

# Applied Voice for Concentration Students Syllabus

(MUAC 1503)

Fall 2018

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The requirements or guidelines stated in this and supplementary studio documents are in agreement or an extension of those published in the current UNT College of Music Voice Area Handbook available online at <http://voice.music.unt.edu/handbook>.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The primary objective of this course is to work towards developing, understanding, and applying a healthy classical vocal technique. Throughout the course, we will also spend time working on musicality, dramatic interpretation, diction, translation and understanding of text while exploring and expanding repertoire.

## **EXPECTATIONS**

### Lesson Attendance:

There will be thirteen (13) scheduled lessons over the course of the semester. Lessons missed by the teacher will always be made up, as well as lessons missed due to “University Excused Absences.” Lessons that occur on official university holidays do not have to be made up by your teacher. If the student must miss a lesson, the teacher and pianist should be notified by email with 24 hours of notice. If proper notice is not provided, makeup lessons will be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher. If two lessons are missed without notification, the student will receive a “Notice of Unsatisfactory Progress” report. If an additional lesson is missed without notification, the student will be dropped from the course with a WF. In accordance with the Voice Handbook, six (6) absences (excused or unexcused), may result in a final semester grade of “F,” and you will be advised to drop the course. If you are ill, please do not come to the studio to report your absence – call, text, or email.

### Studio Class Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all studio classes and to sing when assigned. Attendance and participation will be particularly useful in preparing for juries and for honing your own skills in preparing to teach voice someday. *If you know that you must miss a studio class, you must notify me ahead of time to be excused.* You will need to coordinate with an accompanist to be there on the days that you sing. **Beginning October 24\*, all performances must be memorized.** Studio will be **Thursdays from 3:30-4:30** in a room TBD. We will have three shared studio classes with Hilary Taylor, and those will be:

Tuesday, October 9\* at 3:00 in room 132

Tuesday, October 16\* at 3:00 in room 288

Tuesday, November 6\* at 3:00 in room 132

During those weeks, we will not have regular studio class.

### Departmental Recital & Recital Attendance:

Voice Departmental Recitals are scheduled in Voertman Hall on certain Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Attendance is required for all voice students. Students are required to swipe their UID cards in with the attendant before departmental and swipe their UID cards out with the attendant after departmental. Those who leave before the end of the program will not be given credit for attendance. **Two un-excused absences will result in a lowering of the final grade in applied voice by one letter grade.** If you know that you will be gone from departmental, *you must let me know ahead of time to be excused.*

Students are encouraged to perform once a semester on a Departmental Recital (first semester freshman at the discretion of their teacher). Students intending to perform on Departmental Recital (with the approval of their instructor) must complete the official submission form by Thursday at 5:00 p.m. the week before the departmental. This form is located at <http://voice.music.unt.edu/departmental>.

Each semester there is a posted list of faculty recitals, guest recitals, and master classes that are required events. In addition to these required events, every music major is required to attend at least **15** additional programs (recitals, concerts, opera productions, etc.). These required faculty events have the same rules as departmental – you must swipe your UID card in with the attendant before the event, and swipe your UID card out with the attendant after the event. If you know that you will be gone from a required event, *you must let me know ahead of time to be excused.* **Voice students failing to meet these requirements may have their grade lowered by one letter grade.**

### Accompanists:

Students are responsible for hiring a pianist and scheduling rehearsals for lessons, Studio Class, Departmental Recital performances, Juries, and the Proficiency Exam. Pianists should have legible copies of all music *well in advance* of lessons or performances.

A great resource for finding an accompanist is the North Texas Collaborative Pianists (NTCP). This is a branch of the Keyboard Division of the UNT College of Music. This group provides a forum for singers and instrumentalists to request pianists for their lessons, juries, etc. on their website: <http://piano.music.unt.edu/ntcp>. If you would like more information, email: [ntcpianists@gmail.com](mailto:ntcpianists@gmail.com).

