

# SYLLABUS: Intro to the Science and Pedagogy of Singing

**Semester:** *Fall* **Year:** *2024*

**Course Prefix:** *MUAG* **Course #:** *4300, 4310, 5300*

**Course Title:** *The Science and Pedagogy of Singing*

**Course Location and Times:** *Choir Room (Room 230) Music Building Tuesday and Thursdays 9:30am-10:50am*

## ***Course Description and Overview***

*The goal of this course is to provide foundational knowledge on which to begin building your skills as a voice teacher. It will cover the anatomical, physiological, acoustical, and motor learning elements of singing in order to build understanding of how singers acquire and maintain the skill of singing. In addition to typical academic assignments and quizzes, students will be paired up four times over the course of the semester to practice teaching each other, each time with a specific pedagogical aim related to what we've studied in class. Two observations of voice faculty teaching voice lessons will also be required. A literature review paper on a pedagogical or voice science topic of the student's choice will be the final exam to encourage students to pursue their own sub-interests. 4310, 4300 and 5300 will be differentiated by the size of the required final paper, and a few additional assignments for 5300.*

**Credits:**

- MUAG5300 and MUAG 4300: 3 credit-hours.
- MUAG4310: 2 credit-hours.

**Meets:**

- Major Requirements
- Elective Requirements

## ***Faculty Contact Information***

*Welcome to Intro to The Science and Pedagogy of Singing. My name is Dr. Mark Tempesta. I use "he, him, his" pronouns. I will be your instructor in this course. Don't hesitate to reach out with any concerns, needs or questions, or to come to my office hours.*

**Name of Instructor:** *Dr. Mark Tempesta*

**Office Location:** *College of Music, Room 144*

**Phone Number:** *(339) 236-0181*

**Office Hours:**

**Walk ins:** *Wednesday 11am to 12pm and 3pm to 4pm, Thursday 11am -12pm*

**Or by appointment.**

**Email Address:** *mark.tempesta@unt.edu*

**Name of Teaching Assistant:** Kara McBain

**Email Address:** [karalibby@my.unt.edu](mailto:karalibby@my.unt.edu)

## ***Measurable Student Learning Outcomes***

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- *Understand basic principles of voice production and apply them in the singing studio.*
- *Synthesize information from anatomy, physiology and acoustics into functional understanding when listening and watching a student sing, and to use that information to help the student attain their vocal goals.*
- *Use basic voice and acoustic analysis tools.*
- *Search for and find specific information within the ever-growing body of voice research.*
- *Understand the difference between explaining technique to a student versus training that student to sing.*

## ***Course Materials and Supplies***

**Course materials:**

*Selected readings will be provided via Canvas and in accordance with copyright laws. Some of these readings will be portions of pedagogical books with the intention for students to be exposed to the writer and possibly purchase the books for their collection. Please use the PDF versions of the readings however - in some cases there are helpful and important notes or addendums added to the reading in the PDF.*

***Textbooks:***

***No books are required for purchase. Students are encouraged to buy The Complete Vocal Technique by Cathrine Sadolin (get the App, not the book, as it is regularly updated); Practical Vocal Acoustics by Ken Bozeman; and A Systematic Approach to Voice: The Art of Studio Application by Kari Ragan, but all required excerpts will be provided on Canvas.***

## **Supplies:**

*Laptop or digital device for notetaking or Pen/Paper for notetaking. Access to a computer for acoustic analysis use.*

## **Minimum Technical Skills Needed:**

*Ability to access and use Canvas*

*Ability to scan documents and upload them to Canvas*

*Ability to copy/paste on computer*

*Ability to access and use the UNT email*

*Ability to create and submit files in commonly used word processing program formats (e.g. pdf or .doc)*

*Ability to edit a video's link and upload for accessibility for peer review in Canvas*

*Ability to download and learn new software*

*Ability to search for books and scholarly articles through UNT's library database*

## **Communicating with the Professor:**

*Connect with me through email, and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.*

## **Activities, Assignments, and Grading Policy**

### **GRADING POLICY**

#### **Evaluation:**

*Attendance 20% Quizzes, Midterm, Assessments 20% Homework Assignments 20% Teaching Practicum 20% Final Exam (and/or Paper): 20%*

*Grading Scale:*

*A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 D = 60 – 69 F= 0–59*

#### **Section 1: Attendance 20%**

***Please attend every class.*** Your questions and insights on teaching voice will help us all become better pedagogues and singers. Every student will start with 100 attendance points and lose 20 points per unexcused absence. The attendance grade counts for 20% of your final grade. Additionally, unexcused tardiness or absences will cause you to miss assessments, which cannot be made up unless the absence is excused per the policy below.

