George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it is an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  

X  NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: CVPA, Department of Music  
Graduate Council Approval Date:  

Course Abbreviation: MUSI  
Course Number: 541

Full Course Title: Diction for Singers I *Italian Diction and English Diction*

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Diction for Singers I

Credit Hours: 2  
Program of Record: M.M. in Vocal Performance

Repeatable for Credit?  
D=Yes, not within the same term  
T=Yes, within the same term  
X=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  
LEC  
LAB  
RCT  
STU  
INT  
IND  
SEM

Catalog Credit Format: 2:2:1  
Course Level:  
GF (500-600)  
GA (700+)

Maximum Enrollment: 20  
For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall 2004

Prerequisite: Graduate status in applied voice or permission of instructor.

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses: Intensive study of Italian and English phonetics. Learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), its rules and applications, and strengthen the performance of Italian and English art songs and operatic repertoire.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:  
Last term offered:  
Previous Course Abbreviation:  
Previous Number:  

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:  
Submitted by: Jim Carroll, Music  
Email: jcarrol1@gmu.edu  
Department/Program:  
Date:  
College Committee:  
Date:  
Graduate Council Representative:  
Date:  


COURSE AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG (Number, Title Credit, Prerequisites, Course description): MUSI 541, Diction for Singers I – Italian Diction and English Diction, n (2:2:0), There are no prerequisites for this course. The objective of this course is to increase proficiency in singing in Italian and English, to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), its rules and applications, and to strengthen the performance of Italian and English art song and operatic repertoire. This course will focus on an intensified, systematic study of phonetics as it applies to Italian and English.

FOR A MODIFIED COURSE, WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?
This question does not apply. This is a new course.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE NEW COURSE/COURSE CHANGE? Diction study, in the past, has been apart of the Vocal Pedagogy class. The number of vocal performance majors and vocal concentration students has increased to the point that a separate class for the study of Italian and English diction is warranted. The combination of Vocal Pedagogy and Diction did not properly address the students’ need for more intensified study of this subject matter.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS AND/OR ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS COURSE?
The students will be required to transcribe poetry, song, and aria texts into symbols based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and to speak and sing assigned repertoire in Italian and English.

WHAT FACULTY WILL TEACH THIS COURSE?
A current faculty member in the Vocal Studies Division will teach this course. This faculty member has taught this class as part of the Vocal Pedagogy and Diction course.

GIVE A SAMPLE WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, CLASS ACTIVITIES AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES. Please see the attached course syllabus and class schedule. This will serve as a pilot for the course.
COURSE AS IT WILL APPEAR IN THE CATALOG:

Diction for Singers I- Italian Diction and English Diction MUSI 541 (2:2:1)
Prerequisite: none

For vocal performance majors, this course is designed to increase proficiency and skill in singing in Italian and English through a systematic study of phonetics. An intermediate level of proficiency in Italian is recommended but not required. Students learn to articulate and pronounce linguistically correct Italian and English, to transcribe texts using the rules and applications of the International Phonetic Alphabet, and to apply this study to the performance of Italian and English art song and operatic repertoire.

APPROVAL:

Passed by CVPA Faculty: __________________________ Date: ________________

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Development

Attachments:
Undergraduate Approval Form/Graduate Council Approval Form
New/Modified Course Proposals Form
Description, criteria, syllabus
Course Instructors: Patricia Miller, Director of Vocal Studies  
Professor of Music  
Email: pmilleb@gmu.edu  

Dr. Kathryn Hearden  
Adjunct Professor of Music  
Email: kathrynhearden@cox.net

Class meeting: Tuesday/Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Choral Room 323

Course Credit: Two (2) course credit hours (2:2:1)

Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course are to increase proficiency in singing in Italian and English, to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), its rules and applications, and to apply the study of phonetics and accurate diction toward more effective vocal performance of Italian and English art songs and arias.

Course Description:

This course will focus on a systematic study of phonetics as it applies to singing in Italian and English and will include learning the International Phonetic Alphabet (the IPA), its rules and applications. A level of proficiency in Italian is recommended but not required. Knowledge of the IPA, transcribing IPA symbols accurately in vocal texts, as well as speaking and singing phonetically help the singer establish a method of articulating accurate speech sounds and language patterns characteristic of a foreign language (in this case Italian and English). This course is designed to strengthen the performance of art song and operatic repertoire through learning to articulate, translate and pronounce linguistically correct Italian and English as it pertains to the art of singing. The course work will include transcribing poetry, song and aria texts into phonetic symbols based on the IPA, and speaking and singing assigned repertoire in Italian and English. This course is required for vocal performance majors.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Class Participation:

1) Students are required to participate in class discussions and are expected to attend all scheduled classes.
2) Students are expected to complete all assignments (oral and written) by the due date given by faculty.
3) Mid-term and final exams are required.

Course Requirements (continued):

4) Class Notebook and/or repertoire journal are required as instructed by professor.
5) Class participation will include transcribing Italian poetry, song and aria texts into phonetic symbols based on the IPA and reciting and singing in class.
Grading:
University grading scale for Graduate level courses will be applied.
Grading for this course will be determined by averaging written tests (midterm and final), class preparedness and participation and presentation of art song and aria performances in class.

Letter Grades
A+ 4.00 Satisfactory/Passing
A  4.00 Satisfactory/Passing
A- 3.67 Satisfactory/Passing
B+ 3.33 Satisfactory/Passing
B  3.00 Satisfactory/Passing
B- 2.67 Satisfactory*/Passing
C  2.00 Unsatisfactory/Passing
F  0.00 Unsatisfactory/Failing

Required Texts:


Diction for Singers (Italian, German, French, English, Spanish and Latin) by Joan Wall, Pst…Inc., Dallas, Texas

International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers, A manual for English and foreign language diction by Joan Wall, Pst…Inc., Dallas, Texas