

VOICE CLASS FOR NON-MUSIC MAJORS

“A Day in the Life of a Singer”



MUAG 1124.501 - SPRING 2024 - MWF 12:00-12:50pm - ROOM: MUS 290

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Christopher Rodriguez (he/him/his)

Title: Teaching Fellow, Division of Vocal Studies, UNT College of Music Email:
christopherrodriguez2@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment (email me!)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

MUAG 1124, A Day in the Life of a Singer, is a class for non music majors to learn the fundamentals of singing in day-to-day life. This will include knowledge on the voice as an instrument, practice, literature, listening, performance and success and failure.

This is a performance class. You are expected to be on time, active and engaged in every class. You will sing in every class either as a group or alone. The respect you offer me as the teacher of this course you will offer to each of your classmates in both their singing and speaking. A group class' success is contingent on all of us working together as respectful colleagues.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

All materials will be offered on Canvas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the voice as an instrument
2. Identify basic vocal anatomical structures and explain their role in vocal production
3. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual vocal apparatus in their own singing, speaking, and performing
4. Demonstrate methods to incorporate a healthier, more well-balanced approach to phonation and vocal expression in their daily lives
5. Demonstrate greater confidence in vocal performance

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory.

You have three (3!) "Starbucks Days." After that, points will be removed from your final grade.

Excused absences may be granted for university-sponsored commitments, religious observations, or on a case-by-case basis. In order to receive an excused absence, you must document your absence with Mr. Rodriguez in advance of class missed via email.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS

Course grade will be based on the following scale:

Grade	Percentages	Points
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A	90%-100%	900-1000
B	80%-89.9%	800-899
C	70%-79.9%	700-799
D	60%-69.9%	600-699
F	59.9% and below	0-599

Class participation and attendance: 200 points

**you will receive a daily participation grade. If you are not in attendance, you cannot participate*

Range Recordings: 50 points

Listening: 50 points

Song Information Sheet: 50 points

Mid-Term Performance: 150 points

Masterclass Participation: 150 points

Written Final: 150 points

Final Performance: 200 points

1000 points total

SOLO PERFORMANCES

All of your voice journeys will look different. What I ask for is persistence and to keep on trying. You will be graded on your persistence and willingness to learn and improve.

We will have a final class performance at the end of the semester. You will sing a song of your choice (memorized) from the literature we review together approved by Mr. Rodriguez.

Prior to your presentation of your song in class, all notes and rhythms must be learned. This happens on your own time. Diction and text should be presented to the best of your ability.

MASTERCLASSES

Prior to the final performance, we will hold master classes for all students. These will consist of voice lessons for each student in front of the class while working on your song selection. These sessions are not only for you to improve on your singing ability, but also for the class to get an outside view on other's lessons and to take away key points they can use in their own singing.

LISTENING

You will have a weekly listening assignment. This will be assigned on canvas and will be due on Sunday each week. The listening examples will be from different genres and time periods that we will discuss in class. You will write a summary of your thoughts and opinions of the pieces.

SONG REPORTS

A very important part of a singer's work is the song study. This includes and is not limited to the study of the poetry, the poet, the music, the composer, the time period and performance practices of the time period. These will usually require a word for word translation when not in English and a general idea of what is going on in the text beyond the words. See: "subtext" This report will be due before your performance. We will discuss your reports in class and discuss the necessity of knowing both translations and subtext or acting in your pieces.

MIDTERM

Your midterm will be your first memorized performance and your first song report.

FINAL PERFORMANCE

The final will be a memorized piece of your choice with another song report. This is possibly to be done in the recording lab. More on that later in the semester.

CELL PHONES & LAPTOPS/IPADS

Laptops and iPads are to be used in this class as needed for notes or viewing material online or on Canvas. Cell Phones are not to be used. If you need to take a pressing call or text, you may step outside to answer it without interrupting class.

ILLNESS

As singers, our instrument is affected by the ebbs and flows of our body. If you start to feel an illness, it is imperative that you do not try to "tough it out" and sing. We all get sick and all I ask is that, if you are feeling under the weather send me an email at least an hour before class. If

this interferes with recordings or performances, an email must be sent as far in advance as you can. Please do not come to class ill. It is better for all of us for you to rest and keep your colleagues safe.

COVID-19

Please use your common sense as above with any illness including COVID. If you have COVID-like symptoms or test positive, do not come to class. You will not be marked down. Please always contact me via email about these issues.

Classes may be held on Zoom if I am or need to be in quarantine. If such a need arises, I will create Zoom meetings and send the link. If you are mandated to quarantine due to COVID-19 please be in contact with me and I will record the in person classes and make them available for distribution to those who are unable to attend in person due to COVID-19.

MUSIC PERFORMANCES/EXTRA CREDIT

The University of North Texas College of Music and greater DFW area is an extremely large community of musicians with an abundance of performances throughout the entire year Monday through Sunday. Below I am attaching links to some, but definitely not all, opportunities you could see.

https://calendar.unt.edu/department/college_of_music/calendar

<https://opera.music.unt.edu/season>

<https://www.dallassymphony.org/concerts-and-events/calendar/>

<https://dallasopera.org/seasons/mainstage/>

If you attend any **live** music performances and feel that you need extra-credit, I will accept a summary of the event and your thoughts and opinions on the music performed. I also strongly encourage you to attend many of these performances, just because, as students you are often let in for free or next to free. Enjoy the music around you!

LINKS TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT (Office for disability accommodation)

disability.unt.edu Phone: (940) 565-4323

UNT POLICY STATEMENT ON

DIVERSITY https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Fall_2022_Academic_Calendar.pdf

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

<https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

<http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

ADD/DROP POLICY <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class> STUDENT
RESOURCES https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf CARE TEAM

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

*This syllabus is subject to change