

University of North Texas – College of Music
MUAG 1224: Voice Class for Music-Majors

Semester: Fall 2026

Instructor: Mackenzie Graves (Mrs. Graves)

Email: Mackenzie.Graves@unt.edu

(instructor only responds to emails, not CANVAS)

Office: Bain Hall 317

Office Hours: Fridays 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Class Meetings: Tuesday/Thursday 12:45 – 2:05 PM

Music Building Room #321

Credits: 1

Course Information:

MUAG 1224 is an introductory class to the fundamentals of singing for Music Majors. Topics include body alignment, vocal health, technique, and expression. The course combines practical exercises, solo, and ensemble singing. Students will not only develop skills in singing, but also in performances and workshops.

I. Learning Objectives

General Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Learn vocal music accurately with correct rhythm, pitch, dynamics, articulation, diction, and interpretation.
- Understand the basics of singing through breathing exercises, voice building exercises, studying anatomy, and song performance.
- Develop a greater appreciation and understanding of vocal music.
- Explore vocal music as a medium of communication and self-expression.
- Select appropriate beginner voice repertoire.

Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Clearly explain the basic principles behind healthy singing technique including but not limited to breathing, resonance, articulation, and diction.

- Systematically apply various voice-building exercises and vocal techniques to enhance tone production, expand vocal range, improve resonance, and refine articulation across diverse musical styles.
- Develop analytical skills by evaluating vocal performances using established vocal techniques.
- Set clear goals and targeted practice tasks for each session, keep a practice log and reflect on personal progress.
- Students will demonstrate increasing musicality, interpretive depth, and technical control in preparing and performing assigned repertoire in both group and individual settings.

II. Required Materials

Primary Textbook:

[The Singing Book by Vaughn, C., Dayme, M., & Hoch, M. 4th Edition, ISBN: 9781538180280](#)

Other Materials:

- Pencil
- Notebook
- Access to Canvas
- Practice Log (provided by instructor on first day of class)

III. Grading:

Component	Percentage	Description
Assignments & Readings	30%	Graded on participation, preparedness of readings, and may include quizzes/reflections.
Group Singing Activities	30%	Application of singing concepts and participation in group singing activities; grade based on preparation and in-class performance.
In-Class Performances	25%	Application of singing concepts to assigned songs and completion of performance reflections and program notes.
Course Responsibilities	15%	Grade based on attendance, practice logs, and completion of syllabus contract.

The standard UNT grading scale will be applied for this course:

A: 90% - 100%

B: 80% - 89.9%

C: 70% - 79.9%

D: 60% - 69.9%

F: 59.9% or less

Description of Graded Components

Assignments/Readings (30%): Assigned readings provide students with foundational knowledge of vocal technique that will be applied during class activities. Students are expected to complete assigned readings and quizzes by Sunday at 11:59 PM before the week of each class. Each reading quiz assesses student understanding of the assigned material and encourages consistent preparation and engagement with course concepts.

Group Singing Activities (30%): Group singing activities provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have acquired from assigned readings and lectures to ensemble singing. Students are encouraged to have a collaborative spirit and attention to musical detail as they apply new vocal techniques. These activities are opportunities to grow together, support one another, and develop both ensemble skills and musical expression in a nurturing environment.

In-Class Performances (25%): Students will perform from memory two songs throughout the semester (Midterm and Final). They will be required to select a song from the assigned textbook, practice, prepare, and perform using course concepts in a solo performance. Students will also have the opportunity to provide encouragement and practice constructive feedback in a masterclass-style assessment, submitting a reflection for each piece along with program notes. Student performances will be graded based on individual growth, performance presentation, diction, interpretation, and application of breathing and vocal technique to a selected song.

Course Responsibilities (15%): Responsibilities include but are not limited to attendance, submission of practice logs, and completion of syllabus contract. These guidelines are in place to ensure students are knowledgeable of expectations required in this course and actively participate in class.

Program Notes (Integrated): Program notes are designed to help students thoughtfully prepare a song for performance, offering a practical framework that can be applied. Students will be encouraged to explore the background, stylistic features, and interpretive choices of their selected pieces.

Choral Project (Integrated): Students will participate in a group choral project, performing selected pieces to develop ensemble skills. Assessment will focus on tone, blend, accuracy, and collaboration. Rehearsals occur during class, with some outside practice recommended. This project emphasizes teamwork and musical collaboration.

Assignments & Professional Responsibility

1. Timeliness as a Professional Standard

Students are responsible for submitting all assignments by the date and time specified in the course calendar/Canvas.

