

STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS
MVV 1411, 2421, 3431, and 4441
Fall 2023

Instructor:

Dr. Brenda Smith

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Student/Office Hours

Student/Office Hours are listed on the schedule posted by the door of Room 302 MUB. Opportunities to meet with the instructor outside of lesson times to discuss related issues are also readily available by appointment. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone, if needed.

Individual and Class Sessions

Private lesson times are arranged with the instructor. Weekly coachings will be arranged with the accompanists. Voice studio classes meet Wednesdays, 6th period (12:50 pm) in Room 142 (120 for combined). Prompt attendance is mandatory.

Attendance

- **Lessons missed due to student illness, observance of religious holidays, field trips or other University of Florida approved activities will be excused if the instructor is notified a minimum of 24 hours before the lesson appointment.**

- **Lessons missed due to lack of preparation or missed without 24 hours notification will not necessarily be made up.**

- **Lessons missed when the instructor is absent for professional obligations or due to illness will be rescheduled.**

- **Excused absences are those officially sanctioned by the University of Florida. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>**

Grading Criteria

The criteria for grading in Studio Voice are Attendance, Initiative and Progress. In accordance with the Voice Area Handbook, every student must learn at least 6 new works every semester. Repertoire to be presented at the jury will be selected by the instructor in consultation with the student.

Course expectations and weekly assignments are provided below. Each of the following elements contribute 10% to the semester grade:

- **Count-Singing Assignments**
- **Memorization Deadlines**

- Weekly Practice Logs
- Weekly Practice Videos
- Score Preparation including IPA Transcriptions/Word-by-Word Translations
- Poetic Equivalent and Fact Sheet Assignments
- Readings and Comparative Listening Assignments
- Prompt Attendance at Weekly Lessons, Coachings & Studio Classes
- Self-Reflection (3) and Self-Assessment (1) Posts
- Jury Presentation

Grading Scale & GPA equivalent:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
83.4-86.6	B	3.00
80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
73.4-76.6	C	2.00
70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
63.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-59.9	E	0.00

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Please feel free to consult with the instructor at any time regarding your status in the course.

Course Expectations

The ability to “count-sing” the melodic material, to chant the text in rhythm along with the insertion of IPA transcriptions, word-by-word translations and poetic texts in the musical score of each assigned selection are course expectations. Completed practice logs and videos, self-reflections, and assessments, readings and comparative listening assignments, and attendance at studio classes are also expected. Each student is expected to complete all assignments on time.

Studio Class and Voice Recitals

Studio classes (combined and individual) are considered an integral part of voice study. Prompt attendance in studio class is required. Each student should support studio peers by attending degree recitals or dress rehearsals as appropriate. Please mark calendars and plan work/social obligations accordingly.

How to Learn New Repertoires

Because muscle memory is a crucial element in vocal technique, each song/aria should be learned systematically and carefully.

1. Read the text and analyze its meaning. Gather information about the poet and composer. Determine the context and musical style of the song/aria.
2. Highlight in your score any expressive marks (for ex. dynamics/tempo) and write in the IPA transcription.
3. Where appropriate, write in the word-by-word translation of the text.
4. Count-sing the song/aria beginning with the piano introduction and include the interludes. Make note of difficult intervals.
5. Chant and then sing the vowels of the words phrase by phrase. “Rhyme” the vowels to ensure accurate tuning.
6. Add the consonants while maintaining the rhythmic integrity and vowel purity of the work.
7. Memorize.
8. Perform by memory in lesson and/or studio.

Note: A work is deemed “completed” when each of the above steps has been accomplished.

Course Expectations and Assignments

Course expectations/assignments are subject to change based student’s vocal health and development. Students enrolled in MVV 1411 will participate in the following plan where appropriate. Students enrolled in MVV 2421, 3431, and 4441 should use the following plan to shape weekly practice and performance goals.

First Day of Classes for Fall Semester: Wednesday, August 23, 2023

First Studio Class (8/23/23) in MUB Room 120/142

Scheduling of Lessons and Coaching/Assignment of Repertoire

Read “She Can Practice Practically Anywhere” (NYT, Arts, March 15, 2023)

Week of August 28, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

Count-Sing one of the newly assigned selections.

Be prepared to chant the text in rhythm.

Write the IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the musical score.

Prepare Poetic Equivalent and Fact Sheet for Selection I

Create a Practice Video and bring it to your lesson.

Bring Completed Practice Log to Lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Read: “Mental Preparation for the Performer” by Alma Thomas in

***The Oxford Handbook of Singing.* (NY: Oxford; 2020, 667-684)**

Week of September 4, 2023 (No lessons on Monday, 9/4/23 Labor Day Holiday)

Lesson Assignment:

Be prepared to *discuss* the poetic meaning of Selection I.

Submit Fact Sheet for Selection I.

Count-Sing Selection I in your lesson.

Chant text in rhythm.

Begin Selection II by preparing the following:

IPA and Word-by-Word translation in the music.

Poetic equivalent and Fact Sheet for Selection II.

Create a Practice Video and bring it to Studio Class to share.

Bring Completed Practice Log to Lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

**Read: “The Power of Melody” by Alice Parker in *The Anatomy of Melody*,
(Chicago: GIA, 2006, 3-12.)**

**Two Excerpts from *A Soprano on Her Head: Right-Side-Up Reflections
on Life and Other Performances* By Eloise Ristad, (Moab, UT: Real
People Press; 1982) “Meet the Soprano,” (5-12) and “Clammy Hands
and Shaky Knees.” (157-172)**

Week of September 11, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

Count-Sing Selection II.

Chant the text in rhythm.

Be prepared to discuss the poetic meaning of Selection II.

Submit Fact Sheet for Selection II.

Polish Selection I/Listen to at least two recordings of the work.

Be prepared to discuss the differences (interpretation, diction, etc.)

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice Log to Lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Read: “Physiological Issues of the Choral Ensemble,” by Margaret Olson

**in *Solo Singer in the Choral Setting: A Handbook for Achieving Vocal
Health*, (Lanham: Scarecrow; 2010, 17-36.)**

Week of September 18, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection I** Be prepared to sing a portion of the work by memory.
- Selection II** Polish Selection II. Begin to memorize it.
Listen to at least two recordings for discussion.
- Selection III** Prepare to Count Sing in your lesson.
Complete Poetic Equivalent and Fact Sheet.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice Log to Lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Prepare Self-Reflection and submit on Canvas.

**Read: “Memorization Concepts and Strategies” in *The Musician’s Way*
By Gerald Klickstein, (NY: Oxford; 2009, 82-93.)**

Week of September 25, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection II** Be ready to sing some portion of Selection II by memory.
- Selection III** Count Sing in your lesson.
Chant text in rhythm.
Submit Fact Sheet.
- Selection IV** Prepare the score by putting IPA/Word-by-Word in the music.
Begin Count Singing in Coaching.
Create a Poetic Equivalent.
Prepare Fact Sheet.

Create a Practice Video.

Practice Log Due in Lesson.

Attend Studio Class and be prepared to sing Selection I or II by memory.

Week of October 2, 2023 (Note: Homecoming is Friday, October 6, 2023.)

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection III** Master all notes and rhythms.
Listen to at least two interpretations to discuss in your lesson.
Begin to memorize Selection III.
- Selection IV** Count Sing in Lesson.
Chant text in rhythm.
Be prepared to discuss Poetic Equivalent.
Submit Fact Sheet.
- Selection V** Prepare Score by putting IPA/Word-by-Word in the music.
Prepare a Poetic Equivalent and Fact Sheet.
Review Selections I and II to ensure memory.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice log to lesson.

