



SYLLABUS – VOICE 101 & 301

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for those who demonstrate a working knowledge of music skills and whose primary instrument is voice. Your weekly voice instruction will include the following required meetings:

- One private 50-minute session with your voice instructor
- Voice Studio Class on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00pm
- Vocal Forum on Mondays from 12:00 to 1:00pm.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/REQUIREMENTS

- To refine the principals of posture, breath management, and healthy tone production for the singing voice.
- To learn the elements of good musicianship, including phrasing, dynamics, intonation, and rhythmic and pitch accuracy.
- To learn techniques for preparing a song for performance, with attention to diction, background and style, performance poise, and interpretation.
- To learn about the function and care of the voice.
- To learn and perform the appropriate number of pieces required for your level of study. (See section to follow entitled Repertoire and Jury Requirements.)

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- **Music (in a notebook)** – may be checked out from the library or bought. You should purchase at least one book of music per semester to begin building your personal music library. Recommended sources for music purchase are TIS Vocal Catalog (www.tismusic.com) and Penders (800-952-7526).
- **Blank CDs** for recording your lessons. You may bring a box of CDs at the beginning of the semester and store them in my studio so that you don't have to remember every week.
- **Pencils**

CANCELLATION PROCEDURE AND POLICY

Please inform me at least 24 hours in advance if you will be missing your lesson. Valid reasons for missing a lesson are illness, legitimate emergency, and family obligations. The following are not valid reasons for missing a lesson: forgetting, oversleeping, other class work, lack of preparation, leaving early for the weekend, making other plans, stayed up too late, simply not coming, et al.

If I miss a lesson, I will make every attempt to extend the same courtesy of notice to you, and every effort will be made to make up the lesson at a later arranged time. If you miss a lesson, do not expect to receive a makeup lesson unless I have time. However, if you do not give notice or miss the lesson for an invalid reason, you will receive a grade of F for that lesson.

COLLABORATIVE ARTISTS

Each student is responsible for hiring a pianist for the semester. This is equivalent to the purchase of a textbook in any other class and is **non-negotiable**. Each student should find a pianist who is available for the last half of your lesson in addition to a half-hour rehearsal time scheduled between the two of you. Respect your pianist! **If you are going to miss a lesson or practice time, it is your responsibility to notify them. If you do not give proper lead-time you will be charged.**

For each performance on studio class, you will be required to pay for the services of a collaborative artist. This fee (which will be announced in studio class) is due before your first performance in studio.

STUDIOS AND FORUM

Studio is held each Monday from 4:00-5:00pm. Each person who is taking voice is required to attend this performance class. For each class missed without a proper excuse, an F will be entered into the average of studio grades acquired.

Forum is held each Monday from 12:00-1:00. This offers the opportunity to both perform for peers and faculty and learn from the performances of students in other studios. We hope to have other enriching opportunities incorporated into this venue. Majors and vocal concentrates are **required** to attend all scheduled vocal forums. For each forum missed without a proper excuse, an F will be entered into the average of studio grades.

Each student is expected to attend all faculty or guest recitals and recitals given by studio members.

PRACTICE PROCEDURES

Practice with an attentive mind and body is the golden way to improvement. You must practice to improve. You will not get better just by listening to what I say; you must implement it. You should follow these **daily** practice guidelines and record them in your practice log:

- 5-10 minutes of "warm-up"
- 10-15 minutes of vocal exercises
- 30-45 minutes singing repertoire
- 20-30 minutes silently studying and memorizing repertoire

The minimum required practice time for applied voice lessons depends upon the number of credit hours:

- 3 or 4 credit hours – 10 hours of individual practice per week
- 2 credit hours – 8 hours of individual practice per week
- 1 credit hour – 5 hours of individual practice per week

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

The following must be submitted for grades during the semester:

- Completed Song / Aria Research Sheets (submitted as songs are performed in studio) – You will be required to make enough copies (18-20) of these sheets to submit to your fellow studio singers for any piece you perform in studio class.
- Practice Log / Journal (submitted weekly in voice lesson)

REPERTOIRE AND JURY REQUIREMENTS

Repertoire varies each semester according to the educational needs of each student. The general guidelines are:

- Freshmen - 18th and 19th century Italian songs and possibly arias, English and American songs from the 19th and 20th century, with possibly a German song from the standard repertoire if the student is vocally ready.
- Sophomores - continue with Italian and English songs, add German songs, and may learn some of the easier French mélodies.
- Juniors and seniors - continue learning music chosen in conjunction with their teachers which suits the vocal and educational needs of each student. Since each student has different educational needs, operatic arias are assigned when the student is vocally ready.