2. Late Work Protocol

Unless a student has received prior approval from the instructor or has a documented University-Approved excuse:

- **Late Penalty:** Assignments submitted after the deadline will incur a deduction of 10% or one letter grade per day.
- **Cut-off:** Assignments will **not be accepted** more than 3 days past the original due date and will result in a grade of zero.
- **Feedback:** Late assignments may not receive the same level of detailed feedback as on-time submissions, as the grading cycle for the class will have concluded.

3. Technology & Submission Format

- **Canvas:** All written assignments must be submitted via Canvas in PDF or Word. **Links to Google Docs are not accepted.**
- **Technology Failures:** Computer malfunctions, wi-fi issues, or Canvas outages are not valid excuses for late work. As a professional standard, students should aim to submit assignments at least 12 hours before the deadline to account for potential technical difficulties.

4. Extensions & Accommodations

- **University-Approved Absences:** Students with university-excused absence (see Attendance Policy) will be granted a reasonable extension equivalent to the number of days missed, provided they contact the instructor immediately upon their return.
- **ODA Accommodations:** Students registered with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) who have accommodations regarding deadlines must meet with the instructor during the first week of classes to agree upon a specific protocol for utilizing this accommodation.

5. Electronic Devices

Use of electronic devices is allowed **only** when required for scheduled activities, such as taking notes or accessing course materials. All personal electronic devices, including phones, smartwatches, tablets, and laptops, must be set to “do not disturb” mode.

Attendance Policy

6. The "Professional Standard" (Course Policy)

Consistent with the *Division of Music Education Student Handbook*, attendance is expected at all scheduled class meetings.

- **Unexcused Absences:** Students are allowed a maximum of **three (3)** unexcused absences during the semester.
- **Consequences:**
 - **4th Unexcused Absence:** The final letter grade will be lowered by one full letter (e.g., A becomes B).
 - **5th Unexcused Absence:** The student may be administratively dropped from the course or receive a failing grade (F) for the semester.
- **Tardiness:** Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the learning environment. Two tardies count as one unexcused absence. Leaving class two times without notifying instructor counts as an absence as well.

7. Communication Protocol

- **Advance Notice:** If a student knows they will be absent (e.g., for a TMEA conference, ensemble tour, or medical appointment), they must email the instructor **at least 24 hours in advance and provide documentation.**
- **Emergency Notice:** In the event of a sudden illness or emergency, email the instructor as soon as it is safe to do so. **Lack of communication will result in absence being marked as unexcused.**

8. University-Approved Absences (UNT Policy 06.039)

Absences for the following reasons are **excused** and do not count toward your "three free absences" limit, provided you supply appropriate documentation:

- **Religious Holy Days:** In accordance with UNT policy, you must notify the instructor designated for the course of your absence to observe a religious holy day.
- **Active Military Service:** Absence for active military service (including travel) is excused. (with proper documentation)
- **Official University Functions:** Participation in official university activities (e.g., scheduled ensemble tours, athletic events) is excused with documentation from the sponsor/director.
- **Dean of Students Notification:** For absences exceeding 5 days (due to illness, family emergency, etc.), students should contact the **Dean of Students Office** to obtain a formal verification notice to share with instructors.

9. Illness & Wellness

If a student is exhibiting symptoms of a contagious illness (flu, COVID-19, etc.), **do not come to class.**

- Please email Mrs. Graves immediately.
- While mild, short-term illness is generally counted toward the allowed 3 absences, communication is key. If a student has exhausted their allowed absences due to chronic illness, they must meet with the instructor to discuss a continuity plan.

Performance Policy

10. Performance Standard

Students will always:

1. Choose a song selection from the class textbook. No outside music will be allowed.
2. Prepare with the provided accompaniment from your instructor.
3. Dress appropriately for professional performance.
4. Inform the class of the song title, composer, and one or two lines of what the song is about.
5. You will have 5 minutes to perform a piece and five to ten minutes for compliments/comments. Students will always be respectful and appreciative of their colleagues and use respectful commentary.
6. Solos will be performed from MEMORY, no exceptions.
7. No make-ups allowed for missed performance days unless it is an emergency. All other reasons for missing an assigned singing day will result in a 0% for the assignment.

11. Pianists

Pianists are not required for this course; however, students are welcome to bring one. Most performances will be accompanied using recordings provided by the instructor and uploaded to Canvas.

IV. Course Schedule:

- This schedule is subject to change. You will be notified via Canvas when adjustments are made.

