

MUS 3605 – Voice Techniques and Materials
FALL, 2019

Department of Music
Section 01, R 5:30-8:00 pm
Humanities Bldg., Rm. 301

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Molly M. Breckling (she, her, hers)

Office: Humanities rm. 333

Office Phone: 678-839-2432

Office Hours: M: 9:00-9:45, 11:00-12:00 W: 9:00-9:45, 11:00-12:00, 1:00-2:00, R: 12:30-5:00, F: 9:00-9:45

Email: mbreckli@westga.edu (ALWAYS TRY EMAIL FIRST!)

Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

Required Materials:

- You must have a pencil with you for all class meetings.
- One package of 3x5 white lined notecards

All other materials will be provided though CourseDen or online resources.

You will need to activate your UWG email account (if you have not already done so) and be able to access CourseDen nad activate notifications on CourseDen.

Course Description:

Principles, fundamentals, pedagogy, and techniques for singing. Includes a survey of instructional materials and literature for voice.

Student learning outcomes

Each student will:

- become fluent in their knowledge of the function and anatomy of the vocal mechanism.
- establish ideal guidelines for teaching voice to singers of all types and ages
- learn 4 songs from the established vocal literature
- have the chance to teach their fellow students in class.

Course Evaluations – Method of Grading

Written Exams: 45%

Exam I (Sept. 6): 15%

Exam II (Oct. 25): 15%
Exam III (Nov. 29): 15%

Performance Exams: 45%

Exam I (Sept. 6): 15%
Exam II (Oct. 25): 15%
Exam III (Dec. 13, 5-7pm): 15%

Class Participation and In-class assignments 10%

GRADE BREAKDOWN

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

ASSIGNMENTS

Written Exams: Three written exams will be administered throughout the term. Each will test your comprehension of materials we have covered, as pertains to the singing mechanism, techniques of proper singing, and vocal literature. Exams will consist of short answer, fill in the blank, and essay questions.

Scantron is not used in this class.

Performance Exams: Three performance exams will be administered throughout the term. Exam I will consist of group (2-3 people) performances of Folk Song literature. Exam II will be performed as solos in English from the Art Song tradition. Exam III will be performed as solos in a foreign language.

Giving a lesson: On November 14, you will be asked to give a seven-minute voice lesson to me. I will present a specific vocal problem, and you will need to suggest exercises, warm-ups, or techniques aimed at correcting the issue. Points will be given based on the clarity of your instruction, the identification of the problems, and the efficacy of your proposed solution.

Class Participation and In-class assignments: We will work actively for a portion of every class meeting on singing techniques. Your participation will be evaluated on a score of 0-10 for each of those days, and that will comprise your Class Participation/Activity grade.

Daily Responses: Each class day will begin with your taking out a notecard, writing your name and the date, and briefly answering a question drawn from the day's reading.

Each class day will end with your responding to a question about the day's material on the other side of the card. These note cards will be collected AT THE END of every class period. Not all will be graded, but some will. Failure to turn in a card at the end of class will mean you will be marked absent for the day.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

[University Policies Common Language](#)

FERPA

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, instructors cannot discuss any information pertaining to a student's grade via email or telephone unless the student signs an 1126 form waiving his or her FERPA rights

CLASS SPECIFIC POLICIES

1. **Attendance Policy:** while I aim to treat you like responsible adults and do not like the notion of taking attendance, doing so is required for paperwork purposes. A class such as ours is also highly experiential, so missing class not only means losing the opportunity to learn, but the loss of that day's Class Participation/Activity grade. I will take attendance (either actively, in written form, or silently) at the beginning of class. Once class activity has begun, I will no longer mark you present. If you enter class late and wish to be marked present (albeit tardy), it will be your responsibility to speak to me AFTER class. That said, walking in late is disruptive to the instructor and your classmates. Don't do it. The daily class schedule has been changed to give you more time to walk between classes, so if you have back-to-back classes, plan accordingly.

If you are a student athlete, please submit your game schedule to your instructor within the first two weeks of class. You may not miss class due to practice, however, with the proper game schedule documentation, your instructor will work with you on your absences due to your games. You **may not**, however, submit late work due to a game or a practice. It is your responsibility to follow the course schedule and be aware of any class material and / or homework.

2. **Observance of Religious Holidays** – Students may miss class to observe religious holidays under the following circumstances:

- Student must notify instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester
- Make-up work or alternate assignments will be provided. Students must submit make-up work by the assigned due date or they will not be accepted.

3. Late work Policy

Assignments must be turned in on time. Work that is submitted after that time, but within 24 hours will be deducted 10% of the final grade. Each 24 hours after the due date that passes before work is submitted will drop the grade by a further 10%. Work more than 10 days overdue will not be accepted. If extreme circumstances prevent you from submitted an assignment on time, contact the instructor as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements for turning in your work.

4. Make-Up Exam Policy

Make-up exams will not be offered except under extreme, documented circumstances. If you are unable to attend an exam, you must contact me by the end of that day to make alternate arrangements. If I do not hear from you by 11:59pm on the day of the exam, you will not be allowed to make it up. You will only be allowed one make-up exam during the course of the term, and only if you provide sufficient documentation to warrant to make-up.

In class participation grades cannot be made up.

5. Other Classroom policies

Cell phones and laptops are NOT allowed in the classroom. They provide more of a distraction than a benefit to learning, so respect those around you, and do not use them. If I find you using these items, I will ask you to put them away, further instances will be met with a written warning, and a third will result in your withdrawal from the course. BTW, holding your phone in your lap and texting during class is easy to spot from the front of the room. You're not fooling anyone. So, don't insult my intelligence, and I won't embarrass you in front of your classmates.

6. Classroom conduct

For the majority of you, singing is an activity with which you are not as familiar as playing your instrument. As such, everyone will find the environment more comfortable if we support one another's endeavors, offer constructive comments, and treat each other with respect. This means listening attentively during classmates' performance exams and encouraging each other to grow and develop together.

COURSE OUTLINE: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. NOTE: Reading and listening assignments must be completed BEFORE the listed course meeting.

Thur. 8/15: Course introduction. Syllabus.

In class reading: [The Science of Why You Can't Carry a Tune](#)

Activities: Form duets/trios. Choose a piece for Performance Exam I

Thur. 8/22: Healthy Singing

Before class reading: [How the Voice Works](#) and [The Voice of Posture](#)

Activities: Rehearse duets/trios as time allows

Thur. 8/29: Vocal Literature/ Vocalizing and Practicing

Before class reading (PDF on CourseDen)

Hall, James Husst. "Problems of the Art Songs" in *The Art Song* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953), 3-7.

Shearer, James E. "Focus on Form: The Opera" in *Classical Basics* (Dubuque: Kendall-Hunt, 2005), 68-69.

Schmidt, Jan. *Basics of Singing*, 2nd ed. (New York: Schirmer, 1989), 3-11.

Activities: Rehearse duets/trios as time allows

Thur. 9/5: Exam I

5:30-6:30: Written exam

6:30-8:00 Performance exam

Thur. 9/12: Vocal Registers

Before class reading (PDF on CourseDen)

Reid, Cornelius. "The Vocal Registers" in *Bel Canto: Principles and Practices* (New York: Joseph Patelson Music House, 1972), 63-107.

Activities: [Pink Trombone Vocal Resonance Simulator](#)

Choose a piece for Exam II

Thur. 9/19: Vowel Sounds

Before class reading (PDF on CourseDen)

Miller, Richard. *The Structure of Singing* (New York: Schirmer, 1996), 69-78.

Activities: Rehearse as time allows

Thur. 9/26: Consonant Sounds and Diction

Before class reading (PDF on CourseDen)

Vennard, William. *Singing: the Mechanism and the Technic* (Boston: Carl Fischer, 1967), 167-180.

Activities: Rehearse as time allows.

Thur. 10/3: **NO CLASS MEETING. HAPPY FALL BREAK!**

Thur. 10/10: Exam II

5:30-6:30: Written exam

6:30-8:00 Performance exam

Thur. 10/17: Marching band is Homecoming Parade. Schedule a time to meet with me during the week and be prepared to discuss options for your piece for the final exam.

Thur. 10/24: Anatomy of a Singer/The Theatrics of Singing

Before class reading (PDF on CourseDen)

Miller, Richard. *The Structure of Singing* (New York: Schirmer, 1996), 241-286.

Schmidt, Jan. *Basics of Singing*, 2nd ed. (New York: Schirmer, 1989, 36-42.

Dayme, Maribeth and Cynthia Vaughn. *The Singing Book*, 3rd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2014), 22-24.

Activities: Rehearse as time allows.

Thur. 10/31: **NO CLASS MEETING:** Instructor is attending a conference. Please use this time to prepare for the final Performance Exam

Thur. 11/7: Department ASO Trip. Private Lessons with Dr. Breckling, HUM 333

Thur. 11/14: Giving a voice lesson – in class exercise

Thur. 11/21: NO CLASS MEETING. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thur. 11/28: Being a Singer

Before class reading:

[Why Do We Love Bad Singing?](#)

[10 of the Most Extreme Vocals In Music](#)

Activities: Rehearse as time allows.

Sign up for private lessons with Dr. Breckling on December 5

Thur. 12/5: Written Exam III

Private lessons with Dr. Breckling

Thur, 12/12 (5:00-7:00 pm): **Performance Exam III**