

University of North Texas
College of Music

MUAG 1224 Section 502: Voice Class for Music Majors

FALL 2025 Course Syllabus

COM Rm. 320 Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:30-1:50 pm RM: 320

Instructor: Genevieve Cardos

Office: Bain Hall Rm 309

Office Hours: Fridays 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm by Appointment

Contact: Genevievecardos@my.UNT.edu

Course Objective

To gain understanding of the basics of singing through various techniques including:

- Preparing your mind and body to sing and releasing any tension that hinders your performance
- Treating your body as an instrument, your own instrument, and using it to enable beautiful sound production
- Performing vocal exercises and warm ups to prepare your voice and all its organs to sing
- Practicing healthy breathing techniques to enable a fluid, free and resonant sound quality
- Working to produce strong onsets and offsets to enable singing with constancy of tone in a uniform manner through each phrase from start to finish
- Working on developing a healthy resonant voice quality that is free of tension and has a great vibrant quality
- Developing skills for articulation and diction, using IPA transcription and pronunciation
- Preparing to expressively tell the story behind each song using skills you have and those you will learn to make artistic choices that enable a memorable performance experience
- Understanding the vocal registers and voice classification, how they work for each voice type and what appropriate repertoire to choose for yourself or your student. Consider vocal performance as a medium of communication and deep self-expression
- Establishing a reasonable and healthy practice routine and enabling discipline to see it through

- Bringing awareness to yourself and your students of general physical, mental and emotional health, wellbeing and mindfulness to ensure a strong and health conscious performance lifestyle to enable longevity while finding joy and cultivating a passion for singing

Course Materials

The Singing Book by Cynthia Vaughn and Meribeth Dayme, Fourth Edition

Class Structure

Hence this class is tailored around learning the mechanisms of the art of singing, there will be an in-class singing component every week unless otherwise stated by the teacher. The songs will comprise some choral and other songs for solo voice that will be utilized for class singing purposes. Prepare to sing in full voice during these exercises. Hence not every student in the class may know their voice type, the first Thursday of the semester will partly be spent on identifying each student's voice type. This is meant to prepare and categorize students into the relevant voice parts both for the choral and solo singing exercises.

Piano Accompaniment

A class pianist will be assigned to our class for accompaniment purposes during your in-class performances and at other times when necessary.

Grading

- Attendance at class times is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences. After three unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered by 2 points for each additional unexcused absence.
- Excused absences may be granted for university-sponsored commitments, religious observations, or serious emergencies. In order to receive an excused absence, you must document your absence with your instructor in advance.

Grading Evaluation

Class participation 10%

Class Performances 20%

Midterm 20%

In-class Assignments 15%

Quizzes 15%

Final Exam 20%

Class Participation

When presenting in class, you are expected to create a positive and safe environment for your classmates by supporting their work and being an active member of the group.

In-Class Performances

- There will be two performances throughout the semester every student will perform twice in class during the semester
- Performance dates TBA.
- You will choose one song to be used for both performances in order to have a better benefit of the entire experience.
- Memorization of the piece is encouraged but not required.
- During our Thursday voice labs, you will all have the opportunity to recite your texts, poetically, expressively and dramatically as the text and music dictates. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone in order to express yourself through your music
- We will also perform an analysis of the music in order to see how the different musical elements we notice enhance our performance experience

Rubric:

You will always:

1. inform the class of your song **title**, **composer** and **year of composition** and what the song is about.
2. You will have 5 minutes to perform your piece and five to ten minutes for compliments and comments. Always always and always be respectful and appreciative of your colleagues and use respectful commentary always.
3. **Genres:** Classical, Musical Theatre,
4. **Language:** English, Italian, French, Spanish, German

Performances

- Missed performance days will only be “made up” under emergency circumstances. All other reasons for missing your assigned singing day will result in 0% for the assignment.
- The instructor will provide guidance and support to students throughout the learning and performance process by offering vocal technique, performance, diction, and style instruction in both group and individual learning environments.

