

STUDIO VOICE SYLLABUS
MVV 1411, 2421, 3431, and 4441
Fall 2024

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 are also readily available by appointment. Feel free to communicate by e-mail or phone, as needed.

Individual and Class Sessions

Private lesson times will be arranged with the instructor. Weekly rehearsals with your collaborative pianist will also be scheduled. Voice studio classes meet Wednesdays, 6th period (12:50 pm) in Room 142 (Combined Studio/Room 120). 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-hour notification will be made up at the discretion of the instructor.**
- **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 Voice Area policy, 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 points to the semester grade total of 100 points. (Points will be posted on Canvas.)

• Attendance (Lesson/Studio/Musicianship Class)	15 points
• Coachings with Collaborative Pianist	10
• Practice Log/Video	10
• Poetic Equivalent/IPA/Word-by-Word Translations	15
• Count Singing/Vowel Singing	15
• Memorization Deadlines	15
• Fact Sheet Assignments	15
• Studio Class and Jury Presentations	<u>5</u>
Total	100 points

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” and “vowel 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 expectations of this course. Completed practice logs/videos, self-reflection/assessments, and attendance at studio classes are also essential to our work together. 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. (This information will be collected on the Fact Sheet and due when the new selection is addressed for the first time in the weekly lesson.)
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. Select equivalent words that will assist you in memorization. Learn the word-by-word translation simultaneously with the poem/libretto of each song/aria.
4. Count-sing the song/aria beginning with the piano introduction and include the interludes. Make note of difficult intervals. Your collaborative pianist will assist you during your rehearsals. You will be expected to count sing in your lesson, too.
5. Chant and then sing the vowels of the words phrase by phrase. “Rhyme” the vowels to ensure accurate tuning. Your collaborative pianist will assist you during your coaching sessions. You will be asked to “vowel sing” in your lesson, too. This will ensure a perfect legato for your singing in all languages.
6. Add the consonants while maintaining the rhythmic integrity and vowel purity of the work.
7. Memorize with intention. Use flashcards, recitation, and rhyme schemes to assist you in memorizing words and music.
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 on 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: Thursday, August 23, 2024

Week of August 26, 2024

At this lesson, we will select the repertoire for the semester and create a study schedule.

Wednesday, August 28, 2024, will be our first Studio Class meeting at 12:50 (6th period) in MUB Room 142.

Week of September 2, 2024 (No lessons on Monday, 9/2/24 Labor Day Holiday)

Assignment: Preparation of Song/Aria I of your semester repertoire.

- Read the poem aloud. What does it mean? What are the important words or phrases? (If the selection is in a foreign language, be sure you have put the IPA and word-by-word translation in your score.)
- Complete the Fact Sheet and Comparative Listening assignment.
- Practice count singing the music with your collaborative pianist during coaching.

Lesson Focus: Preparation of Song/Aria I and Selection of Song/Aria II.

- Breath marks, poetic and musical challenges, count singing and vowel singing the music of Song/Aria I.
- Introduction to Song/Aria II.

Week of September 9, 2024

Assignment: Continuation of Song/Aria I and Preparation of Song/Aria II.

- Complete the fact sheet for Song/Aria II, read the poem, consider its meaning, and count-sing the first page. (Fact Sheet due in lesson)
- Count sing Song/Aria II with your collaborative pianist during coaching.
- Practice Log/Video Due.

Lesson Focus: Vocal and musical issues in Song/Aria I and II.

- Attention to difficult spots in Song/Aria I.
- Breath marks, challenges, and count/vowel singing of Song/Aria II.
- Selection of Song/Aria III.

Week of September 16, 2024

Assignment: Polish Song/Aria I. Continue with study of Song/Aria II.

- Prepare the score for Song/Aria III. Read poem and complete Fact Sheet.
- Practice Log/Video Due.

Lesson Focus: Interpretation of Song/Aria I and II.

- Attention to difficult spots in Song/Aria II.
- Breath marks, challenges, and count/vowel singing of Song/Aria III.

- Discussion of memorization strategies for Song/Aria I and II.

Week of September 23, 2024

Assignment: Completion of Song/Aria I and II. Study of Song/Aria III.

- Work with collaborative pianist on memorization of Song/Aria I and II.
- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria III in coaching.
- Practice Log/Video Due.

