

COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring Semester 2008

MUS 462: Vocal Pedagogy & Techniques
CID #2936
3 Hours Credit

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dawn M. Padula
PHONE: (936)294-1375
E-MAIL: dmp004@shsu.edu
OFFICE: School of Music, Rm. 326
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

COURSE MEETING TIME AND LOCATION:

11:00-11:50a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
School of Music, Rm. 217

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Vocal Pedagogy and Techniques includes the examination of pedagogical issues and approaches to vocal instruction enabling students to chart a personal course of instruction. Assessment of scientific and empirical data, learning styles, and discipline-specific language will assist in the formation of individual teaching philosophies and practical methods of analyzing and developing the primary parameters of vocal production: breathing, phonation, resonance, and articulation. Each student will acquire a moderately detailed understanding of the structure and function of the vocal mechanism as it is used for singing. Students will learn principles of caring for the singing voice, how to preserve one's vocal health for a lifetime, and practically applicable ways of diagnosing and correcting vocal faults/problems in others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1.) To gain a greater understanding of the Art of Teaching Voice (i.e., Vocal Pedagogy) through the study of anatomy, physiology, psychology and the nature of sound.
- 2.) To provide the student with the terminology necessary to increase one's communication skills with regard to teaching in the vocal arts.
- 3.) To develop one's aural and visual skills with the intention of developing heightened diagnostic skills including the development of a discerning ear.
- 4.) To examine the physical process of singing and be able to name, locate and explain the function of the bones, muscles, tissues and cartilages of the spine, thorax, larynx, neck and vocal tract.
- 5.) To understand the importance of posture and the effect it has upon proper breathing for singing and support.

- 6.) To understand how the muscles of the thorax accomplish respiration and how breath management affects tone quality.
- 7.) To learn how vocal anatomy and physiology accomplish phonation, with particular attention to vocal registration.
- 8.) To explore acoustic principles and their application to the singing process with special emphasis on resonance.
- 9.) To learn about the structures involved in articulation, and how the vocal tract functions to shape a sound to achieve clear diction, and a clear tone.
- 10.) To learn how to diagnose vocal faults related to breathing, phonation, resonance and articulation, and determine a systematic approach for correction.
- 11.) To learn about the basics of the care of the student and professional voice including vocal health, hygiene and pathology.

TEXTBOOK, REPERTOIRE, AND/OR SUPPLIES:

Textbook

McCoy, Scott. *Your Voice: An Inside View*. Princeton, NJ: Inside View Press, 2004. The book contains a CD-ROM that should be installed on your computer's hard drive (you can also run the program directly from the CD-ROM). ISBN: 0-9755307-2-0

Note that supplementary reading/course material written by additional authors will be provided for you, or will be placed on reserve in the Newton Gresham Library.

Other Supplies

- A 3-Ring Binder to contain notes, handouts and other materials. In addition to bringing your textbook, you should bring this binder with you to every class period.
- Regular access to a computer with CD-ROM, sound-playing and printing capabilities.
- Other supplies as necessary to complete successfully any assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance

Attendance at scheduled classes is mandatory. Each student will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences before the final grade is lowered by eight (8) points. Each additional unexcused absences will result in an additional lowering of the grade by an additional eight points.

It is imperative that you make arrangements to be in class on time. Be advised that quizzes will be given and tests will be started at the beginning of the class period, and there will be no extra time given to those students who are late. If you miss a quiz due to tardiness, your grade will be a zero. You are tardy if you are more than 5 minutes late. Being tardy three times will count as one unexcused absence. Each additional time you are tardy will count as another unexcused absence. No tests or quizzes will be made up due to an unexcused absence.

No more than three excused absences will be allowed. An e-mail or phone call at least 24-hours

in advance is required. The following will be accepted as excused absences: 1.) a valid Doctor's note indicating illness, 2.) prior notification, such as school activities or ensemble performances off campus (your notification must be in writing), 3.) Instructor absence, 4.) emergency (which will be considered at the discretion of the Instructor). You will be responsible for any class material covered or assignments made during your absences.

Assignments

Assignments will consist of 1.) written teacher observations, 2.) the building of a larynx, 3.) other possible projects to be named at a later date. Due dates and guidelines for all assignments will be provided for you. No late work will be accepted. All projects are due at the start of the class period on the assignment's due date.

Teacher Observations

As part of your training in becoming an effective voice teacher, you are being asked to observe voice teaching in action. Watching a lesson being taught is a completely different experience than being a participant. Therefore, you will be asked to observe and evaluate the lessons of three teachers (excluding your own). Details regarding how to go about this and further criteria will be provided.

Building a Larynx

You will be asked to build a larynx using a variety of materials. The intention of the project is to help you better understand the cartilages and musculature of the larynx by building one yourself. Details regarding this project will be provided.

Additional Assignments

The instructor may present the possibility of extra assignments if the individual or class grades warrant such an option.

Quizzes and Tests

Because the course material is very detailed, and at times complicated, you will be given regular quizzes to ensure that your comprehensive knowledge and grasping of the course material is being understood properly. Tests will be given over the four major units of study (Breathing, Phonation, Registration and Articulation), and there will be a sectional comprehensive final examination at the semester's end. In the case that a test contains essay questions, you must be prepared to answer the essay questions using complete, thoughtfully-produced sentences and your very best prose! For all tests and quizzes, there will never be a word bank provided, so do not ask for one. Put simply, you need to know this information as it directly applies to your principle area of concentration—the voice! It is extremely important that you are able to memorize terms, anatomy, concepts, etc., so that one day you may be able to apply the knowledge to your jobs.

Review Questions

To better help you prepare for quizzes, tests and essays, review questions will be provided intermittently. Review questions will not be graded, but will help you to compile your thoughts and to guide you in putting the information into a cohesive format prior to the tests.

