction to IPA symbols/German	DFS Pgs. 164-165	Homework due Bb/One Drive folder	*All homework will be posted on Bb
Week 3 1/30-2/1	Continuation of German IPA symbols	DFS Pgs. 162- 165	Homework due Bb/One Drive folder	*All homework will be posted on Bb
Week 4 2/6-2/8	Transcribing /Singing in German	The students will sing for the class and be assessed live/video	Homework due Bb/One Drive folder Singing rounds/all students will sing a song in Spanish to be assessed in class.	The singing rounds will be with a previously sent video to be assessed in class.
Week 5 2/13-2/15	Reading in German	The students will sing for the class and be assessed live/video	Homework due Bb/One Drive folder Singing rounds/ all students will sing a song in Spanish to be assessed in class.	The singing rounds will be with a previously sent video to be assessed in class
Week 6 2/20-2/22	German singing rounds		Homework due	

Week 7 2/27-3/29	German singing rounds		Homework due	
Week 8 3/5-3/7	Test #1 German Test Week before Spring Break		German study chart due	
Week 9 3/19-3/21	Introduction to French IPA rules	DFS 229-232	Homework due Singing rounds/all students will sing a song in Italian to be assessed in class.	
Week 10 3/26-3/28	French IPA rules	DFS 233-235	Homework due	
Week 11 4/2-4/4	Transcribing in French Nasal vowels	DFS pgs. 259-284	Homework due	
Week 12 4/9-4/11	Liaison and elision Reading in French	DFS pgs. 256-258	Homework due	
Week 13 4/16-4/18	French singing rounds		Homework due	

Week 14 4/23-4/25	Finish singing rounds and final review			
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Week 15 5/30-5/2	Test #2 French IPA			
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