Class Readings and Performance Schedule

| WEEK | DAY / DATE | READINGS |
|------|------------|----------|
|------|------------|----------|

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| | | |
| WEEK 1 | Tue 08/19 | Introduction and course overview |
| | THURS 08/21 | The Singing Book Chapter 1, 2, pg3-10, Discussion (Healthy Singing, Preparing to Sing) |
| | | |
| WEEK 2 | Tue 08/26 | The Singing Book Chapters 3, 4, pg 11-14, Discussion (Selecting Music to Sing, Learning Music Efficiently) |
| | THURS 08/28 | The Singing Book Chapters 5, 6, pg15-19 Discussion (Practice Habits, Performing) |
| | | |
| XXXXXXX | Mon 09/01 | NO CLASSES: LABOR DAY |
| | | |
| WEEK 3 | Tue 09/02 | Chapter 1-6 Review and Quiz |
| | THURS 09/04 | Song Selection, performance signup |
| | | |
| WEEK 4 | Tue 09/09 | The Singing Book Chapter 7 pg259-262 (Muscles and Physical Balance) |
| | THURS 09/11 | Chapter 7 In-Class Assignment |
| | | |
| WEEK 5 | Tue 09/16 | Performance Prep. 1: Analysis, Text Recitation, (Look at Appendix A pg301-321) |
| | THURS 09/18 | The Singing Book Chapter 8 pg263-269 (Breathing: Inhalation, Exhalation, Balancing Breath and Music) |
| | | |
| WEEK 6 | Tue 09/23 | Chapter 8 In-Class Assignment |
| | THURS 09/25 | Performance Prep. 2: Analysis, Text Recitation |
| | | |
| WEEK 7 | Tue 09/30 | 1st In-class Performances |
| | THURS 10/02 | 1st In-class Performances |
| | | |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| WEEK 8 | Tue 10/07 | Midterm Review |
| | THURS 10/09 | MID TERM |
| | | |
| WEEK 9 | Tue 10/14 | The Singing Book Chapter 9, pg 270-276 (Making Sound: Larynx, Muscles, Vibrato, etc.) |
| | THURS 10/16 | Chapter 9 In-Class Assignment |
| | | |
| WEEK 10 | Tue 10/21 | The Singing Book Chapter 10 pg277-282, (Voice Quality and Resonance: Pharynx, Larynx, Muscles, etc.) |
| | THURS 10/23 | Chapter 10 In-Class Assignment |
| | | |
| WEEK 11 | Tue 10/28 | The Singing Book Chapter 11 pg283-290 (Articulation and Expression: Jaw, Tongue Muscles, Vowels, Consonants, etc.) |
| | THURS 10/30 | Chapter 11 In-Class Assignment |
| | | |
| WEEK 12 | Tue 11/04 | The Singing Book Chapter 12 pg291-297 (Maintaining a Healthy Voice: Healthy Habits, Nutrition, Alcohol and Toxic Substances, Voice Problems, Other Physical Issues, etc.) |
| | THURS 11/06 | Chapter 12 In-Class Assignment |
| | | |
| WEEK 13 | Tue 11/11 | Chapter 9-12 Review and Quiz |
| | THURS 11/13 | |
| | | |
| WEEK 14 | Tue 11/18 | 2nd In-class Performances |
| | THURS 11/20 | 2nd In-class Performances |
| | | |
| WEEK 15 | 11/24 - 11/30 | THANKS GIVING BREAK |
| XXXXXXXX | Tue 11/25 | THANKS GIVING BREAK |
| | THURS 11/27 | THANKS GIVING BREAK |
| | | |

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| WEEK 16 | Tue 12/02 | Finals Review |
| | THURS 12/04 LAST CLASS MEETING | Finals Review |
| | | |
| WEEK 17 | Tue 12/09 | FINALS |

Attendance Policy

Concentration voice lessons are scheduled for 50 minutes per week. Students are required to schedule their private lessons with their assigned teacher no later than the first full week of classes, or risk being dropped from lessons for the semester.

The College of Music has established THIRTEEN as the normal number of lessons per semester, and EIGHT as the minimum number of lessons a student must attend to receive a passing grade. Therefore, students who have missed a total of six lessons, either excused or unexcused, will be asked to drop voice for the semester.

Attendance at class times is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences. After three unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered by 2 points for each additional unexcused absence.

If you must miss a lesson, your teacher should be notified by text, phone, or e-mail with at least 24 hours notice. If this notice is not provided, your teacher is not obligated to make up your lesson, unless there are unavoidable and extenuating circumstances. Lessons that occur on *official university holidays* (e.g., Thanksgiving) do not have to be made up by your teacher nor do lessons that were scheduled for a day that the university is closed due to inclement weather.

If a student misses two lessons without notification, the student will receive a "Notice of Unsatisfactory Progress" report. If an additional lesson is missed without notification, the student will receive a failing grade if still enrolled when grades are due.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other

assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: Academic Integrity

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: Student Code of Conduct

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

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

LINK: disability.unt.edu (Phone: [\(940\) 565-4323](tel:9405654323))

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center’s website for further

information:

See: Counseling and Testing

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

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: Mental Health Issues

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to students, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Students can access information about health and safety at:

<https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>