

Singer's Diction/German  
MUS 2231  
*Spring 2026*

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Student/Office Hours

Official student/office hours are posted on the door of Room 302. Don't hesitate to contact the instructor by email or phone to arrange an alternative time and/or location for the meeting. The instructor is always happy to assist you in your learning.

Catalog Description

A German diction course for singers and choral directors to improve their capacity to respond with ease, accuracy, and expression.

German Diction, MUS 2231, meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays in MUB Room 142 at 5<sup>th</sup> period (11:45 am) from January 12, 2026, to Friday, March 13, 2026. It is a one-credit course required of voice majors and the third course in the Singer's Diction sequence.

Course Description and Objectives

German diction is a course for singers and choral conductors to improve their ability to respond with ease, accuracy, and expression to German lyric texts. Students perform regularly in class and complete all quizzes, homework assignments, projects, and exercises. The course grading criteria are attendance, initiative, and progress.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Using the International Phonetic Alphabet as a reference, students learn to accurately pronounce German poetic texts. Students become familiar with the historical and cultural events that influence the interpretation of German poetry. This knowledge facilitates expressive interpretations of Lieder, operatic, and oratorios in German. Class presentations demonstrate skill mastery.

Textbook and Materials

The textbook for the course is *Diction in Context: Singing in English, Italian, German, and French*, by Brenda Smith (San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing, 2019). Recommended for further study is *German for Singers*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by

William Odom (New York, NY: Schirmer Books, 1997). A German-English dictionary using the IPA for its pronunciation guide is required.

### Measurement Tools

Attendance, initiative, and progress are the main criteria for grading. The measurement tools for these criteria are as follows: a.) quizzes, in-class dictations, and homework assignments, b.) final exercise, c.) attendance and class participation, and d.) class presentations. Quizzes, class activities, and homework assignments evaluate a student's command of newly introduced material. Dictations practice IPA and aural skills. The final exercise, an open-book/open-note activity, is comprehensive in scope, demanding knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and its application to written and oral texts in German.

### Attendance and Class Participation

Given the course's brevity (9 weeks) and its importance to future success in the study of singing, prompt class attendance is mandatory. Lateness is at times unavoidable. Please text the instructor or a classmate to report your anticipated arrival time. Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. There are no discretionary, unexcused absences.

### Class Presentations

Because German diction is a performance class, the class presentations represent a large portion of the course grade. Each student presents German texts in spoken and sung form. The repertoire assignments given will be in consultation with the studio teacher. Program notes for the final presentation must include at least three (3) cited sources, only one of which may be from an online source. Please note that to receive credit, you must submit the presentation materials on time. Our collaborative pianist will assist you in preparing for your class presentation. Please arrange a rehearsal with them before the class performance. Students should perform on the assigned day if possible. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please notify the instructor at least 24 hours before the scheduled presentation. Each student will receive feedback from peers and the instructor.

### Dates for Class Presentations

First Class Presentations (graded S/U): February 11 and 13, 2026.

Final Class Presentations (25% of final grade): March 11 and 13, 2026.

### Grading

Below, please find the criteria for calculating the course grade, using the plus/minus scale:

Attendance*	10%
Participation*	10%
Quizzes	15%
Self-Reflections	20%
Final Exercise	20%
Class Presentations	25%
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	100%

**\*Attendance is an essential element for success in this course and is taken as a roll call at the beginning of each class. Note: There are no discretionary, unexcused absences. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent prompt attendance, please notify the instructor. Please provide documentation where appropriate. Given prior notice, accommodation is possible.**

**\*Participation involves engagement in class activities, such as quizzes, dictation practices, and daily discussion.**

**Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:**

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

**More information on grades and grading policies is here:**

**<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>. Please feel free to consult the instructor at any time regarding your course status.**

## Weekly Schedule

The assignments and due dates listed below are subject to change. Expect a weekly update ("This Week in German Diction") on your ufl.edu email for guidance and confirmation regarding all class expectations and activities.

January 12-16	<b>Language and Culture:</b>  <b>Introduction, Development of the German Lied</b>  <b>Nouns and Declensions and Auxiliary Verbs</b>  <b>„Ich“ &amp; „Ach“ Lauts</b>	<b>Discussion Topics:</b>  <b>Composers and Poets:</b>  <b>Franz Schubert</b>  <b>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</b>	<b>Readings for the Week:</b>  <b>Parts of Speech/ Elements of Grammar (p. 164-175)</b>  <b>Goethe and Romanticism (p. 175-177)</b>
January 19-23	<b>(No Class 1/19); MLK Day)</b>  <b>Umlauts</b>  <b>Past Tense Verbs</b>	<b>Heine and Rückert</b>  <b>The Mendelssohns and Schumanns</b>  <b>First Reflection Assignment</b>	<b>Heine (p. 181-189)/Rückert (p. 189-195)</b>  <b>P. 201 and p. 203</b>  <b>First Reflection Assignment due on Friday, 1/23/2026 5 pm on Canvas</b>
January 26-30	<b>Auxiliary Verb Quiz</b>	<b>Clara and Robert Schumann/Women Composers in 19<sup>th</sup> c. Germany</b>	<b>Read Eichendorff (p. 195-197)</b>
February 2-6	<b>Preparation and Practice for First Presentations</b>  <b>Dictation and Poetic Analysis</b>	<b>Monday: Johannes Brahms</b>  <b>Wednesday &amp; Friday, Dictation and Poetic Analysis/ Practice</b>	<b>Reading: (p. 205-208)</b>  <b>First Presentation Materials due in</b>

			<b>class on Friday, February 6, 2026</b>
<b>February 9-13</b>	<b>Review of Early 19th-Century Lieder Composers</b>	<b>Monday: Review Wednesday/Friday (February 11/13)  First Presentations</b>	<b>Attendance is mandatory, and notes should be taken for the next reflection assignment.</b>
<b>February 16-20</b>	<b>Wolf Song Cycles</b>	<b>Italienisches Liederbuch and Spanisches Liederbuch</b>	<b>Textbook (p. 215-219)  Second Reflection Assignment Due 2/20/2026 5 pm on Canvas</b>
<b>February 23-27</b>	<b>Orchestrated Songs  Dictation Practice</b>	<b>Gustav Mahler (p. 219-220) Richard Strauss (p. 221-223)</b>	<b>Discussion Questions, p. 223  Final Presentation Materials due on Friday, 2/27/2026 in Class</b>
<b>March 2-6</b>	<b>German Language Trends</b>	<b>Third Reflection due</b>	<b>Check Canvas for Assignments due this week.  Third Reflection Assignment Due 2/6/2026 5 pm on Canvas</b>
<b>March 9-13</b>	<b>Monday, Final Exercise and Dictation in Class</b>	<b>Wednesday and Friday, Final Presentations</b>	<b>Attendance is mandatory for all activities of this final week.</b>

For Required Policies and Resources, please visit: <https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>