*Communication: In cases of anticipated tardiness due to extenuating circumstances, students are required to notify the instructor via email at least one hour before the class begins. An unexcused tardy counts as half an absence.*

*Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. You should attend every class unless you have a University excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy (PDF) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039>). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know. Your safety and well-being are important to me. If you request an excused absence for sickness, please remain at home for the entire day. If you are too ill for a morning class, you are too sick for an afternoon ensemble rehearsal. These absences must be communicated to the instructor and the teaching assistant PRIOR to the absence otherwise it is unexcused - no exceptions.*

*If you miss a class due to an excused absence, you must still view the recording of that class to receive attendance credit for that day, and attend office hours to make up any missed quizzes.*

## **Section 2: Midterm, Quizzes and Assessments: 20%**

**Quizzes** will be given at the end of units, and are designed to hold you accountable for reviewing class notes and readings from the unit. Quizzes will be graded per question, and assigned on Canvas using the Respondus lockdown browser.

**Assessments** are given at the end of class on Thursdays and are designed to assess how effective the lectures were that week in helping you towards the course's learning goals. Assessments will be graded pass/fail based only on whether they were completed – in other words, so long as you in good faith answer the questions on an assessment to the best of your knowledge, you receive full credit regardless of whether you're correct. I appreciate you all trying your best on these so that I may correctly gauge class learning.

Quizzes and assessments are timed, and may be multiple choice, write in, or true/false. One quiz is worth two assessments, although there will be many more assessments. If you miss an assessment without an excused absence per the attendance policy above, you will receive a zero. If you have an excused absence, you may make up the assessment after reviewing the recording of the class.

**The Midterm** will count as two quizzes and will be cumulative throughout the semester. A study guide will be provided one week before the midterm.

## **Section 3: Assignments 20%**

**Readings/Videos** – Each week, a reading and/or video assignment. Each assignment will have a reading guide on Canvas – a series of questions you should answer as you read, to help keep you engaged with the material.

**Applied Faculty Observations** - Students will observe two voice lessons by teachers other than their own. Students must then submit a paper on their observations. Compare and contrast how the instructors interacted with their students. What areas were addressed during each studio class? What didn't they address that you would have? What worked and what didn't? The paper should be a minimum of 500 words. Late submissions will be penalized 10% each day they are late up to 50%.

#### **Section 4: Teaching Practicum 20%**

**Students will practice teaching each other four times during the semester.**

Students will be placed into assigned trios (there will be a new trio each time) with an assigned pedagogical focus for the week. Students should get together with their trio for a 90-minute block during the week the practice lesson is assigned. During this block, everybody in the trio will cycle through being voice teacher, test student, and observer. Lessons are 20 minutes in length and should stick to the assigned pedagogical focus for that week. After each 20-minute lesson, the student will reflect on their experience, the observer will list their positive observations and suggestions for improvement, and the teacher will then reflect on their teaching. Write down cliff notes of what everybody says, then proceed to the next 20-minute lesson. You'll submit your notes on what everybody says after the session you taught to receive credit for the assignment. Late submissions will be penalized 10% each day they are late up to 50%. **Failure to schedule with and meet your group will result in a zero for that teaching assignment.**

#### **Section 5: Final project 20%**

There will be no written final exam. Instead, you will research and write a paper on a pedagogy related topic. Requirements will vary by degree. See below for details.

**No late submissions will be accepted for papers.**

## **Final Project: Requirements and Deadlines**

**General:** Use this assignment to study something you find interesting or useful. You should find a specific question you want to answer. Citations should follow an established style guide such as Chicago, MLA or APA, with Chicago preferred. Specific requirements for the paper vary by your specific class enrollment and degree level, listed below. Note that the steps leading to the final paper count for half your paper grade.

