

Syllabus for Comparative Pedagogy of Singing, MUAG 5610

Semester: *Spring* **Year:** 2025

Course Prefix: MUAG **Course #:** 5610 & 4900-754

Course Title: *Comparative Pedagogy of Singing*

Course Location and Times: *Room 2006, Music Building, Tuesday and Thursdays
9:30am-10:50am*

Course Objectives

This course will examine the historical treatises of Manuel Garcia II and Mathilde Marchesi, the books of Richard Miller, Cathrine Sadolin's The Complete Vocal Technique, and a conglomerate of approaches to musical theater pedagogy. This course aims to dive into each of these sources so that students can develop a practical understanding of the techniques espoused, the meaning of their vocabulary, and the limitations of each. Reading, discussion, listening, singing in class, and teaching each other in class will be used for each unit to build intellectual understanding and actionable skills for each technique examined. Of particular focus will be sorting through the variety of conflicting systems for describing "registration." There will also be a variety of guest speakers to go deeper into selected topics, or provide alternative points of view.

Because we are all singing in front of each other, this classroom should be

Credits:

- MUAG 5610 Comparative Pedagogy of Singing (3 credits)
- MUAG 4900-754 Special Problems – Comparative Vocal Pedagogy (3 credits)

Faculty Contact Information

Name of Instructor: *Dr. Mark Tempesta*

Office Location: *College of Music, Room 144*

Email Address: mark.tempesta@unt.edu

Phone Number: (339) 236-0181

Office Hours by Appointment:

<https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php?owner=34091769>

(PLEASE MAKE OFFICE HOUR APPOINTMENTS MORE THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE or Dr. Tempesta will not be alerted)

Note that office hours scheduled on Wednesday or Friday are virtual unless otherwise agreed upon with Dr. Tempesta.

Course Materials and Supplies

Access to canvas and email is required to receive PDF's of historical treatises, vocalise and exercise collections.

Textbooks:

Required: The Complete Vocal Technique by Cathrine Sadolin (get the App, not the book, as it is regularly updated);

Strongly encouraged for purchase: A Systematic Approach to Voice: The Art of Studio Application by Kari Ragan.

The Vocal Athlete by Wendy Leborgne and Marci Rosenberg

The Structure of Singing by Richard Miller

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. I have listed my phone number for urgent situations, but please avoid using it if not necessary.

Activities, Assignments, and Grading Policy

GRADING POLICY

Evaluation:

Participation 50% Midterm Oral Exam 25% Final Project 25%

Grading Scale:

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

Participation (50%):

This class will largely involve readings as outside assignments, with class time used to discuss and practice the techniques in the readings. Students will be expected to sing a fair bit to demonstrate concepts, learn new sounds, as test subjects for their peers to teach, and to practice CCM repertoire. Every student should select a Marchesi vocalise, an oratorio or opera aria, a pop or rock song, and a musical theater song. A pianist will be

available for class use on Thursdays, and students will practice teaching each other to master each of these selections so that the techniques from the readings are

Discussions will require having carefully read all assigned readings – your participation will be judged based on your contribution to class discussions. Dr. Tempesta will reach out if your participation has been unsatisfactory.

Attendance:

Attendance will figure into your participation grade, but unless they become excessive, any reasonable absence will be excused. Please discuss with Dr. Tempesta as far ahead as possible when you need to meet class, and your reason. If your attendance becomes an issue, Dr. Tempesta will reach out directly.

Tardiness will not be excused- walking into class late without a University excused absence is disruptive and makes delivering the curriculum difficult. Habitual tardiness will severely affect your participation grade.

End of semester juries should not be scheduled during class time.

Oral Midterm Exam (25%):

In place of a written midterm, students will meet with Dr. Tempesta for a ½ hour oral exam outside of class time the week of March 31st. The oral exam will cover topics covered in class and in readings. A study guide will be published before hand. The oral exam will be a conversation using four selected study guide questions as a jumping off point. If a student fails to demonstrate mastery of the topic behind a given question, they will have a chance within two weeks to schedule a follow-up meeting to demonstrate a deepened knowledge of the topic for the possibility of recovering full credit.

Final Project (25%):

General Requirements: *Use this assignment to study something you find interesting or useful. If you are completing the Pedagogy as a related field, you will complete one of these projects in every one of my classes, and your final Pedagogy class in the cycle should serve as your capstone project. This project should involve an in depth literature review if it is your first semester completing one of my classes, or if you completed a literature review last semester, should involve using the lab equipment for a pilot study, or an exploratory project utilizing lab equipment to deepen your understanding of your chosen topic from the previous semester. If you are one of the latter two options, you should plan on training on some of the lab equipment during office hours. Once trained, you can sign up to use the lab on off hours by yourself. The final paper should be minimum 2500 words not including*

front or back matter. The final project should accumulate least 18 scholarly sources, such as books by respected pedagogues, primary source documents, or studies from peer reviewed journals like Journal of Voice. Citations should follow an established style guide such as Chicago, MLA or APA, with Chicago preferred. In lieu of a final exam, you sub this paper and present a 15-minute presentation summarizing your project to the class. Deadlines for the project are listed on Canvas, but involve:

February 18: *Full proposal for the final project is due. You should have met with Dr. Tempesta for office hours at least once before submitting your project proposal. The proposal should be three substantive paragraphs that including:*

- An introduction that positions your research question within the larger body of voice research, and demonstrates the subtopics importance, then presents your specific research question and thesis.*

- A brief literature overview that provides evidence that your project will fill a hole in the literature on your topic. Your project should address a question that is not yet answered or needs further clarification in scholarly/scientific discourse. You will need enough support from your preliminary literature review to show that your project fills a gap.*

- A one paragraph abstract of your project and proposed methodology.*

- A preliminary bibliography of substance (around 10 quality sources listed if you're unsure, but it will vary).*

April 15: *Fully developed outline or mind map due. Whatever format, this document should have all literature research and citations you intend to use in the final project and be constructed in a way that allows you to easily produce a structured rough draft with logical flow. Studies that involve a pilot study may lack data, but will have a well-developed methodology including expected analysis methods once data is acquired.*

April. 24: *Rough draft due. Please keep requested extensions to a minimum so that Dr. Tempesta can return a careful review of your rough draft before you begin work on the final draft. This should be a*

fully realized version of your final project, with data collection occurring later in only exceptional cases.

Final Presentation: *May 1 and assigned finals time (TBD) to accommodate all presentations.*

May 9: Final draft due.

Use of AI: *AI provides more and more powerful tools that can aid in both academic and scientific research. It is important that students use these tools to maximize their own learning, but care must be taken not to allow AI to accidentally get in the way of student learning, or lead to incorrect student conclusions. For instance, one might use AI to aid in literature review – to help identify articles that might be useful to read or to get an overview of a general topic. However, asking AI to summarize a scholarly source does not replace reading that source. AI often makes mistakes or misses important information, especially in musical and scientific contexts.*

AI may NOT be used to write the text of the final paper. One might use AI to help to proofread the paper, help proofread a citation format, or come up with an alternative to a given phrase in a moment of difficulty while writing... but when asked to write large sections of a paragraph or more, AI will often avoid depth of content and replace it with flowery, non-committal language. Further, skipping the process of learning to write curtails the student's development of critical thinking skills. I will grade much higher writing that is obviously a student's own voice than things written in the sort of voice that AI often espouses when imitating scholarly writing.

Important Academic Links and College of Music wide Policies:

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>

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

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at:

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

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <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

See above

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 to 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: <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: <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: <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:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

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.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <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 student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

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