The repertoire required per semester varies according to major:

EDUCATION AND THERAPY MAJORS

- Semesters 1, 2 & 3 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
4 songs learned and memorized; 2 performed on jury.
- Semester 4 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
7 songs learned and memorized; 4 prepared and performed for jury proficiency.
- Semesters 5, 6, 7 & 8 – 2 credit hours – VOI 301
8 songs learned and memorized; 6 prepared for and 2 performed for jury.

PERFORMANCE MAJORS

- Semester 1 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
6 songs learned and memorized; 4 prepared for and 2 performed for jury.
- Semester 2 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
8 songs learned and memorized; 6 prepared for and 2 performed for jury.
- Semester 3 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
9 songs learned and memorized; 6 prepared for and 2 performed for jury.
- Semester 4 – 2 credit hours – VOI 101
9 songs learned and memorized; 4 prepared and performed for jury proficiency.
- Semesters 5, 6, 7 & 8 – 4 credit hours – VOI 301
12 songs learned and memorized; 9 prepared for and 2 performed for jury.

If you do not learn your required repertoire, your jury grade will be lowered 8 points per piece. In other words, if you don't memorize 2 of your pieces, each vocal faculty member will start your jury grade at an 84 rather than 100. See the vocal handbook for further detail.

EVALUATION

| | PERFORM- ANCE | ALL OTHER MAJORS |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| STUDIO – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance and participation in lessons/studio classes/forum• Practice, based on number of hours documented in log• Aria / Song Research Sheets, submitted for each piece studied during the semester | 50% | 66% |
| JURY – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average of each professor's grade (See Vocal Handbook for further details.) | 50% | 33% |

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SINGING CONFERENCE

Qualified students are encouraged to participate in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Texoma Regional and District Conference and Auditions in order to further their knowledge and experience regarding vocal music performance. Students in attendance will give performances to the class from their audition repertoire. These students will be selected by the voice instructor based on readiness to compete.

HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE

1. COME TO EACH LESSON.
2. PRACTICE – VOCALLY AND MENTALLY.
3. KNOW YOUR MUSIC BEFORE YOU COME TO YOUR LESSON. DO NOT EXPECT TO BE TAUGHT THE NOTES AND RHYTHMS IN YOUR LESSON.
4. ATTEND AND PERFORM IN VOICE STUDIO CLASSES AND VOCAL FORUM.
5. HAVE YOUR ASSIGNED PIECES WELL-PREPARED, RESEARCHED, AND MEMORIZED TO BE PERFORMED ON THE JURY.
6. FIND AND LISTEN TO MULTIPLE RECORDINGS OF YOUR PIECES (IN THE LIBRARY OR ON I-TUNES) PERFORMED BY PROFESSIONAL SINGERS.

SPECIAL NOTE: THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES SUCH AS CELL PHONES AND PAGERS IS NOT APPROPRIATE DURING CLASSES. TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT **BEFORE** YOUR LESSON BEGINS.

UNIVERSITY POLICY INFORMATION

Americans with Disabilities Act: According to University policy requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holyday, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day (s) shall resent to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day (s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absences (s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

Academic Honesty: Your policy must, at minimum, be compatible with stated university policy set forth in (§§5.3-5.32) of the Faculty Handbook (see italicized section below). The Faculty handbook sets forth in great detail examples and definitions of dishonest behavior; the faculty members' discretion in determining when dishonesty occurs and rendering penalties; procedures for discipline; and suggested wording for the individual professor's policy.

Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct: According to university policy and §5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that that is conducive to learning

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."