

Applied Studio Voice for Musical Theatre Majors

MVV 1411 (Section 8897)

Fall 2015

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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 both classical and musical theatre styles, including the development of a healthy approach to belting)

Another major objective will be to develop a personal **Audition Book** containing solid audition songs and 16-bar selections, covering a wide range of vocal and dramatic styles.

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.

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 the classical and musical theatre literature. A short "song preparation paper" will be written for several of the selections, at least three per semester. Emphasis will be on classical technique and repertoire (including art songs and songs from the "classic" era of musical theatre, i.e., Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals) in the first semesters of study. The last two semesters of study will focus on selecting and refining the material in the student's personal Audition Book.

FINAL JURY: The jury exam consists of performing assigned repertoire before a panel of the voice and musical theatre faculty at the end of each semester. A recital at the end of the semester may be used as the final jury.

GRADING

Final grades will be based on the following:

Preparation/Practice: 50%

This portion of the grade reflects the degree of completion of goals on lesson assignment sheets and evidence of weekly practice. It also includes completion of three Song Preparation Papers.

Progress: 50%

This is a reflection of the teacher's assessment of improvement in the **OBJECTIVES** listed above for the semester (30%) plus evidence of improvement demonstrated in the final jury (20%).

Attendance:

Regular attendance of weekly lessons is required. One unexcused (undocumented) absence will be permitted. Each unexcused missed lesson beyond the first one 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, and only if sufficient advance notice is provided. 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 (i.e., direct and unavoidable conflict with another required class).

Office hours are by appointment, but communication by email or phone is also encouraged.