

9-2013

## MUSI 442.01: Vocal Studio Pedagogy and Literature

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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kimberly James

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Office Hours: posted on my office door or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: According to the School of Music course catalog, this course deals with "[p]rocedures, philosophies and terminology used in the teaching of singing. Individual and group techniques." More specifically, this course introduces course participants to the largest topics of concern with regard to the professional (and recreational) use of the singing voice. Topics addressed include breathing & support, phonation, resonance, articulation, and others.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS: Following this course, students will:

- have a working understanding of the mechanism and mechanics of the classical singing voice
- know more about their own singing voices and how to address vocal concerns
- begin to articulately assess and analyze the classical singing voice
- understand the subtleties and variations in classical singing technique
- begin to gain confidence in their own teaching abilities

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

- Topics quizzes (dates announced in class)
- Midterm exam (10/21)
- Cumulative final exam (12/11, 1.10-3.10pm)
- Student portfolio (due Wednesday, December 11, 11:55pm)
- Online & classroom participation
- Additional short projects as assigned – teaching observations, concert critique, article review (all are components of the student portfolio)
- NB: This list of activities may be revised to add student teaching – TBD! ☺

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.

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

**Grade 'C'** is assigned for average work. However, C work is considered marginal for voice performance majors and future music educators.

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

**Grade 'F'** is failing.

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

- Attend class and be an active participant – see attendance policy below.
- Bring requested materials to class – notebooks, writing utensils, additional materials upon request.
- 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 others to do their work for them. See the Student Conduct Code for information on academic honesty and integrity.
- 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 and complete on-line assignments.
- 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!
- 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: Meribeth Bunch Dayme's *The Performer's Voice*; James McKinney's *The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults*; Barbara Conable's *The Structures and Movement of Breathing*

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: 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 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.

### **TOPIC SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2013**

### **Special Dates**

(check Moodle for assignments & additional information)

1. What is pedagogy and why should we study it?	9/2 Labor Day Holiday (no class)
2. Unique characteristics of the voice and vocal sound	10/22 Midterm exam
3. Alignment (posture)	11/11 Veteran's Day Holiday (no class)
4. Breathing and support	11/25 Yes we do have class!
5. Phonation	11/27 Travel day (no class)
6. Resonance	12/11 Learning portfolio due
7. Articulation	Wednesday, 12/11 1:10-3:10pm Final Exam!
8. Registration	
9. Vocal health	
10. Voice classification & repertoire	
11. Becoming a teacher	



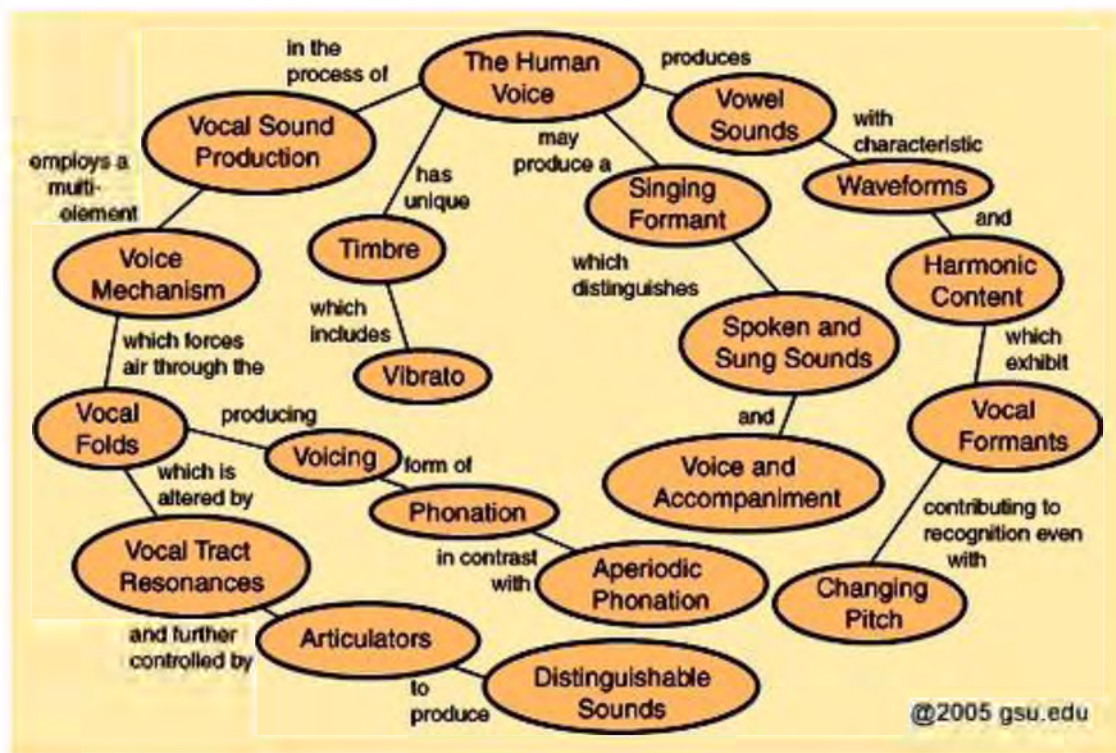
Please do not schedule work, juries, other meetings, lunch, etc. during final exam times. To see the final exam schedule, go to <http://www.umt.edu/Registrar/students/finalsweek2/Autumn.aspx>.

### 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).



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