

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

## Music Department Course Syllabus

### Course: Diction Credit: One Carnegie Unit each year

#### Course Description

This course is an introduction to English, Italian and German diction (the fundamentals of phonetics and sound production as applied to singing and speaking the languages). We will learn and apply the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to both poetry and repertoire. Class periods consist of lecture and participation through singing and speaking exercises as well as various repertoire.

#### Course Goals

- To learn to produce proper English, Italian and German diction.
- To become skilled in the correct use of IPA.
- To apply what is learned to the performance of vocal literature.
- To practice performance skills and build confidence.
- To become aware of resources for translation and language learning.

#### Required Materials

You will receive a reading packet which is to be kept in a 3-ring binder with a pencil and loose leaf paper. Also to be kept in your notebook is the course schedule which will keep you aware of all required reading assignments, performances, and quizzes.

#### Classroom Standards

Electronic device decorum

All electronic devices, including cell phones and i-pods must be turned off and secured INSIDE a bag or on your person. Failure to do so may result in the collection of said device.

*Attendance:* You are expected to attend EVERY class.

Excused absence-given when I have received a legitimate note from a doctor, parent or teacher.

Excused tardy- given when I have received a legitimate note from a doctor, parent or teacher.

Students and parents/caregivers are held accountable for reporting all absences within 48 hours of the student's return. All letters must be submitted to the Attendance Officer and submitted to course instructor. Students with chronic unexcused attendance may result in a failing grade for the course. Ten (10) or more unexcused absences per advisory, may result in the student receiving a grade of "FA" (failure due to absences) in that subject. Excessive absences, even for legitimate reasons, will have an adverse effect on the work presented and therefore, on the grade earned. Students who are absent for performances, field trips, and extra-curricular activities, are held accountable and responsible to secure and complete all performances, written assignments, written quizzes, and written tests according to guidelines of Attendance Policies and Procedures established in the Ellington Handbook. Late written assignments will only be accepted one day after due date, resulting in the grade being lowered by 10 points from grading score actually earned.

If you know you have a personal issue of some kind that I should be aware of to better understand your predicament, please come and talk to me. Our communication is key to our success in this class.

\*\*\*No student is permitted to miss or be late to class due to work or testing in another class. Should a student need to make up work in another class they must do so before school, after school or during lunch. In cases of emergency a student must speak with me first, meaning that the student reports to class first to ask permission as opposed to late arrival or absence followed by a note/excuse, which will not be excused.

*Dress:*

Must be in alignment with school and department requirements  
Gum-Just don't

*Quizzes*

Throughout the semester there will be various quizzes; among them are the IPA, transcription, poetic, and sung quizzes.

**USE OF THE RESTROOM-GO BEFORE YOU COME OR AFTER YOU LEAVE**

**Grading and Evaluation Procedures**

Students are graded on class work each advisory. Class works includes learning and performing classical vocal literature as well as written quizzes and tests. Class grades also include written work (IPA sheets and transcription exercises) or any criteria the teacher deems necessary to the development of the student.

**Grade Breakdown**

**The grades for each advisory will be based on the following areas:**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Practice and Application</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	<b>40%</b>

**GRADING SCALE**

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86
B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79
C	73 - 76
C -	70 - 72
D+	67 - 69
D	64 - 66
F	63 and below

**Attendance Impact on Grade**

- Grade reduction for 5 unexcused absences in a quarter for a single course
- Automatic “FA” (Failure due to absence) for 10 unexcused absences in a quarter for a single course
- Automatic “F” for 30 unexcused absences in a year for a single course

I Incomplete (too little work submitted) Students have until 2 weeks after issuance or report cards to submit assignments and make up individual physical assignments and exams. Failure to complete required work within the above stated time frame will result in the incomplete grade converting to an “F”

All students are expected to treat each other and their teachers with respect and to follow the guidelines given in the Music Department Handbook and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Community Handbook.

**Note: Scheduled date of classes, assignments/unit, exams, course content etc... are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, and/or in the event of extenuating circumstances.**