### Weekly Lesson Expectations:

Within the first week of the semester, students will sign up for a weekly lesson time. All 2-credit classes are 50 minutes in length. Students are expected to come to every lesson *on time* with the required binder and materials prepared to sing. Tardiness will negatively impact your grade.

In your first lesson, we will discuss the syllabus, and literature options. We will begin each lesson with a brief summary of the previous lesson which will be followed by 10-15 minutes of technical development. The remaining time will be spent choosing literature or working on assigned repertoire. At the end of each lesson, we will summarize what was discussed in the lesson and create a goal for the next.

**For any foreign texts, you must put a word-for-word translation into your music and bring me a copy of the music (with the translations) before we begin work together on it.** You must provide me and your pianist copies of your music *with these translations*. Be prepared to explain a more natural interpretation of the text. If an operatic or musical theater aria is assigned, you will be expected to explain a brief synopsis of the opera and the scene from which the aria is taken.

**There will be a memorization test in your lesson the week of November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All pieces must be memorized by this date.**

### Repertoire:

Exploring and curating a repertoire of art song and arias in several languages and styles is a part of the study of voice. Specific requirements depend upon the degree and classification of the singer.

Freshman year: Minimum of 4 memorized selections per semester

Sophomore year: Minimum of 4 memorized selections per semester

Students who do not satisfy minimum repertoire requirements will have their final semester grade lowered by *two* full letter grades.

I encourage you to create a repertoire list of pieces learned and performed, which you will update each semester.

### Practice:

Students are expected to practice assigned literature outside of lesson times. An hour of practice per day is expected; two or three short practice sessions rather than one long session in a day makes a good strategy. Remember to allow time for translating texts, interpretation, and memorization.

### Final Jury:

All undergraduate voice students are required to perform a jury at the end of each semester (unless the student has performed a recital in that semester). Juries will take place **December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Juries will be 6-8 minutes in length. Students will sing one selection of their choice and the faculty panel will select at least one additional piece. Jury pieces must be sung from memory. Students are expected to dress professionally for juries.

Students are expected to hire their own pianist for juries. It is crucial that students contact a pianist at the beginning of the semester and arrange times to practice together at least by **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**. Students are expected to give clean copies of their jury music to their pianist as soon as possible. Before signing up for a jury time, students are expected to have checked with their accompanist to make sure that he/she will be available.

Each student must fill out a Voice Division Jury Sheet:

[http://voice.music.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Voice\\_Division\\_Jury\\_Sheet\\_Fall\\_2016.pdf](http://voice.music.unt.edu/sites/default/files/Voice_Division_Jury_Sheet_Fall_2016.pdf). Titles and composers' names must be correctly spelled with all diacritical markings found in some foreign languages. Jury repertoire lists must 1) reflect the repertoire assigned and prepared that semester and 2) be approved and signed by the instructor.

### Upper Divisional Exam (UDE):

All undergraduate voice majors and concentrations must pass the upper Divisional Exam (UDE) before advancing to the 3000 level of voice study. The jury of the fourth semester of study at the major or concentration level serves as the UDE. Students may neither postpone the UDE to a later semester nor take it before the fourth semester of study.

Students who do not pass the exam on the second attempt are "disqualified" from the major or concentration. The UDE may be attempted again after an appropriate period of additional study as recommended by the voice faculty.

In order to have a successful exam, the student must show clear evidence of progress toward very good to excellent musical preparation and memorization with few, if any missteps: correct rhythms, pitches, text, diction, and musicality. They must demonstrate that they are developing the ability to sing in tune and with an appropriate use of natural vibrato. There must be clear and regular evidence that the student is aware of and striving for the timbre appropriate for bel canto singing: *chiaroscuro*. There must also be clear evidence that the singer is developing their individual expressiveness as a musician, and are aware that singing requires a desire to communicate the meaning of the words being sung and can do so regularly.

