

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix and Number: MU 1131

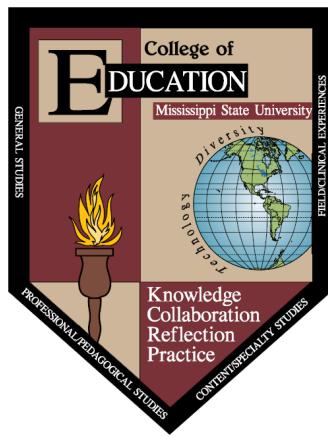
Course Title: Voice Class

Credit Hours: One (1) credit hour

Type of Course: Laboratory

Catalog Description: Two hours laboratory. Class study of Voice Production.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.

2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.

3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.

4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Description:

This course is designed to improve vocal technique, musical ability, interpretive choices, stylistic knowledge, and performance skills. Singer musicianship will be achieved through classes,

individual practice of the materials assigned, and through participation in class performances and discussions.

Course Objectives:

In accordance with the objectives of InTASC and CFPO, the following objectives are met in this class:

1. We will work together to identify your best learning styles, and to explore methods for having an appropriately challenging environment. (InTASC #1: Learner Development; CFPO #2 Understanding Learners)
2. Concepts of vocal technique and content regarding stylistic features of historical periods and individual composer traits will be examined. Additionally, musical concepts and skills will be developed. (InTASC #4: Content Knowledge; CFPO #3 Knowledge of Content)
3. As each singer is unique, we will work together to discover the most effective ways you learn in your lesson, and the most efficient ways for you to practice. (InTASC # 9: Reflection and Continuous Growth)
4. Not only will teacher and student collaborate, but also we will be collaborating with your pianist and, possibly, other singers on duets and other small ensembles. (InTASC #10: Collaboration)

CFPO #4: Assessment/Evaluation – see this syllabus under Evaluation below

Topics to be Covered:

1. Vocal technique – Vocal technique will be discussed and practiced through vocal exercises demonstrated in class and subsequent application in repertoire. (7 hours)
2. Repertoire – The instructor will familiarize the students with a variety of vocal repertoire including: opera, art song, operetta, oratorio, and musical theatre. Repertoire selected for students to prepare and perform is based on the instructor's evaluation of class participants. Classical art songs, folk songs, and musical theatre selections will be included. (5 hours)
3. Performance Skills – Expressivity of the vocal line, collaboration with the accompanying instrument, interpretation of text, gestures, acting, and performance presentational skills will be discussed and developed. Performance skills are often integrated into repertoire study. (3 hours)

Required Text:

Adventures in Singing (Fourth Edition), by Clifton Ware
McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 978-0-07-297759-2

Listening:

Listening to recordings is an integral part of this course. The instructor will often play recordings in class, but the students should also have access to YouTube and Spotify. A Spotify account is free (except on mobile devices) and can be activated through your email address or Facebook account.

Methods of Instruction/Student Activities:

Classes will be taught in a small group, workshop format. Each class will consist of a discussion period, where reading and listening assignments will be talked about by the entire class. The latter part of each class period will consist of technical exercises (vocalizes) to help students acquire vocal skills, as well as repertoire to learn technical applications, musical styles, and expression. This format is meant to create an open, encouraging atmosphere to build confidence and promote vocal and musical development.

Honor Code:

"As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>.

Technology:

Students will make use of YouTube and Spotify, as well as any other online sources the instructor recommends.

Diversity:

The study of voice is one of great diversity. As each person's vocal instrument is unique, it is a process of discovery on the part of student and teacher to develop and reveal the beauty of the individual instrument. Culturally, styles from Western European art music (British, German, Italian, French, Spanish, and American – Northern, Central, and Southern) is emphasized with other cultures and languages represented at times (Czech, Russian, African, etc.).

Disability:

Mississippi State University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities to all students and assisting students in making their college experiences successful and positive. MSU complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact Student Support Services (325-3335) for the coordination of services. For more information, please see <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/ssss/disabilities/>.

Please see me for any concerns about disabilities, or learning issues you may have. We will work together for success if I understand your needs.

Field Component:

Live performances are invaluable for observing technique, interpretation, and performance practices. Departmental voice recitals, concerts, and master classes are strongly encouraged. *If you bring me your ticket or program for those events, you will receive extra credit.* There is a list of upcoming on-campus performances posted on the vocal bulletin board in Music Building B.

Evaluation of Student Progress:

You will be graded on the subjective criteria of participation, preparation, memorization, and improvement. In addition, there will be weekly homework assignments, occasional quizzes, and a midterm exam. Please contact me at any point if you have any concerns about your grade in class.

Attendance and participation:	50%
Midterm:	20%
Preparation/memorization of assigned repertoire:	10%
Homework assignments:	10%
Quizzes:	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Attendance and Participation Policy:

If you are sick, please contact me as soon as possible. Though excess absence due to illness is not desirable, everyone appreciates your care in not spreading germs. Singers are dependent on having healthy voices!

If you have a departmental conflict (i.e. concert trip), please let me know at the beginning of the semester.

Each student will be allowed 2 *excused* absences for the semester. Any additional absences will result in deductions from your final grade.

Grading:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
Below 60	F

Bibliography:

- Boystim, J.F. (2003). *The private voice studio handbook*. Milwaukee, WI: Hal Leonard Corp.
- Christy, V. (1975). *Expressive singing*. Dubuque, Iowa: W. C. Brown Co.
- McCoy, Scott (2004). *Your voice: An inside view*.
http://www.voiceinsideview.com/Publication_Data.htm ISBN: 0-9755307-2-0
- Miller, Richard. *Solutions for singers: Tools for performers and teachers*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Potter, John. (2004). *The Cambridge companion to singing*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Sataloff, R.T. (2006). *Vocal health and pedagogy (Vol. I): Science and assessment*. Second edition. San Diego: Plural Publishing.
- Miller, R. (1996). *The structure of singing: System and art in vocal technique*. New York: Schirmer Books.
- Sataloff, R.T. (2006). *Vocal health and pedagogy (Vol. II): Advanced assessment and treatment*. Second edition. San Diego: Plural Publishing.
- Ware, Clifton. (2008). *Adventures in singing*. Fourth edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill.