**University of North Texas**

**UNT College of Music**

**MUAG 1124 - 500 Voice Class for Non Music Majors**

**Fall, 2025**

**MWF 13:00 - 13:50 Musi 320**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Shuyi Li

Title: Teaching Fellow, Division of Vocal Studies, UNT College of Music

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Phone: 812-778-6775

Office: Bain Hall 308

Office Hours: By Appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

MUAG 1124 is a class for non music majors to learn the fundamentals of singing. This will include knowledge of the voice as an instrument, singing technique, vocal health, singing related body work, fach system, literature, listening, performance, stage acting and success and failure. This is a performance class. You are expected to be on time, active, and engaged in every class. You will sing in most of the classes, either as a group or alone.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

*The Singing Book* by Cynthia Vaughn

All other materials will be offered on Canvas

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the voice as an instrument

2. Identify basic vocal anatomical structures and explain their role in vocal production

3. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual vocal apparatus in their own singing, speaking, and performing

4. Demonstrate methods to incorporate a healthier, more well-balanced approach to

phonation and vocal expression in their daily lives

5. Demonstrate greater confidence in vocal performance

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is mandatory.

You have one “Starbucks Day.” After that, points will be removed from your final grade.

Excused absences may be granted for university-sponsored commitments, religious

observations, or on a case-by-case basis. In order to receive an excused absence, you must

document your absence with Professor Li in advance of class missed via email.

Given the various communication tools available to students in this day and age, I expect any student who encounters difficulties in attending class or preparing any component of the class at all to employ any means necessary to apprise me of the situation before class.

**GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS**

Course grade will be based on the following scale:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentages | Points |
| A | 90%-100% | 90-100 |
| B | 80%-89.9% | 80-89 |
| C | 70%-79.9% | 70-79 |
| D | 60%-69.9% | 60-69 |
| F | 59.9% and below | 0-59 |

Class participation and attendance: 10 points

*\* You will receive a daily participation grade. If you are not in attendance, you cannot participate*

Range Recordings: 5 points (**Due August 24th, 11:59 PM**)

Song Information Sheet: 10 points

Mid-Term Performance: 25 points

Masterclass Participation: 15 points

Written Final: 10 points

Final Performance: 25 points

**100 points total**

**MID-TERM PERFORMANCE**

For the midterm performance, each person will perform a song of your choice (by memorized) in the week of **October 13 & 15**. The song can be in any genre that interests you. You will be responsible for finding out the score of the song and sending it to me by **October 5, 11:59 PM**. If you need piano accompaniment please talk to me ahead of time and I will invite a pianist **(Cristian García: [cristiangarciacastillo@my.unt.edu)](mailto:cristiangarciacastillo@my.unt.edu))** to provide you with piano accompaniment. You may also choose to use an accompaniment tape or accompany yourself on any instrument you feel comfortable with, and you will need to email me by **September 14, 11:59 PM** with **three pieces** you are interested in, and I will select the song that best suits your current stage of vocal development. This date is 4 weeks before the actual performance, so please be on time so we can discuss the repertoire in plenty of time.

Prior to your presentation of your song in class, all notes and rhythms must be learned. This

happens on your own time. Diction and text should be presented to the best of your ability.

**FINAL PERFORMANCE**

* For the final performance (**December 1 & 3**), I will choose a song that works for you. You will need to learn the song in its entirety and memorize it before the actual performance. This includes proper rhythm and melody, basic expression of emotion and as perfect a diction as you can do. Students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.

**MASTERCLASSES**

During the semester, we will hold master classes for all students. These will consist of voice lessons for each student in front of the class while working on the basic singing technique or your repertoire selection. These sessions are not only for you to improve on your singing ability, but also for the class to get an outside view on other’s lessons and to take away key points they can use in their own singing.

**Song Information Sheet & Final Written**

A repertoire study guide has been uploaded on your Canvas File page, it will help organize dramaturgical details of the repertoire you’re studying and performing. You will need to do your own research on your songs according to the questions listed in the form and send it to me 1 week before both of the performance weeks. There’s lots of questions, but the guide will start you on your way to a deeper understanding of the music and text. Due dates are **October 5, 11:59 PM & November 23, 11:59 PM. (1 week before both of your performances)**

**CELL PHONES & LAPTOPS/IPADS**

Laptops and iPads are to be used in this class as needed for notes or viewing material online or on Canvas only. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT TO BE USED**. If you need to take a pressing call or text, you may step outside to answer it without interrupting class.

**ILLNESS**

As singers, our instrument is affected by the ebbs and flows of our body. If you start to feel an

illness, it is imperative that you do not try to “tough it out” and sing. We all get sick and all I ask is that, if you are feeling under the weather, send me an email at least an hour before class. If this interferes with recordings or performances, an email must be sent as far in advance as you can. Please do not come to class ill. It is better for all of us for you to rest and keep your colleagues safe.

**COVID-19**

Please use your common sense as above with any illness including COVID. If you have

COVID-like symptoms or test positive, do not come to class. You will not be marked down.

Please always contact me via email about these issues.

Classes may be held on Zoom if I am or need to be in quarantine. If such a need arises, I will

create Zoom meetings and send the link. If you are mandated to quarantine due to COVID-19

please be in contact with me and I will record the in person classes and make them available for distribution to those who are unable to attend in person due to COVID-19.

**MUSIC PERFORMANCES/EXTRA CREDIT**

The University of North Texas College of Music and greater DFW area is an extremely large

community of musicians with an abundance of performances throughout the entire year Monday through Sunday. Below I am attaching links to some, but definitely not all, opportunities you could see.

<https://calendar.unt.edu/department/college_of_music/calendar>

<https://opera.music.unt.edu/season>

<https://www.dallassymphony.org/concerts-and-events/calendar/>

<https://dallasopera.org/seasons/mainstage/>

If you attend any **live** music performances and feel that you need extra-credit, I will accept a

summary of the event and your thoughts and opinions on the music performed. I also strongly

encourage you to attend many of these performances, just because, as students you are often

let in for free or next to free. Enjoy the music around you!

**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](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)

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](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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](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.

See: [Eagle Connect](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

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

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://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](https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness" \o "https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness)

**Registration Information for Students**

See: [Registration Information](https://registrar.unt.edu/students)

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

**Academic Calendar, Fall 2024**

See: [Fall 2024 Academic Calendar](https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf)

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**

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap)

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](http://ferpa.unt.edu/)

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](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See:  [Mental Health Resources](https://disparities.unt.edu/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](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)

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