Attend Studio Class

Read: “The Art of Mindful Breathing and Relaxation” by Vanessa Cornett in *The Mindful Musician: Mental Skills for Peak Performance*, (NY: Oxford; 2019, 95-119.)

Week of October 9, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection III** Be prepared to sing by memory in your lesson this week.
- Selection IV** Master all notes and rhythms.
Listen to at least two interpretations to discuss in your lesson.
Begin to memorize Selection IV.
- Selection V** Count Sing in Lesson.
Chant text in rhythm.
Be prepared to discuss the poetic equivalent.
Submit Fact Sheet for Selection V.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice Log Due in Lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Read: “Developing Self-Confidence through Positive Thinking” by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas in *Power Performance for Singers: Transcending the Barriers*, (NY: Oxford; 1998, 95-111.)

Week of October 16, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection IV** Sing by memory in your lesson this week.
- Selection V** Master all notes and rhythms.
Listen to at least two interpretations to discuss in your lesson.
Begin memorizing Selection V.
- Selection VI** Prepare score by writing in IPA and Word-by-Word.
Prepare a Poetic Equivalent and begin Fact Sheet
- Review of Selections I-III by memory**

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice Log to Lesson.

Prepare Self-Reflection and submit on Canvas.

Attend Studio Class.

Read: “The Art of Concentrating” by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas in *Power Performance for Singers: Transcending the Barriers*, (NY: Oxford; 1998, 113-123.)

Week of October 23, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

- Selection V** Sing by memory in your lesson this week.
- Selections VI** Count Sing in Lesson.
Chant text in rhythm.
Discuss Poetic Equivalent.
Submit Fact Sheet.

Be prepared to review Selections I – IV.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring a Completed Practice Log to Lesson

Attend Studio Class.

Read: “Distractions” by Shirlee Emmons and Alma Thomas in *Power Performance for Singers: Transcending the Barriers*, (NY_ Oxford, 1998, 125-146.)

Week of October 30, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

Selection VI Master all notes and rhythms.

Listen to at least two interpretations to discuss in lesson.

Begin memorizing Selection VI.

Be prepared to review and polish Selections I-V by memory in lesson.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring a Completed Practice Log to Lesson

Attend Studio Class

Read: “Stress and Memory” by Robert M. Sapolsky in *Why Zebras don’t get Ulcers: The Acclaimed Guide to Stress, Stress-Related Diseases, and Coping*, 3rd ed. (NY: Holt; 2004, 202-225.)

Week of November 6, 2023 (Note: Veteran’s Day is Friday, November 10, 2023.)

Lesson Assignment:

Selection VI Sing Selection VI by memory in lesson

Be prepared to polish any portion of Selections I – V.

Create a Practice Video.

Bring Completed Practice Log to your lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Week of November 13, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

All jury selections should be memorized and ready for review.

Create a Practice Video.

Prepare Self-Reflection and submit on Canvas.

Bring a Completed Practice Log to your lesson.

Attend Studio Class.

Week of November 20, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

Bring a list of technical work you wish to address in Jury Repertoire

ENJOY THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Week of November 27, 2023

Lesson Assignment:

Prepare for a mock voice jury in your lesson.

Perform in Studio Class one selection for jury.

Create a Practice Video.
Prepare Self-Assessment and submit on Canvas.
Bring a Completed Practice Log to Lesson
Attend Studio Class and sing one selection from your jury repertoire.

Week of December 4, 2023 (Note: Classes end Wednesday, December 6, 2023.)

Lesson Assignment:

Polish Jury Repertoire.

Attend Studio Class.

Sign up for Voice Jury

VOICE JURIES ARE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

(Please consult with your accompanist regarding the time of your hearing. Also, be sure you have paid your accompanist in full before 5 pm on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.)

HAPPY WINTER BREAK!

Vocal Health

Please do not hesitate to write or call if you have any discomfort with your voice.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://disability.ufl.edu/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

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/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/default.aspx> (352) 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations.