

Sam Houston State University-School of Music
Course Syllabus

Course: VOI 101x, VOI 301x (2, 3, or 4 credit hours)

Semester: SPRING, 2008

Classroom: Fine Arts Building, Room 315

Meeting Times: arranged with the instructor

Textbook: variety of vocal music appropriate to each student
Assigned by vocal instructor

Instructor: Professor Barbara Corbin Phone (936) 294-1384

Office: ROOM 315, Fine Arts Building

Email: CORBIN@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9 am. Other times by appointment

Objectives

Singing embraces a number of scientific and artistic disciplines. Physiology, acoustics, psychology, and aesthetics all figure in the coordinated act of the mind and body that we call singing. The vocal individuality of each student enrolled in vocal study determines exactly what will take place in each lesson. Certain principles, however, will be taught as the ongoing process of voice training. Gaining muscular coordination of the vocal mechanism using concepts in resonance, posture, diction, sound registration, and anatomy helps the student in becoming an artistic singer. Solo vocal music literature and selected musical exercises (vocalizes) are used as vehicles for gaining mastery of these concepts and for vocal growth.

Course Requirements

Your learning interests are best served if you keep an ongoing notebook of those pieces of music that you are studying this semester. This would include translations of texts, biographical material on composers, commentary on recordings of your songs as well as other related recordings. **I WILL PERIODICALLY ASK TO SEE YOUR NOTEBOOK SO THAT I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE STUDIED YOUR REPERTOIRE IN WAYS OTHER THAN SINGING IT IN THE STUDIO.** Please begin finding translations for the foreign language songs as soon as they are assigned. I can offer suggestions about sources for the translations. We have an excellent music library on the first floor of Newton Grisham Library. The music reference section has very useful material also. Please take time to familiarize yourself with these resources.

You would also do well to keep a log of your practice hours. Studies have shown that when we record our activities, we become more aware of what we have accomplished. Comparisons of how time was spent and the results can be very helpful when a new habit (like practicing) is being formed.

The vocal exercises that we work on in your lessons are to be used in daily practice. These are not “warm-up” exercises. They are vocal patterns that will directly affect the progress that you make in your personal vocal growth and are designed with specific vocal results in mind. If you have any questions about what each exercise is supposed to accomplish, please speak with me about that. Please bring with you to each lesson a recordable CD so that we can record your entire lesson. Listening to your CD between lessons will help you learn the vocal exercises and focus on those that you as an individual should be practicing.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the National Association of Teachers of Singing Texoma Regional Conference and Auditions in order to further knowledge and experience regarding vocal music performance. Students in attendance will present performances in Studio Class based on their learning experiences at the conference.

Studio Class is not optional. In order to perfect your performance skills, you are encouraged to sing your repertoire several times in class before you sing on the Vocal Forum or on your Jury. Feedback from the class is encouraged and is done in a supportive manner. Half of your semester’s repertoire should be memorized by mid-term. Memorizing it as soon as possible after it is assigned will free you to work on technique as well as musicality.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is required of all students. The instructor is not obligated to render make-up lessons due to student absences. A student’s grade will not be penalized for absences due to legitimate causes (illness, university-sponsored trips, etc.) The student, however, is expected to notify the instructor well in advance of any anticipated absence. I do not believe that you should use your voice when your vocal folds are swollen or when your voice is hoarse. If you are ill, let me know ahead of time (the morning of your lesson, at least) and we will reschedule. Be sure to also notify your accompanist. I will inform the student in advance if I have to be absent. The student’s studio grade will be affected as follows: Each unexcused week of absence will lower the studio grade by seven (7) percentage points.

Forums

Student Vocal Forums scheduled each semester offer the voice student the opportunity for solo performance before his peers and faculty. Majors and vocal concentrates are required to attend all scheduled vocal forums and to perform on one forum each semester if you are planning to give a recital or perform at NATS. Each unexcused vocal forum absence lowers the student’s final semester average (studio and jury grades) by 2 ½ percentage points. Vocal Forums will meet in Recital Hall at noon on the scheduled Mondays (posted in the Music Bldg.)

Practice

Minimum required practice time for an applied voice course depends upon the number of hours credit.