Lesson Focus: Memorization of Song/Aria I and II. Study of Song/Aria III.

- Attention to difficult spots in Song/Aria III.
- Discussion of interpretation and context for Song/Aria III.
- Polishing of Song/Aria I and II as memorized work.

Week of September 30, 2024

Assignment: Introduction of Song/Aria IV. Read the poem, create fact sheet, prepare the score.

- Identify problem spots in Song/Aria I, II, and III to address in coaching.
- Work toward memorization of Song/Aria III.
- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria IV in coaching.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Trouble spots in all songs/arias to date.

- Performance of Song/Aria II and III.
- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria IV.
- Attention to difficult spots in Song/Aria IV.
- Determination of Song/Aria V

Week of October 7, 2024

Assignment: Review of Song/Aria I – IV.

- Work on problem spots in Song/Aria IV in coaching.
- Review Song/Aria I-III to check memory.
- Begin preparation of Song/Aria V.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Development of performance goals for Song/Aria I-IV

- Review poetic and musical elements of all songs/arias.
- Check transitions in mood and music.
- Perform Song/Aria IV with music. Consider memorization strategies.

Week of October 14, 2024 (Note: Homecoming is Friday, October 18, 2024.)

Assignment: Preparation of Song/Aria V. Read poem, create Fact Sheet, and prepare score.

- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria V with collaborative pianist in coaching.
- Begin memorization of Song/Aria IV.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Establishment of good skills for Song/Aria V.

- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria V in lesson.
- Determine problem spots in Song/Aria V and discuss strategies for practice.

- Sing Song/Aria IV by memory in lesson.
- Review problem spots in Song/Aria I-III.
- Introduce Song/Aria VI.

Week of October 21, 2024

Assignment: Polishing of Song/Aria V and Review of Song/Aria I-IV.

- Read poem, create Fact Sheet, and prepare score for Song/Aria VI.
- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria VI with collaborative pianist in coaching.
- Polish Song/Aria V and begin memorization.
- Review Song/Aria I-IV.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Vocal color and style elements in Songs/Arias I-V.

- Count sing/vowel sing Song/Aria VI.
- Determine problem spots in Song/Aria VI and discuss strategies.
- Review Songs/Arias I-V for note/rhythm/diction issues.
- Perform Song/Aria V.

Week of October 28, 2024

Assignment: Complete learning of Song/Aria VI. Review Songs/Arias I-V.

- Prepare a list of trouble spots for the coaching session.
- Check memorization of Song/Aria V.
- Polish Song/Aria VI and begin to memorize.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Address preparation and performance issues in all selections.

- Perform Song/Aria V by memory.
- Perform Song/Aria VI and discuss strategies for memorization.
- Review any trouble spots in Songs/Arias I-IV.

Week of November 4, 2024

Assignment: Concentrate on Songs/Arias I – III.

- Sing Songs/Arias I-III with collaborative pianist at coaching session.
- Check accuracy and memorization.
- Review poetic meaning and word-by-word translation.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Final Preparation of Songs/Arias I-III.

- Perform Songs/Arias I-III by memory in lesson.
- Review poetic meaning, diction, and accuracy.
- Discuss any issues to address in Songs/Arias IV-VI.

Week of November 11, 2024 (Note: Veteran's Day is Monday, November 11, 2024.)

Assignment: Concentrate on Songs/Arias IV – VI.

- Sing Songs/Arias I-III with collaborative pianist at coaching session.
- Check accuracy and memorization.
- Review poetic meaning and word-by-word translation.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Final Preparation of Songs/Arias IV-VI.

- Perform Songs/Arias IV-VI by memory in lesson.
- Review poetic meaning, diction, and accuracy.
- Discuss any issues of concern in Songs/Arias I-VI.

Week of November 18, 2024

Assignment: Completion of all jury selections.

- Work in practice time and coaching to ensure that all jury selections are memorized and ready for review.
- Practice Log/Video

Lesson Focus: Jury Preparation

- All selections for the jury will be sung by memory in the lesson.

Week of November 25, 2024

ENJOY THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Week of December 2, 2024

Preparation of Jury Forms

All repertoire memorized completely.

Sign up for Voice Jury

VOICE JURIES ARE ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

(Please consult with your collaborative pianist regarding the time of your hearing. Also, be sure you have paid your collaborative pianist in full before 5 pm on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.)

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.