### BA Voice Concentration Proficiency Exam:

Students working towards a BA in Music in their fourth semester of study are expected to sing for their BA Voice Proficiency Exam. The jury of the fourth semester of study at the major or concentration level serves as the BA Voice Proficiency Exam. There is no final repertoire requirement for BA students.

Students who do not pass the exam on the second attempt are “disqualified” from the major or concentration. The Proficiency Exam may be attempted again after an appropriate period of additional study as recommended by the voice faculty.

In order to have a successful exam, the student must show clear evidence of progress toward very good to excellent musical preparation and memorization with few, if any missteps: correct rhythms, pitches, text, diction, and musicality. They must demonstrate that they are developing the ability to sing in tune and with an appropriate use of natural vibrato. There must be clear and regular evidence that the student is aware of and striving for the timbre appropriate for bel canto singing: chiaroscuro. There must also be clear evidence that the singer is developing their individual expressiveness as a musician, and are aware that singing requires a desire to communicate the meaning of the words being sung and can do so regularly.

### Junior Recital Option:

A recent change to the handbook allows a student in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of his/her junior year to perform a non-degree recital in place of a jury. This recital must have at least 1 faculty member present and must cover at least the minimum requirements that would be on the jury. Junior recitals may *not* take the place of a Voice Concentration Proficiency Exam, though you are still welcome to perform a non-degree recital during the semester of your Proficiency Exam. If you choose to do this, you should indicate your interest to your teacher by the end of your second semester as a sophomore so that you can plan the recital together with plenty of time.

### Fair Usage of Lesson & Performance Recordings:

Lesson recordings contain intellectual property, are for instructional purposes only, and are not intended for public consumption. Please heed the following guidelines. Abuses will carry consequences.

Copyright laws must be followed.

Privacy should be respected.

Recordings of practice sessions are for instructional purposes only.

## **GRADING**

### Breakdown of Grading:

(50%) Semester Jury Grade

(50%) Studio Grade

- (50%) *Memorization Test during lesson week of April 9th*
- (50%) *Preparation, participation, attendance, attitude*

If a student is not able to successfully perform all selections requested during the jury, the highest grade possible for the semester will be a C.

### Grading Scale:

A	(90% – 100%)
B	(80% – 89.9%)
C	(70% – 79.9%)
D	(60% – 69.9%)
F	(59.9% or less)

### USEFUL RESOURCES

- UNT Voice Board (bulletin board across from MU 216, near the choir room)
- Students are encouraged to join UNT Voice Students on Facebook for pertinent updates
- A recording device for lessons and performances
- [www.pons.eu](http://www.pons.eu) : online dictionary app in multiple languages with IPA
- [www.lieder.net](http://www.lieder.net) : song translations between multiple languages
- *The Grove Book of Operas*: plot synopsis, character study, etc. (studio bookshelf)
- *An Interpretive Guide to operatic Arias*: character and musical resource (studio bookshelf)
- *The Pierre Bernac Interpretation of French Song*: for French translations (studio bookshelf)
- *A French Song Companion*: French song translation, composer context (studio bookshelf)
- *French Song from Berlioz to Duparc*: French song interpretation (studio bookshelf)
- NCVS: Check your Meds: <http://www.ncvs.org/rx.html>

### 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, 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 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.

LINK: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/dcgcover/resources/integrity>

**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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. LINK: Student Code of Conduct – <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](http://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. LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## **ADA 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 Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation. LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**2018-2019 SEMESTER ACADEMIC SCHEDULE:** <http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=1737>

**2018-2019 ACADEMIC CALENDAR:** <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2018-19/calendar>

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:** <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

## **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 registered hours per term. 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 being doing so. 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 Blackboard 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 (FERP A) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates. Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu>

## **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: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>. For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds  
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311  
(940) 565-2741  
[Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu)

## **RESPONDING TO STUDENTS IN DISTRESS: UNT CARE TEAM**

Please visit the CARE Team website to tips to recognize students in distress and what you need to do in cases of extreme behavior or references to suicide. Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>