MUAG 1224 SECTION 501

VOICE CLASS FOR MUSIC MAJORS

Spring 2025

Tuesdays-Thursdays 1-2:20PM

MU 320

**Instructor:** Kara McBain, Teaching Fellow and DMA Vocal Performance.

Office: Bain Hall 220

Office Hours: By Appointment Only, email is preferred line of communication.

E-mail: [karalibby@my.unt.edu](mailto:karalibby@my.unt.edu)

\*\*\*please refrain from contacting me via Canvas Messages, I will probably not see these immediately and I might miss your message, stick with email for contacting me.

**Required Text** (DIGITAL COPY PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTOR): Cantabile Voice Class by Katharin Rundus available at www. PavanePublishing.com

Other texts as needed provided by instructor.

Readings are expected to be complete before the class that we are covering that topic, for example if the syllabus says we will cover Anchor 1 on 1/15 please read that chapter BEFORE class begins on 1/15.

**Materials needed:**

-notetaking items such as paper and pencil, laptop, ipad, or any devices useful for taking notes on topics covered in class.

-\*electronic device to access the canvas page which will be our primary line of communication and how all assignments are submitted. Devices are needed to take in-class quizzes, please notify instructor in advance if you will need a device to be provided for quizzes. These can include a laptop, tablet, smartphone, and any device that allows you to access canvas and take your quiz.

-access to printer or device to be able to print/read your textbook, and to be able to read your music for the song you will choose. University printers should be readily accessible, but please notify instructor if you need help printing materials for class or if you need a device to be able to read your music.

**\*Note on electronics-** while electronic devices are permissible for notetaking, reading the textbook, and quiz-taking, please be respectful of your time in class, your peers’ time in class, and your instructors’ time in class. A quick text or email is understandable, but excessive use that is distracting to you or others will require instructor intervention.

**Purpose:**

-Equip students with knowledge about singing and vocal pedagogy.

-Provide resources for vocal repertoire, translations, pedagogy, anatomy, diction, relevant sources pertaining to the voice and singing.

-Provide students with an opportunity to give a sung performance in front of the instructor as well as in front of their peers.

-Expose students to a variety of listening examples, immersing them in the sounds of singing.

-Prepare students to be able to lead a choir or teach a voice lesson.

-Build confidence in future musicians and music educators.

**Topics Covered:**

-Alignment, tension, anatomy of the singing instrument.

-vocal warmups, proper vocal technique for classical singing

-resonance, how the voice is able to make sound

-voice registers, voice types

-methods for teaching private voice

-methods for working with choirs

-vocal repertoire

-diction for singers

**Assignments:**

-Assignments will be assigned in advance distributed on the CANVAS class page. Assignments will include:

* Short 1-3 sentence written responses on the topic discussed in class such as a recording we listened to or a video shown via discussion posts on Canvas.
* Class participation.
* Short open-note quizzes to assess knowledge and progress.
* Vocal repertoire assignment-instructor provides a list of composers SIGNIFICANT TO VOCAL REPERTOIRE and assigns one composer to each student to explore and create a short report of the composer and one of their vocal compositions. Short presentation (approx. 5 minutes or less) about one composer including a recording and brief background.
* Short one-on-one sung performances scheduled during class time during the semester to assess vocal progress. MIDTERM: One on one time with instructor showing significant progress on their assigned vocal solo. Student should have sung through their piece prior to this meeting and bring questions for the instructor on things they might be struggling with or need help improving.
* Audio/video recordings of vocal warmups to assess vocal range and comprehension of concepts learned.
* CLASS NOTEBOOK: The compilation of the teaching/singing resources you collected throughout the course. This can include notes you took during class, any handouts that you found effective, links to websites or videos that you feel will be useful for the future, etc.
* FINAL EXAM: One full class recital to show vocal progress at the end of the semester. Student is expected to sing through their entire assigned vocal solo with piano or recorded accompaniment FROM MEMORY. Students will be graded based on correct notes and rhythms, use of dynamics and phrasing, memorization, storytelling/ability to express the text of the piece, preparation, timeliness, and implementation of the concepts learned throughout the semester such as alignment, release of tension, onsets, optimizing resonance via manipulating the vocal tract, breathing, etc.

-Assignments will be graded based on timeliness, effort, and participation. You will not be graded based on “how well you sing” or “how pretty your voice sounds”. For the individual singing sessions and the recital at the end of the semester I expect that you show up and try your best, I do not expect you to sound perfect, but I do expect you to be there, give it your best effort, support your peers, and try to implement what you’ve learned in class.

**Extra Credit Opportunity**

There will be one opportunity to earn extra credit in this class. Attend one vocal event at UNT throughout this semester to earn 5 points of extra credit on one of your quizzes. I will add 5 points to the quiz that has the lowest score, and if you have the same score on both quizzes I will simply add 5 points to one of them. In canvas, you will see a discussion post that you may use to create a post where you tell us what event you attended, what happened in the performance, and what you thought about what you saw. Events that will count for this extra credit opportunity include any UNT Choir concerts, UNT Opera performances, any UNT student voice recitals, and Jazz singers. If there is an event that you believe should count toward this extra credit but I have not listed it here, ask me about it in class and we can decide if it works for this opportunity. You may only redeem this extra credit opportunity ONE time this semester. The submission for this extra credit opportunity will be due Tuesday April 29th by 11:59pm.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments turned in late will drop 10% for each class period that they are late.

**BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE**

Class attendance/participation 10%

Singing performances (midterm, final) 30%

Quizzes 20%

Discussion post responses 30%

Vocal repertoire assignment 10%

**Grading Scale**

**A = 90-100**

**B = 80-89**

**C = 70-79**

**D = 60-69**

**F = 0-59**

**Final Exam**

The final for this class will be a class recital, each student will perform one song MEMORIZED in front of the class accompanied by pianist or recorded track which the instructor will provide.

**Final Exam Time is THURSDAY May 1st at 1:00pm in MU 320.**

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly. University policy as set forth in the Undergraduate Catalog limits authorized absences to University-sponsored activities and religious holidays. All other absences are considered unauthorized.

Your attendance grade will be calculated by adding all of the class meetings we have and dividing how many classes you attended. For example, if you attended 29 out of 30 classes I will calculate 29 ÷ 30 = 0.96, thus your attendance grade would be a 96%.

**PLEASE EMAIL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE, IF AN EMERGENCY OCCURS AND YOU ARE UNABLE TO EMAIL AHEAD OF TIME PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.** I am willing to work with you on this as long as you communicate with me, I can’t help you if you do not communicate what is going on.

**Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to change)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Wk 1: 1/14 Syllabus and range exams | 1/16 Intro to Vocal Methods and Anchor 1 |  |
| Wk 2: 1/21 Anchor 2 & 3 | 1/23 Anchor 4 & 5 |  |
| Wk 3: 1/28 Anchor 6 | 1/30 Review Day |  |
| Wk 4: 2/4 Quiz over anchors 1-6 | 2/6 Anchor 11 & 10 |  |
| Wk 5: 2/11 Anchor 9 & 7 | 2/13 TMEA day- voice lessons for those still in town? |  |
| Wk 6: 2/18 Anchor 8 & 12 | 2/20 Review Day |  |
| Wk 7: 2/25 Quiz over 7-12 | 2/27 Vibrato & Extended Techniques |  |
| Wk 8: 3/4 No class- McBain out- PRACTICE FOR MIDTERM ON OWN | 3/6 Musical Theatre |  |
| Wk 9: 3/11 Spring Break | 3/13 Spring Break |  |
| Wk 10: 3/18 MIDTERMS | 3/20 MIDTERMS |  |
| Wk 11: 3/25 Choral Techniques | 3/27 Choral Techniques |  |
| Wk 12: 4/1 Vocal Rep | 4/3 Vocal Rep |  |
| Wk 13: 4/8 Opera Rep | 4/10 Opera Day |  |
| Wk 14: 4/15 Presentations | 4/17 Presentations |  |
| Wk 15: 4/22 Masterclasses | 4/24 Masterclasses |  |
| Wk 16: 4/29 Masterclasses | 5/1 FINAL EXAM |  |
| Finals Week 5/8 Class Notebook Due |  |  |

**Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is a guide and every attempt is made to provide an accurate overview of the course and its requirements. However, certain circumstances may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester for the benefit of the students and the changes may depend, in part, on course progress and students’ needs. Changes to the syllabus will be made with advance notice to students. When I adjust the syllabus, I will upload the new syllabus with the changes highlighted.

**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: [Student Academic Integrity | University Policy Office](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: [Dean of Students | Division of Student Affairs](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

**Access To Information – Eagle Connect**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect. See: Eagle Connect LINK: [EagleConnect | Administrative IT Services](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**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. See: ODA LINK: [Office of Disability Access | Division of Student Affairs](https://disability.unt.edu/). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**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. See: Diversity and Inclusion Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

**Health and Safety Information**

Students can access information about health and safety at: [Student Health and Wellness | College of Music](https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness)

**Registration Information for Students**

See: Registration Information Link: [For Students | University of North Texas](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

**Academic Calendar, Spring 2025**

See: Spring 2025 Academic Calendar Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

**Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2025**

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

**Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

**Undergraduates**

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current

and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so. See: Financial Aid LINK: [Satisfactory Academic Progress | University of North Texas](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

**Graduates**

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course. See: Financial Aid LINK: [Satisfactory Academic Progress | University of North Texas](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

**Retention Of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university’s policy in accordance with those mandates. See: FERPA Link: [FERPA](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

**Counseling And Testing**

UNT’s Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center’s website for further information: See: Counseling and Testing Link: [Counseling and Testing Services | Division of Student Affairs](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services).

For more information on mental health issues, please visit: See: Mental Health Issues Link: [Student Counseling Home | Division of Student Affairs](https://speakout.unt.edu/).

**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.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/dropping-courses.html>

**Student Resources**

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: See: Student Resources Link: [Resources | University of North Texas](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

**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. See: Care Team Link: [CARE Team | Division of Student Affairs](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)