

Sam Houston State University – School of Music
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring, 2008

COURSE:

VOI 301x52 CID#3242

COURSE TITLE:

Applied Voice

CREDIT HOURS:

2 hours credit

LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING:

MUS 327

MEETING TIMES:

TBA with the instructor

INSTRUCTOR, OFFICE LOCATION, PHONE, E-MAIL, ADDRESS:

Professor Mary Kay Lake

MUS 327

936-294-1395

mus_mkl@shsu.edu

School of Music

PO Box 2208

Huntsville, TX 77341

OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours are posted on my office door: T/W/Th/F 9:30 – 9:50. If you need to see me at a time other than your regular lesson, please come by, call, or e-mail me and we will arrange an appointment. As a courtesy to your fellow students, please do not interrupt someone's lesson to schedule an appointment or conference. In addition, I will post a weekly schedule on my office door for you to consult as to my availability.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is for students who have chosen voice as their major instrument in preparation for a career in vocal performance, music education and/or music therapy. Students enrolled in this course have demonstrated, by previous audition, a working knowledge of music and musical skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will learn about the function and care of their own voice and personal vocal potential. Vocal principles to be explored include posture, breath management, tone quality, musicianship (phrasing, dynamics, rhythm, intonation, etc.). Performance techniques include preparing a song, diction, style, and interpretation.

TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLIES:

Your assigned repertoire serves as the main text for this course. Music is available through numerous sources including:

Newton Gresham Library: 1st floor

Pender's Music Co.: 1-800-952-7526

T.I.S. Music: 1-800-421-8132 or www.tisbook.com

Opus 1 Music: 1-800-376-7871 or www.opus1music.com

(Due to the nature of vocal study, I will discuss and recommend music and vocal anthologies and collections with each student individually.)

14 Blank CD's to record your weekly lessons CD R's

Loose-leaf Notebook NOT YOUR CHOIR FOLDER!(requirements listed below)

Pencils (#2 and colored)

Highlighters

Winning Warm-ups for the Voice and *More Winning Warm-ups for the Voice* by Kathleen Van de Graf (available on-line or through one of the music vendors listed above.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ATTENDANCE

You will receive a minimum of 12 50-minute lessons per semester. Any lesson that you miss due to illness or University sponsored trip will be excused **if** prior notice is given. **NOTE: that does not mean calling at the time of your lesson.** If you are well enough to attend your other classes **AND ESPECIALLY CHOIR**, I expect you to attend your lesson. We can address vocal aspects that do not require singing. I do, however, reserve the right to grade you down for repeated or multiple absences and cancellations. As stated in the Vocal Division Handbook, I am not obligated to make-up lessons that you have missed, excused or unexcused. I will, however, make-up any lessons that I cancel. Each unexcused absence will result in a grade of 0 for that lesson.

STUDIO CLASS AND VOCAL FORUMS

Studio class will be held most Tuesdays, 3:30- 4:30 pm, Rm. TBA. **Attendance is required.** One absence will be allowed; each absence thereafter will result in lowering your studio grade by 4 points. Studio class is an opportunity to sing in a less formal setting and to give and receive feedback from your peers. It is crucial to your growth as a performer and educator. You will be scheduled to sing several times throughout the semester. It is expected that you be prepared to sing each and every time you are scheduled to perform. Your music is to be memorized and researched prior to your performance. You must prepare a sheet containing translations, information about the song or aria, the composer, etc. that can be distributed to each class member and myself. I also require that you be dressed appropriately for performance. The more you care about the total presentation, the better your performance will be. Shorts, flip-flops, t-shirts, sweatpants, etc. are not considered acceptable attire for studio or forum performance. Plan ahead! As in any other course, failure to sing when scheduled will result in points being deducted from your grade. (If you are a new student and have a class conflict with this time, you need to speak to me immediately.)

Vocal Forums meet Monday, at 12:00 p.m. In addition to vocal performances by students, these Forums present many enriching and informative sessions pertaining to what we do as performers, educators, and therapists. Vocal concentrates and voice majors are required to attend all forums. Performance majors, juniors and seniors preparing recitals and sophomores preparing proficiency exams are required to perform on at least one Forum each semester. Let me repeat, **attendance is required. It is not an option.** Each unexcused absence from Forum will result in a 0 being averaged into your studio grade.

PRACTICE

It is expected that you come to your lesson prepared. Daily practice and preparation is essential to your vocal development. You are required to spend a minimum of 30 minutes each day with your assigned vocal exercises. Additional time should be dedicated to your repertoire and any other vocal activity you have been assigned. How much time you spend practicing depends on how quickly and thoroughly you acquire necessary vocal skills, learn and memorize your repertoire, etc. At a minimum you should plan on 1 - 1.5 hours per day. **NOTE: Singing in the car, to the radio, in your room, in choir rehearsal does not fulfill this requirement!** You are responsible for learning your notes and rhythms and bringing them to your lesson each week. You receive credit in this course for your weekly practice and preparation. **I will not teach you notes and rhythms.** Any student arriving for a lesson obviously unprepared may be asked to leave. Be sure you understand what is expected of you for the next lesson before you leave the studio. **Write it down!** Clear goals from week to week will result in quality practice sessions. I have prepared a chart to help you practice efficiently from day to day and week to week. Be sure to bring a CD to your lesson to record what has been covered in order to practice more efficiently each week. **Please note good vocal health is imperative for vocal growth and development. Adjust your schedule and lifestyle accordingly.**

ACCOMPANISTS

You must secure a qualified accompanist no later than your third lesson of the semester. Your accompanist must be available for 30 minutes of your lesson and an additional 30-minute rehearsal during the week (set by both of you). I am happy to discuss the various avenues to finding an accompanist should you find it difficult to secure someone.

