

Singing for Actors
Course Syllabus
Fall 2017

Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre
THEA 1100
Wednesday 2-3:20 p.m. / PAC 188

Instructor – Amanda Waites
Office – PAC 284C
Office hours – by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to help actors overcome the fear of singing, discover their singing voice, and learn basic singing technique in various commercial singing styles.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To better express through song.
2. To identify 1-2 theatre songs that can showcase the abilities of an actor who sings.
3. To expand the functional range of the singing voice.
4. To gain better understanding of commercial styles of theatre music.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class participation is an important part of class, so it is imperative that you attend all classes. Because this class meets only once a week, you will be allowed **one unexcused absence**. After that, your final grade will be reduced by **two (2)** points for **each** absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy **two (2)** times, that equals **one absence**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, talking among each other at inappropriate times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

Americans with Disabilities Act SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and to talk to me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with:

SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building)

Telephone: 936-294-3512 / TDD: 936-294-3786

E-mail: disability@shsu.edu

Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability

COURSE MATERIALS:

Cook, Rena. *Voice and the Young Actor*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2012. Print.

Kayes, Gillyanne. *Singing and the Actor*. New York: Routledge, 2004. Print.

Each student should purchase *The Singer's Musical Theatre Anthology Volume 1* **with accompaniment CDs** in the appropriate vocal range (please consult with instructor for recommended range). Purchase(s) should be made before the third week of classes to allow time to prepare.

Mezzo book (female mid-range): ISBN: 9780634061820

Tenor book (male mid-range): ISBN: 9780634061837

EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT:

Class Attendance/Quizzes	50
Class Participation/Performance	50
	<hr/> 100

QUIZZES

2-3 quizzes will be given throughout the semester based on readings and class lecture. Quiz dates will be announced in class.

IN CLASS PERFORMANCES

There will be **two** class performance opportunities in class. Students *must* prepare and offer two different songs OR sing the same song twice. Select pieces that show your individual vocal traits at their best. Brief in-class coaching times through a master class setting will allow for discussion of range, style, vocal quality, character type, and song selection. Students will draw numbers the week prior to performance to determine order for performances. In-class performances will be accompanied using prerecorded tracks either from internet, digital files/devices, burned to CDs, and/or from the CDs from your *Singer's Anthology*, or other score/sheet music/anthology. Please bring your anthology, prerecorded track/device and/or CD to class on the days you are scheduled to perform.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction, Knowing Your Instrument (Anatomy/Function)

Week 2: Posture, Breathing/Support (Generator) **Assignment #1-Singer/Actor as Storyteller**

Week 3: The Larynx (Vibrator) **Assignment #1** cont', *Individual coaching day*

Week 4: Resonance and Articulators -**Assignment #2-American Songbook/Song Selection**

Week 5: Learning a Song/Practice, *Individual coaching day-Assignment #2* cont'

Week 6: Registration and Dynamics

Week 7: Performance Focus/Microphone Technique - *Individual coaching day*

Week 8: **Class Performance #1**

Week 9: Vocal Health/Singer as Athlete

Week 10: Style signatures: Jazz, Rock and Musical Theatre

Week 11: Preparing your music for auditions/Working with an accompanist

Week 12: *Individual coaching day*

Week 13: *Individual coaching day*

Week 14: **Class Performance #2**