

## **Performance Techniques for Singers**

### **MUEN 1119 – Opera Workshop**

Fall, 2017

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays: 3:30-5:30pm  
(Concert Hall Stage, unless otherwise posted)

Wednesdays: 3:30-4:00pm (Room 202)

Dr. Wesley Lawrence  
Wesley.Lawrence@shsu.edu  
Office: SOM 318

#### **Course Objectives:**

The primary objective of this course is to improve the skills of performance and communication. This includes the skills of performers to an audience, educators to classrooms, and therapists to clients.

Additionally, this class will strive to provide an introduction to stagecraft, performance technique, and rehearsal etiquette, as well as a (very) basic introduction to the operatic repertoire, personnel, and locales.

#### **Course Requirements:**

##### **Attendance**

This grade is wrapped completely into your participation for each class. If you are not present, your participation will likely be less than admirable. As attendance and participation are worth the majority of your grade, *every* unexcused absence will have a significant impact on your grade. Class will start promptly at 3:30, tardiness will adversely affect your grade. Excused absences require an official record.

##### **Participation**

Your participation grade will be a result of the following ideas:

- Whatever is going on in class should have your entire focus.
- Texting, checking Facebook, or having your phone out for any reason will result in ½ credit for the day, and a much less happy teacher.
- Any phone that rings during class will result in the offending student (or teacher) being required to provide snacks for the next class (or ½ credit for the day).

This class is meant to train you to act like professionals in all settings. This is a learning process, but the bar will be set high.

##### **Dress**

Typically we will be doing theater games and exercises in this class, therefore it is imperative that you come to class in comfortable clothes that will not restrict movement (This means no skirts.) It may be worth keeping a change of clothes at school. Coming to class without proper attire will likely result in problems with your participation grade.

## Assignments

Students will be required to attend several productions, including at least one performance from each of the following categories. Note that most of these performances will all also count towards your degree performance attendance requirement. For each performance, write a succinct first person essay discussing your favorite singer or actor, what made the show work, what did not work for you, or any other thoughts you had about the performance. *College-level prose and correct grammar are expected*, and your grade will be a result of your level of interaction with the material. The assignment will be due at the beginning of the class immediately following the performance. Late assignments will lose 10% for each class they are late. Additional assignments may be handed in for extra credit.

Live opera performance (HGO dress for example)

Metropolitan Opera Live in HD

Faculty Voice Recital

Student Voice Recital

## Musical Preparation

Throughout this term you will be involved in the preparation of the SHSU Opera performance of *Hansel and Gretel*. The time commitment will be contained to Wednesdays from 3:30-4:00, and then evenings during production week. Make all adjustments to your schedule now so you can be available throughout production week. You are expected to have the music learned and memorized in advance of the first staging rehearsal.

## Grading

Class Participation: 60%

Assignments: 30%

Opera: 10%

## Semester class schedule (subject to change with advance notice)

Thursday, September 7 –Class in Room 205

Friday, September 22 –Class in Recital Hall

Tuesday, September 26 (or Tuesday, October 3) –Room 205

Thursday, October 5 –Room 205

Thursday, October 12 –Room 205

Tuesday, October 24 –Room 219

Thursday, October 26 –Room 219

Friday, October 27 –Room 219

Tuesday, October 31 through Friday, November 3 –no class (Production week)

Thursday, November 16 –Room 205