Cell Phones

Please turn off all cell phones prior to entering the classroom. Should a cell phone go off (or even vibrate so that it can be heard) during class, the Instructor will administer a

pop quiz over course material. The grades from these pop quizzes will not be eligible to be dropped. Keep your cell phones off!

Communication

You must check your e-mail on a daily basis! It is a requirement for this course (and I imagine, several other courses you are taking). I will be using BlackBoard (located on the SHSU website homepage) to upload class information, assignments, announcements, etc. You must check this every day, as well as your shsu.edu e-mail account. Please print up the day's lecture notes and bring them with you to class. If you choose to use a different e-mail account, be sure that you have your shsu.edu account forwarded to that e-mail so that I can get in touch with you. No excuses! This campus is loaded with public computers, so I will not accept any excuse that your e-mail was down or that you could not check BlackBoard on the web.

***Graduate Credit**

For those of you taking this course for graduate credit, you will be given additional coursework. Namely, you will write out a course of instruction for a private student of your choice outlining your long and short-term goals for their progress this semester. You must document their progress by taking a video of them performing a piece at the start and the close of the semester. You must also turn in a weekly log of each lesson, outlining the goals to be accomplished in the lesson in addition to any obstacles you encountered and how you endeavored to overcome them. Details regarding your requirements will be provided to you in a separate document.

GRADES:

Grade Breakdown by Percentages

Quizzes:	15%
Tests (4):	30%
Comprehensive Final Exam:	25%
Build-a-Larynx Project:	15%
Teacher Observations:	15%

100%

Deductions for attendance violations (see policy above) will be taken from your final semester grade. That is, if you receive a "100" and have three unexcused absences, your final semester grade will become a "92." Four unexcused absences would lower your final semester grade to an "84," etc.

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.

***COURSE CONTENT BY CLASS PERIOD**

**Subject to Change—WE MAY WORK AHEAD OR BEHIND!*

Wednesday, January 16	Course Introduction; Presentation of Syllabus Reading: Ch. 1, all
Friday, January 18	NO CLASS
Monday, January 21	NO CLASS—MLK DAY HOLIDAY
Wednesday, January 23	Posture (McKinney/Ware) Ch. 1: Listening to Singers Reading: Ch. 7, all; Ch. 8, to p. 93 (up to “Breathing Techniques”)
Friday, January 25	Breathing: Anatomy and Physiology Reading assignment: Ch. 8, pp. 93-98 (through “Breathing Variations” only) DVD: <i>The Singer’s Voice—Breath</i>
Monday, January 28	Quiz #1 Breathing: Breathing for Life vs. Singing; Support
Wednesday, January 30	Quiz #2 Breathing: Faults and Corrective Procedures
Friday, February 1	Quiz #3 Review for Test
Monday, February 4	Test #1
Wednesday, February 6	Practical Application: Singer Evaluations and Discussion Reading: Ch. 9, pp. 107-119 (up to “Onset, Offset, and Phonation Modes”)
Friday, February 8	Phonation: Anatomy and Physiology Reading: Ch. 9 up to p. 119 (“Onset, Offset and Phonation Modes”)
Monday, February 11	Quiz #4 Phonation: Anatomy and Physiology, cont. DVD: <i>The Singer’s Voice--The Larynx</i>
Wednesday, February 13	Quiz #5 Reading: Ch. 9, p. 119 to end
Friday, February 15	NO CLASS—TMEA

Monday, February 18	Teacher Observation #1 Due Phonation: modes, control, and extrinsic musculature
Wednesday, February 20	Quiz #6 Phonation: Faults and Corrective Procedures Reading: Ch. 6, all
Friday, February 22	Quiz #7 Phonation: Registration (adding Ware and Miller)
Monday, February 25	Phonation: Registration, cont. Review for Test
Wednesday, February 27	Test #2 Reading: Ch. 3, all
Friday, February 29	Larynx Project Due Resonance: Free and Forced; Source-Filter Theory DVD: <i>The Singer's Voice—Resonance</i> Reading: Ch. 4, all
Monday, March 3	Quiz #8 Resonance: Faults and Corrective Procedures
Wednesday, March 5	Quiz #9 Review for Test
Friday, March 7	Test #3 Reading: Ch. 10, all
Monday, March 17	Articulation: Anatomy and Physiology DVD: <i>The Singer's Voice—The Vocal Tract</i>
Wednesday, March 19	Quiz #10 Articulation: Consonants, Vowels, Vowel Modification
Friday, March 21	Quiz #11 Articulation: Faults and Corrective Procedures
Monday, March 24	Teacher Observation #2 Due Review for Test

Wednesday, March 26	Test #4
Friday, March 28	NO CLASS—GOOD FRIDAY
Monday, March 31	Vocal Health: Hygiene and Disorders
Wednesday, April 2	Vocal Health: Hygiene and Disorders, cont.
Friday, April 4	Practical Application practice
Monday, April 7	The International Schools of Singing
Wednesday, April 9	Practical Application practice
Friday, April 11	Teacher Observations #3 Due Practical Application practice
Monday, April 14	Material Review
Wednesday, April 16	Material Review
Friday, April 18	Material Review
Monday, April 21	Material Review
Wednesday, April 23	Material Review
Friday, April 25	Material Review
Monday, April 28	Coordination (Ware & McKinney)
Wednesday, April 30	Coordination, continued Preparation for Practical Application Final
Friday, May 2	Final Exam Review
Monday, May 5	Final Exam Review
Wednesday, May 7	Final Exam Part I— Practical Application
TBA During Final Examination Period for this Class	Final Exam Parts II (Short Answer) and III (Essay)

