

9-2013

## MUSE 123.01: Techniques - Voice Techniques for Music Educators

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University of Montana ~ School of Music  
Undergraduate Voice Techniques (for Music Educators)  
MUSE 123 section 1 - 1cr.

TR 11:10 am -12:00 pm  
Room 204

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kimberly James  
Contact: Room 212, 243-2182, [kimberly.james@umontana.edu](mailto:kimberly.james@umontana.edu)  
Office Hours: by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course catalogue describes this course as follows: "Offered autumn and spring. Breathing, resonance, vowel formation and posture as related to tone production. Simple vocals, methods of producing crescendo, diminuendo, legato, staccato, flexibility, velocity. Sight reading. The teaching of vocal techniques." More practically, this course looks at vocal function and issues associated with the physical processes of singing such as alignment, breathing, creating sound, amplifying (resonating) sound, etc. Additionally, students will learn basic information about becoming a voice teacher (or choral director). Students will also learn about singer's diction, voice classification, and the appropriate assigning of solo classical repertoire.

**OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:** Following this course, students will:

- have a basic understanding of the mechanism and mechanics of the classical singing voice
- have developed a notebook of suitable exercises for addressing the physical processes of singing
- begin to articulately assess and analyze the classical singing voice
- have accumulated a repository of practical information that will assist them in future voice teaching endeavors

**ASSESSMENT & GRADING:**

Students receive a final grade at the end of the semester based on proficiency, progress, work effort, and completion of assignments in this course. Be advised that late work is not accepted (exceptions may be made for hospitalization and other unusual approved circumstances).

The grading scale used for this course will be as follows:

		B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

**Grade 'A'** is reserved for exceptional work and a reflection of a keen understanding of the course material, sophisticated applications of major course topics, and other measures of outstanding work.

**Grade 'B'** is assigned for work that is consistently very good and shows above average interest, effort, understanding, and application of the course material.

**Grade 'C'** is assigned for average work. However, C work is considered marginal for music education majors in methods classes. This class and other methods are important foundational courses for your future work!!

**Grade 'D'** is assigned for work that does not meet the expectations for the course as measured by below average work.

**Grade 'F'** is failing.

Preparation for class & active participation	10%	Assignments	25%
Exercise notebook	20%	Final exam (open notes)	20%
Topic quizzes (3, see Moodle for dates)	25%		

Keep in mind . . . if you do not turn in assignments, your final grade BEGINS at 75% (C). If you do not turn in your exercise notebook or complete assignments, your final grade BEGINS at 55% (F). If this course is required for your degree, you must earn at C- or above. Students have failed this class simply by making the choice NOT to do the work. ☹

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

- Attend class and be an active participant – if you are not interested in attending or participating in a meaningful way, you should perhaps discuss your coursework and degree plan with your advisor. See attendance policy below.
- Bring materials to class – this includes your notebooks, handouts, and required course textbooks!
- Do your own work – although I encourage students to consult one another in problem solving, helping to clarify lecture material and assignments, etc., students will not learn the material by relying on other students or outside sources.
- Keep up with assignments – in general, college students should spend 2-3 hours per credit hour per week studying and completing assignments. Check with a classmate if you miss class to see what might have been assigned in your absence. See attendance policy below.
- Utilize the Moodle course supplement.
- Use your University of Montana e-mail address – the primary method of communication outside of class will be e-mail. If you don't plan to use your UM e-mail address, you must set up e-mail forwarding. (Please don't ask me how to do this.) You are responsible for all University-related e-mail sent to your UM e-mail address!
- Look, listen, learn! Every musical rehearsal and performance is an opportunity to learn about various instruments and develop analytical and diagnostic skills. Even though this may be the only voice course you take as an undergraduate, you are expected to demonstrate a growing and more mature understanding of the vocal instrument as you progress through your degree program. Your continued attendance at recitals, concerts, and special seminars and master classes will greatly help you.
- Be courteous and respectful – to me, your collaborators, and your fellow classmates. Your attitude and behavior has an effect on course participants and the learning environment.

### TEXTS:

REQUIRED: John Glenn Paton's *Foundations in Singing* (\$100 UM Bookstore; \$84 Amazon)

<http://www.amazon.com/Foundations-Singing-w-Keyboard-fold-out/dp/007321275X>

SUGGESTED: James McKinney's *The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults*; Barbara Conable's *The Structures and Movement of Breathing*, Joan Boytim's *The Private Voice Studio Handbook*

### ATTENDANCE POLICY (please read carefully):

Attendance is seriously considered in the final determination of grades. Should an emergency arise or you will be absent due to University-related activities, please notify me immediately. A limited number of excused absences can be permitted. **Should you choose to miss class, check with a classmate to see what you missed and to obtain your assignments.** I am not responsible for what you have missed due to excused or unexcused absences. It is possible that students with too many excused (and certainly unexcused) absences will not be able to continue in the course. Attendance will be taken at every class period. Excessive absences negatively affect final grades.

### DSS Statement

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

### Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the

Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php).

### OUTLINE SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2013

(NOT a weekly schedule; subject to change; most assignments are made in class)

1. Intro to the course; Freedom to Sing	Chapter 1
2. Breath & the Body	Chapter 2; handout
3. Singer's Tone	Chapter 3
4. Singer's Resonance	Chapter 4; handout
5. Preparing a Song (self study)	Chapter 5; song assignment from anthology
6. Vocal Health	Chapter 6; handout
7. Vowels and introduction to IPA	Chapter 7 & 9
8. Consonants and IPA	Chapter 8
9. Performing a Song	Chapter 10
10. Expanding Vocal Skills	Chapter 11
11. Helping Students Develop Musical Skills	Chapter 12
12. Additional topics as time allows	

#### SPECIAL DATES

11/26 – this is not a travel day; please plan to attend class

11/28 – Thanksgiving Holiday

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday, December 9, 2013 –10:10am -12:10pm

- Open notes (not open book)
- Please do not schedule your jury or other appointments/meetings/work during final exam times.
- To see the final exam schedule, go to <http://umt.edu/registrar/students/finalsweek2/Autumn.aspx>