

Syllabus - Vocal Techniques for Instrumentalists - MUSI 3111

Dr. Wesley Lawrence
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Class location: Music 217
Class time: MWF 2:00-2:50pm
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: The course is designed for music education students whose applied areas are instrumental. It combines elements of class voice, vocal pedagogy, and choral methods – based on knowledge and skills needed to pass the TExES. Class experiences and application of concepts are central to the course.

Course Objectives: The students will learn:

- Fundamental principles of singing.
- Vocal and choral concepts and skills needed for all-level teacher certification.
- How to teach healthy vocal technique to a beginning student.
- Choral rehearsal techniques.
- Different styles of healthy vocal production.

Course Textbooks:

- Meribeth Dayme & Cynthia Vaughn. *The Singing Book*. WW Norton & Co. (Second or Third Edition are acceptable for this course, 2008 or 2014).
- Other readings/texts as assigned. It is the student's responsibility to obtain course materials at the beginning of the semester.

Attendance Policy: Since a great deal of class will be spent in applied, experiential learning, class attendance is extremely important. A student may miss up to 2 non-exam classes with no effect on the grade. Each additional absence will result in 3 points taken from the final average.

Assignments: There will be regular reading assignments, and class participation in the ensuing discussion is required. Reading assignments will also be evaluated through regular quizzes. There will also be several written assignments as responses to performances and choral rehearsals. Finally, there will be group mini-lesson assignments that will be assessed by both teacher and student.

Exams: The exams will be written and predominantly, if not entirely, multiple choice. This method is consistent with the TExES exam, for which this class is preparation. Missed exams will normally not be made up, but the instructor reserves the right to allow it if the reasons for the missed exam, in his view, warrant consideration.

Grading:

- Participation 20%
- Exams 30%
- Written assignments 25%
- Mini-lessons 25%

Americans with Disabilities Act: According to University the student must initiate policy requests for accommodations. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by- case basis by the Counseling Center, Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building). SSD contact information: voice 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294- 3786; e-mail disability@shsu.edu; web www.shsu.edu/disability.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor for religious holidays. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absences(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

Academic Honesty: The University expects students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom. Accusations of academic dishonesty, proceedings and subsequent disciplinary actions are addressed in The Texas State University System, Board of Regents policy on Academic Honesty, Chapter VI, Subsection 5.3 "Academic Honesty," and in the University's Academic Policy Statement 810213 "Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty."

Proper Classroom Demeanor & Rules of Conduct: According to university policy and §5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. "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, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."