

# **Applied Studio Voice for Musical Theatre Majors**

**MVV 1411 (Section 8897)**

**Spring 2023**

**Instructor: Matt Morgan [jmorgan@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:jmorgan@arts.ufl.edu)**

**Phone: 352-294-3932**

**McCarty C room 302**

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this course is to facilitate the development of each student's singing to

his or her highest potential through work on:

Technique (posture, breath management, diction, vowel purity, intonation, tonal quality and resonance, line, etc.)

Musicianship (accuracy of rhythm and melody, phrasing, tempo, dynamics, etc.)

Artistry (musical and dramatic interpretation, communication of the text, appropriateness of tone colors, stage presence, vocal and dramatic style, etc.)

Versatility (mastery of classical, musical theatre, and commercial vocal styles, including the development of a healthy approach to belting)

Another major objective will be to develop a personal Audition Book containing solid 16-

bar, 32-bar, and full song audition selections that cover a wide range of vocal styles and type - appropriate characters.

## **COURSE DESIGN**

Each student will have a 50-minute lesson each week at a regularly-scheduled time. In addition, there will be regular studio classes for solo performances and discussion each semester.

Each weekly lesson will begin with individualized breathing and vocal exercises designed for each student's individual needs. This will be followed by the application of these techniques through the singing of repertoire. The lesson will conclude with a discussion of the student and instructor's observations and a plan of study for the following week.

Each following week will build upon the information from the week prior. The student and instructor will over the course of study create a 'toolbox' of specific exercises and strategies to address and correct any vocal issues that the student might encounter.

The culmination of the semester's work will be the final jury recital on the final Wednesday of the semester.

## **MATERIALS**

Students will record every lesson for review during the week on a personal digital recorder. They should also keep a notebook of their lesson assignment sheets, song preparation papers,

handouts and a regularly updated list of songs and 16-bar cuts for their personal audition

book.

## **REPERTOIRE**

Repertoire will be chosen to promote the growth of good, solid vocal technique and artistry, with a balance of selections from musical theatre literature (classic and contemporary) as well as other commercial vocal genres. Emphasis will be on healthy vocal production through the application of sound vocal pedagogy. Each student will receive individualized training to find and develop their authentic voice both technically and as an artist.

## **FINAL JURY**

The jury exam consists of performing no less than two pieces chosen from the semester's study in a concert format before a panel of the voice and musical theatre faculty at the end of each semester. The student will be provided with rubric and feedback comments from each member of the jury panel.

## **GRADING**

Final grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Preparation/Practice/Progress: 75%

Final Jury Recital 25%

This portion of the grade reflects the degree of completion of goals on lesson assignments, prepared music assigned each week, and evidence of weekly practice. This will be assessed through a 5 point rubric:

**5:** The student has completed weekly goals set by the teacher, is perfectly prepared with musical assignments, and has evidenced daily practice.

**4:** The student has completed some but not all weekly goals, is fairly well prepared with musical assignments, and has evidenced practice throughout the week but not on a daily basis.

**3:** The student has completed only a few of the weekly goals, is moderately prepared with musical assignments, and has evidenced some but not regular practice.

**2:** The student has completed only one weekly goal, is poorly prepared with musical assignments, and has evidenced only a small amount of practice.

**1:** The student has completed no weekly goals, is completely unprepared with musical assignments, and has evidenced no amount of practice.

Link to the university grades and grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

## **Attendance:**

Regular attendance of weekly lessons is required. No unexcused (undocumented) absence will be permitted. Each unexcused missed lesson will not be made up and will lower the final grade by one-half of a letter. Excused absences are considered to be only those where official documentation is provided, and cannot be excessive. Three instances of lateness

(more than five minutes) will be equivalent to one absence. Make-up lessons are at the discretion of the teacher. Students may be directed to swap with another student's lesson time.

Regular attendance of the weekly studio class is also required, unless special arrangements have been made.

Attendance is per the University of Florida guidelines. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

### **Office hours:**

Thursdays and Fridays 9:30-12:30, but communication by email or phone is also encouraged.

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.