REPERTOIRE

Repertoire requirements are outlined in the Vocal Division Handbook. You should begin or continue to acquire a library of vocal music. We will discuss specific collections that you need to own. Learn your repertoire in a timely fashion. A schedule of memorization deadlines for this course has been prepared for each level of study. I will hear the repertoire during your lesson. Before we begin study on a song, you are expected to have prepared the mechanics of the song (notes and rhythms, translations, diction, study of the poetry/ character) In addition you should research each piece for composer, poet/ librettist. You will be expected to prepare a brief explanation and translation of your piece before performing it in studio class. I expect you to prepare your research and be able to recite your text from memory. Listening to several recordings of your repertoire is also very valuable in your preparation and study.

NOTEBOOK

A notebook is required for this course. **THIS IS TO BE SEPARATE FROM YOUR CHORALE OR CHOIR NOTEBOOK! DO NOT STUFF BOTH COURSES INTO THE SAME FOLDER! I will review your notebook periodically throughout the semester.** It is to contain the following: 1) Copies of your music, 2) a practice chart (for technique and repertoire study), 3) translations and IPA transcriptions of songs in foreign languages, 4) notes about each song and the composers, 5) information about the opera, oratorio or musical, 6) repertoire and grading sheet, 7) vocal exercises, lesson CD's, *Winning Warm-Ups* CD's, 8) listening report forms, and 9) programs and program notes from solo vocal recitals and concerts, handouts, guide sheets, etc. I expect you to spend at least one hour each week listening to recordings. You should focus on recordings of your own voice type, the languages and the repertoire that you are singing this semester. It is important to engrain the sounds of good, healthy vocal technique and the languages in which you are singing. We will discuss what you have listened to in your lesson and in studio class. Listening to other singers and attending live performances are vital to your own vocal growth. I expect you to attend all vocal recitals and concerts, faculty and student alike, and to include the programs in your notebook.

REPERTOIRE MEMORIZATION SCHEDULE

Memorizing your repertoire as soon as possible after it has been assigned will free you to work vocal technique and musicality. I have provided a schedule below to serve as a guide for the semester. Plan ahead!

Week of:

1/21

1/28

2/04

MEMORIZATION QUIZ

2/11

2/18

MEMORIZATION QUIZ (TMEA)

2/25

3/03

MEMORIZATION QUIZ

3/10

SPRING BREAK

3/17

MID-TERM EXAM

3/24

(GHNATS 3/29)

3/31

MEMORIZATION QUIZ

4/07

4/14

MEMORIZATION QUIZ

4/21

4/28

REPERTOIRE SING OFF

5/05

PRE-JURY REVIEW

GREATER HOUSTON NATS AUDITIONS and WORKSHOPS

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Spring GHNATS student auditions and attend workshops and seminars offered throughout the semester. These audition opportunities and quality workshops further students' knowledge and experience regarding vocal music performance, vocal technique, vocal pedagogy, etc. Students in attendance will write an essay, give verbal reports and/or performances to the class regarding their experiences. The final jury will include performances of the music presented at the auditions. The student auditions will be held March 29 in Houston, TX. I will inform you of the dates and locations of workshops as I receive the information.

GRADES

Final grades are determined by averaging your studio grade and your final jury grade (performance: 50%–50%, music education and music therapy: 66 2/3%–33 1/3%). The grade I record for each lesson reflects attendance, preparation, improvement, attitude, mastery and memorization of repertoire, and your notebook. This represents 50% of the studio grade. The remaining 50% is comprised of five memorization quizzes (10%), midterm exam (10%), studio performance and participation and forum performance (10%), and pre-jury exam (10%) The memorization quizzes will take place as listed in the chart above during your weekly lesson. Mid-term exams will take place the week of March 17-21. **There will be no exceptions to these dates!** The requirements for the memorization quizzes and the mid-term will be provided on a separate sheet. You must sing off your entire repertoire from memory and have all research completed for your lesson the week of April 28-May 02. The pre-jury review will take place during your lesson the week of May 05-09. Late work will not be accepted. Again, your last lesson will be devoted to your jury repertoire. Any incomplete repertoire will result in an 8 point deduction from your jury grade as stated in the Vocal Division Handbook.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Academic Honesty:

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to cheating on an examination of other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct:

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 newspaper, 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, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

*SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with 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 a religious holy day, 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 present 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 absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Visitors in the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