Week	Dates	Tuesday (Lecture)	Thursday (Application)	Readings/Assignments
1	Aug. 18 & 20	Introduction, Syllabus Overview, Expectations & Goals	How to Warm-up, Vocal Range Evals.	Readings: Getting Started Ch. 1 & 2 Assignments: 1. Syllabus Contract Quiz 2. Reading Quiz I All assignments due Sundays @ 11:59 PM
2	Aug. 25 & 27	Lecture I: Healthy Singing/Preparing to Sing	Warming up and Cooling Down Cont., What's Your Singing IQ?	Readings: Ch. 5 & 6 Assignments:

				1. Reading Quiz II 2. What's Your Singing IQ? (In-Class)
3	Sep. 1 & 3	Lecture II: Practice Habits/Performing	Group Singing I: How to Practice, Performance Habits	Readings: Ch. 3 & 4, Appendix F Assignments: 1. Reading Quiz III
4	Sep. 8 & 10	Lecture III: Song Selection/Learning Music	Group Singing II: Song Selection Activity (In-Class), Song-Selection Check-In	Readings: Ch. 7 & 8 Assignments: 1. Reading IV Quiz 2. Song Selection I
5	Sep. 15 & 17	Lecture IV: Physical Balance/Breathing	Group Singing III: Breathwork / Body Exploration	Readings: Ch. 9 & 10 Assignments: 1. Reading V Quiz
6	Sep. 22 & 24	Lecture V: Voice Quality and Resonance	Group Singing IV: Resonance Exploration, Playing with Sounds	Readings: NONE Assignments: NONE
7	Sep. 29 & Oct. 1	1-1 Session with Mrs. Graves for Song I (10 minutes each) All students check-in at beginning of class. Slots will be assigned in advance.	1-1 Session with Mrs. Graves for Song I (10 minutes each) All students check-in at beginning of class. Slots will assigned in advance.	Readings: NONE Assignments: 1. Program Note I Reminders: Practice Song I
8	Oct. 6 & 8	Class Workshop/Observations	Class Workshop/Observations	Readings: Appendix G Assignments: 1. Readings VI Quiz 2. Solo Performance I (In-Class) 3. Solo I Performance Reflection 4. Practice Log Check-In

9	Oct. 13 & 15	Choral Ensemble Vocal Concepts	Intro to Choral Project, Song Selection for Project	Readings: Appendix E + Ch. 11 Assignments: 1. Reading VII Quiz
10	Oct. 20 & 22	Lecture VI: Intro to IPA, Articulation/ Expression	Group Singing V: IPA Application in Songs, Song Selection II Check-In	Readings: Ch. 12 Assignments: 1. Reading VIII Quiz 2. Song Selection II
11	Oct. 27 & 29	Lecture VII: Maintaining a Healthy Voice, Voice Strategies, Vocal Health Q & A	Choral Project Rehearsal; Group planning/organizing, learning music <i>A secondary rehearsal space will be reserved.</i>	Readings: NONE for rest of semester. Assignments: NONE Reminders: <i>Meet with Choral Project group if possible.</i>
12	Nov. 3 & 5	Lecture VII: Music Interpretation/ Appendix C (In- Class)	Choral Project Rehearsal; rehearsing parts together, Mrs. Graves feedback. <i>A secondary rehearsal space will be reserved.</i>	Assignments: NONE Reminders: <i>Meet with Choral Project group if possible.</i>
13	Nov. 10 & 12	Lecture VIII: Performance Anxiety & Stage Presence Seminar	Performance Day for Choral Project; Discussion/ Observations	Assignments: 1. Choral Project Reflection 2. Choral Project Performance (In-Class) <i>Practice Song II</i>
14	Nov. 17 & 19	1-1 Session with Mrs. Graves for Song II (10 minutes each) <i>All students check-in at beginning of class.</i>	1-1 Session with Mrs. Graves for Song II (10 minutes each) <i>All students check-in at beginning of class.</i>	Assignments: 1. Program Note for Song II

		Slots will be assigned in advance.	Slots will be assigned in advance.	
15	Nov. 24 & 26	THANKSGIVING	BREAK	NO CLASS
16	Dec. 1 & 3	FLEX DAY/Class Workshop/ Observations	FLEX DAY/Class Workshop/ Observations	Assignments: 1. Practice Log Submission
17	FINALS WEEK	FINAL EXAM TIME	MONDAY, Dec. 7 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	1. Solo Performance II 2. Solo II Performance Reflection due FRIDAY, Dec. 11, 2026.

[Academic Integrity UNT Policy Statement on Diversity](#)

[Student Support Services & Policies](#)

[UNT Drop Policy](#)

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

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, Fall 2025

See: [Fall 2025 Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 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/fall-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 students, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

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