

Course Syllabus
MUE 2430, Section 8422, ***Voice Skills***
Spring, 2016

Instructor:

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301 MUB
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Office Hours:

Office hours are posted on the door of Studio 301, or by appointment.

Course Meeting Time and Location:

Voice Skills meets on Tuesday and Thursday, 5th Period (11:45 AM) in Room 146 of the Music Building. Cellular phones, beepers, and other electronic devices are to be turned off at the beginning of the class period unless other arrangements have been made with the professor.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to help the music education student whose primary performance area is something other than voice to be better prepared to use their vocal instrument in the classroom situation.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be better prepared to become a more successful candidate for the teaching profession. This would include, but is not limited to:

- Accuracy in all aspects of musicianship (rhythm, pitch accuracy, etc.)
- Use of breath in singing
- Ability to color the voice in response to text, tradition, style period, etc.
- Ability to successfully model quality singing for students
- Ability to use the voice appropriately to demonstrate in the band rehearsal and general music classroom
- Fundamentals of singing sufficient to enable the student to appropriately conduct a choral rehearsal
- Strengthening aspects of vocal technique as needed by the student for their personal vocal growth
- Understanding the uniqueness of text in singing, to include punctuation, translation, word accent, diction, and articulation

- Building an awareness of resources for choral literature appropriate for young voices, both solo and choral
- An understanding of the differences and similarities between the world of instrumental performance and the world of singing
- Developing a higher level of confidence and comfort in the use of the singing voice
- Developing an understanding of the concepts of good vocal health in singing and in classroom management
- Developing an understanding of basic terminology used in the world of singing
- Development of proper habits of posture for singing
- Developing the habits of voice usage appropriate for "life-long singing" and to strengthen speech habits appropriate for the professional voice user
- Developing choral conducting skills appropriate to leading a choral rehearsal
- Developing habits of critical thinking through comparative listening of voice and choral examples

Course outline:

- The material covered and the order in which the material is presented will vary depending upon the needs and learning style of the class participants.
- *Voice Skills* is primarily a performance class and a class designed to assist the students to better understand and accomplish the skills of singing. Regular performance by class members is required. Regular attendance is expected. Listening to the performance of peers and observing the attempts by the professor to aid the student toward improvement cannot be "made up" at a later time.
- Every effort will be made to assist the student in building upon the success they have achieved through each performance.

Class attendance and participation:

- Attendance and participation are strong considerations in grading. Each student is allowed two absences for the Spring semester without penalty, so long as the absences do not occur on class meeting times when the student is scheduled to perform. Failure to perform in class at the appointed time will lower the grade earned by the student for that presentation by one full letter, reflecting the loss of class experience by the student and the learning experience through listening by the class members. Active class participation, alertness, intellectual curiosity, and a genuine investment in developing the skills necessary to become a successful teacher are all considerations in grading.

- Absences for University of Florida field trips or professional activities approved by the School of Music with notification sent to the instructor over the signatures of the appropriate School of Music faculty or administrators a minimum of 24 hours prior to the absence will be granted beyond the two stated above.
- The student's earned grade will be lowered by one half letter for each absence beyond the two stated above.
- Two tardy arrivals to class total one class absence. Promptness is one of the essential habits a teacher must develop.
- As stated above, the student is granted two absences without question for the semester to allow for times of sickness and other situations the student might deem more pressing than attending class. Be aware, however, that additional excused absences will *not* be granted for reasons of illness or personal emergency unless the instructor is notified of such through the Office of the Dean of Students.

Class requirements:

- The student is required to purchase repertoire used in the course as necessary. Every effort will be made to keep the cost of such repertoire at a minimal level and that the material purchased will offer the student resource material for their later teaching experiences as well as their own solo singing, if necessary.
- The student is required to keep a notebook containing class notes, handouts, and other collected class materials. This notebook will be reviewed during and at the conclusion of the semester. The level of work done by the student demonstrated through the contents of the notebook will be considered in the grade earned by the student.
- Attendance at voice recitals will foster the student's understanding of the traditions of voice performance as well as their awareness of vocal repertoire. A listing of voice recitals will be given at the beginning of the semester (as soon as dates are finalized and the listing is prepared) and the specific number of recitals for review will be determined by the number of recitals scheduled. The student will submit a paper sharing observations of the performance. ***Papers are due at the beginning of the Thursday class period one week after the recital is presented. Late work will not be accepted.*** These papers will be returned to be included in the notebook and will be considered in the grading process.

Outcomes Assessment:

- The grade earned by the student will reflect the level of growth and the initiative for learning demonstrated by the student. Basic vocal gift is not a consideration in the grading, but how one deals with their vocal gift is considered.
- Attendance is considered in grading as explained earlier in this document.
- Each song presented to the class will be evaluated and the evaluation shared with the student as part of the class period during which the song was presented.

- Mid-Term Evaluation will be based on repertoire sung before the class, and a written exam covering class discussions, material presented in class, and in written material distributed to the student and retained in the notebook. The Mid-Term Evaluation will constitute 25 % of the final grade.
- The student is expected to attend any faculty recital given by a member of the voice faculty during the semester as well as voice recitals by their colleagues as described above. Each recital is to be reviewed with a paper of no more than 2 pages, 12 point font, as well as a copy of the recital program. ***The paper is due at the beginning of the class period (11 :45) on Thursday one week following the recital. Late papers will not be accepted.***
- Final written examination (if required) and class presentations of repertoire will constitute 50% of the final grade.
- Student initiative as demonstrated through notebook preparation, class discussion, preparedness, recital attendance, and other factors as deemed appropriate by the instructor will constitute 25% of the grade.

Communication between student and teacher:

- All written communication to students will be done through the official University of Florida e-mail system (ufl.edu). All messages sent to the instructor ***must*** be sent through the ufl.edu e-mail system and NOT through phone messaging. It is essential that students check the ufl.edu e-mail message system regularly to insure accuracy of information transmission. Messages sent to the instructor should be addressed to rburrichter@arts.ufl.edu

Students with disabilities:

- Students requesting classroom or academic accommodations must first register with the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who must provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic honesty:

- It is expected that all students will abide by the guidelines for academic honesty set forth in the *Guide to Majors* and further detailed in the information stated in the "Code of Student Conduct" document available through the website of the Dean of Students Office. This is particularly significant as it pertains to acknowledgement of sources for program notes, assignments regarding composers and poets, etc.

Caveat:

The instructor reserves the right to alter the expectations outlined in this syllabus to meet special needs of individual students.