**For MUAG4300 (required) and MUAG4310:**

*This paper is designed to be a literature review that answers a question you have about pedagogy, singing, acoustics, or anything that Dr. Tempesta approves as being related to teaching singing, teaching a chorus, or the technique/act of singing itself – or even about the speaking voice. Use this assignment to explore something that interests you, or you think will help your own singing or teaching.*

**MUAG4310:** *This paper should be 1000 to 1500 words and have at least 5 sources. Two of these sources should be from The Journal of Voice. Others should be books on pedagogy, voice science, or from The Journal of Singing or other academic sources.*

**MUAG4300:** *Students should have 8 sources. At least 4 sources from peer reviewed journals such as Journal of Voice, or other peer reviewed journals. Other sources may be from Journal of Singing, books on pedagogy, or academic sources. The final paper should be 1500 words minimum (2500 maximum).*

**Sept 17:** *Choose and submit your literature review topic. A few sentences describing the area of research you want to learn about, accompanied by a preliminary bibliography of at least half your required sources.*

**Sept. 24:** *Submit your specific research question. This is your chance to narrow down exactly what you want to study. Submit a paragraph including the exact research question and supporting context.*

*(Now that you have a specific research question, it will be easier to read the articles you've chosen, and find the remaining articles – read the articles with your research question in mind, reading methodically and taking notes when there is information that relates directly to your question, and skimming the information that doesn't pertain to your question.)*

**Oct. 24:** *Status update. Submit your current bibliography, and indicate which sources you've read and extracted information from, and which you haven't, and how many sources you still need.*

**Nov. 12:** *Paper outline due, with in text citations, and completed bibliography.*

**Nov. 26:** *Rough draft due for MUAG4300. No extensions will be given. This should be a completed draft. Dr. Tempesta will review the draft and give you specific guidance on revisions needed for the final draft to achieve an A.*

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** *Rough draft due to MUAG4310. No extensions will be given. Dr. Tempesta will review the draft and give you specific guidance on revisions needed for the final draft to achieve an A.*

**Final draft due the first day of finals.**

***For MUAG5300 (Required):***

*This paper is designed to be a literature review paper to support a possible experiment next semester. Your goal is to create a paper that reviews the major research around your topic, and identifies the hole in the literature that your possible experiment could answer.*

**Doctoral students** should have 18 sources. Sources should be articles or books of high academic standing. At least 12 sources from peer reviewed journals such as *Journal of Voice*, or books by authors who are published extensively in such journals. Only up to 6 sources may be from *Journal of Singing* or a non-peer reviewed source. The final paper should be 2500 words minimum (3500 maximum) and include a proposed experimental design. Doctoral students must consult about their design at least twice before the rough draft is due.

**Masters students** should have 12 sources. at least 6 sources from scientific journals such as *Journal of Voice* or other peer reviewed journals. Up to 6 sources may be from *Journal of Singing* or other non-peer reviewed sources. The final paper should be 2000 words minimum (3000 maximum).

**Sept. 17:** *Submit your literature review topic. A few sentences describing the specific area of research you want to learn about, accompanied by a preliminary **annotated** bibliography of 1/3 of your required sources.*

**Sept. 24:** *Submit your specific research question. One paragraph containing your question and support for why you think it hasn't yet been answered and may be important. It should be a question you are curious about that is not currently answered in the literature, or is currently murky and needs more data to support it.*

*(Now that you have a specific research question, it will be easier to read the articles you've chosen, and find the remaining articles. Read the articles with your research question in mind, reading methodically and taking notes when there is information that relates directly to your question, and skimming the information that doesn't pertain to your question.)*

**Oct. 24:** *Status update. Submit your current bibliography, and indicate which sources you've read and extracted information from, and which you haven't, and how many sources you still need.*

**Nov. 12:** *Paper outline due, with in text citations, and completed bibliography.*

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***Final draft due the first day of finals.***

## **Important Academic Links and Policies:**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

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



## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## **ODA STATEMENT**

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](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.

## **Health and Safety Information**

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

## **Registration Information for Students**

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

## **Academic Calendar, Fall 2024**

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2024**

See above

### **Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

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**

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

### **CARE TEAM**

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