

Applied Voice for Concentration Students Syllabus

(MUAC 3503)

Spring 2017

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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 (Thanksgiving, for instance). If the student must miss a lesson, the teacher and pianist should be notified by text, phone, or e-mail with at least 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 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:

Studio classes will be every Wednesday from 4:00 – 5:30 in MUS 258. Students are expected to attend all studio classes and should plan to sing in a rotation throughout semester. Attendance and participation will be particularly useful in preparing for juries and for honing your own skills in preparing to teach voice someday.

Studio classes on April 5th, 12th, and 26th will start at 4:15. We will have **NO STUDIO CLASS on April 19th**.

Mock Juries will be held Friday, April 28th 2017 from 5:00 – 7:30 in a room TBD. Students will sign up for a 10-minute slot with their pianist to run through jury music.

Departmental Recital & Recital Attendance:

Voice Departmental Recitals are scheduled in Voertman Hall every Tuesday from 4:00 pm to 5:50 pm. Attendance is required of all voice students. Students are expected to attend the entire program. Students 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.

Students are encouraged to perform once a semester on a Departmental Recital (first semester freshman at the discretion of their teachers). 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.). 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 Recitals performances, 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: <https://collaborativepiano.music.unt.edu/ntcp-request>. If you would like more information, email: ntcpianists@gmail.com.

Binders:

Each semester students will compile a binder which must be brought to every lesson. This binder should include:

- ☐ Course syllabus
- ☐ UNT COM Voice Area Handbook
- ☐ Notes taken from each lesson
- ☐ Two copies of each literature assignment (one for both teacher and student). *One copy must contain the following information and be made available in your lesson, the first time an aria/song is sung:*
 - A word-for-word translation of foreign language texts
 - Be prepared to explain a more natural interpretation of the text
 - If an operatic aria is assigned, you will be expected to explain a brief synopsis of the opera and the scene from which the aria is taken.
- ☐ Memorization Plan
- ☐ Notes taken from lessons
- ☐ Any hand-outs given in the lesson
- ☐ A list totaling 15 recitals and concerts attended throughout the semester that will be emailed to me the week before juries.

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.

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.

Students will fill out a memorization plan for the semester. **All pieces *must* be memorized by April 17th, 2017.**

Repertoire:

Curating a repertoire of art song and arias in several languages and styles is a part of the study of voice. A very important part of this process—for both singers and teachers—is the discovery and selection of these pieces. For that reason, I am requiring that each student choose 3 pieces that they wish to sing in the semester as part of their literature assignment. In choosing these pieces, students should do diligent research and consider: composer's intended voicing, voice range, technical areas in which the piece would foster growth, variety (language, time period, style, etc.), and accompanist's ability. I am more than happy to offer guidance, and I reserve the right to veto songs that are inappropriate.

Regarding the number of assigned pieces, specific requirements depend upon the degree and classification of the singer.

Freshman year:	Minimum of 4 memorized selections per semester
Sophomore year:	Minimum of 5 memorized selections per semester
Junior year:	Minimum of 6 memorized selections* per semester

*One solo from a major choral/orchestral work (oratorio, mass, etc.) may be sung with score. This selection should NOT be the student's choice at the jury.

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). Juris will take place **May 1-4, 2017**. 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 by **February 13th, 2017**. 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. 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.

Voice Concentration Proficiency Exam:

Students in their sixth semester of study are expected to sing for their Voice Concentration Proficiency Exam. This exam takes place during jury week, but has different requirements than a regular jury. Students must present eight pieces in varying styles, two each in English, Italian, German, and French. Students may choose their first piece, then the panel will choose three songs, so that one in each language is performed. The repertoire for this exam is a culmination of repertoire from previous semesters.

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: Copyright laws must be followed; privacy should be respected; recordings of practice sessions are for instructional purposes only. Abuses will carry consequences.

GRADING

Breakdown of Grading:

(50%) Jury Grade

(50%) Studio Grade

If a student is not able to successfully perform both 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

- A recording device for lessons and performances
- UNT Voice Board (bulletin board across from COM 216, near the choir room)
- Students are encouraged to join UNT Voice Students on Facebook for pertinent updates

Language & Translation Resources:

- www.pons.eu : online dictionary app in multiple languages with IPA
- www.lieder.net : song translations between multiple languages
- *The A to Z of Foreign Musical Terms* (studio bookshelf)

Aria Resources:

- *The Grove Book of Operas* : plot synopsis, character study, etc. (studio bookshelf)
- *An Interpretive Guide to Operatic Arias* : character and musical resource (studio bookshelf)

Art Song Resources:

- *Song – A Guide to Art Song Style and Literature* for Art Song research (studio bookshelf)
- *Art Song – Linking Poetry and Music* for Art Song research (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)

Vocal Science/Pedagogy Resources:

- *Practical Vocal Acoustics* (studio bookshelf)
- *The Human Body* (studio bookshelf)
- And many, many others I can bring in if you are interested

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://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-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. 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/

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. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Spring 2017 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates):

http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1228#spring_2017

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>

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. 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 (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates. Link: essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html