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MUSI 111A.01: Signing for Non-Majors

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Singing for Non-Majors

MUSI 111A (2 credits)

University of Montana

School of Music

Spring 2016

Instructor: Courtney Gammill, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Email: courtney.gammill@umontana.edu

Office: #11 (in the basement)

Office Hours: By appointment only

Class Time and Location: MWF 12:10-1:00, Music 204

Final: Monday, May 9th 10:10 am to 12:10 pm

Required text and materials:

- *The Singing Book, 3rd Edition* - Meribeth Dayme & Cynthia Vaughn (ISBN 978-0-393-92025-3)
 - The second edition is also useable, but be aware that some of the song selections are different. You **NEED** the CD that comes with the book.
- a notebook for class notes, vocal exercises, and comments (*strongly* suggested)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to solo and group singing. In a positive and uplifting environment, we will work to grasp basic vocal technique (i.e. good posture, breathing, etc.). As a class we will build confidence in your vocal ability, as well as in your ability to sing in front of an audience.

Course Objectives:

- Understand singing basics
- Sing in groups, as well as alone
- Build confidence in group and solo performances

Assignments:

- Participation Grades
 - You will be given ten participation grades throughout the semester. These will be given on dates determined by the instructor and unknown to the students.
- Preparation of assigned repertoire.
 - Students will perform four solos and three group songs throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to work on the music outside of class. Only the final solo must be memorized.
- Critique of a live performance.

- Students are required to attend one of the approved vocal performances and write a response. The critique should be a minimum of two pages, double spaced. A rubric will be provided. You must attach the program/ticket from the performance to your critique. Your critique will be due at the end of the semester, but I **strongly** suggest you write your critique shortly after attending the performance of your choice. You may turn it in when you have completed it.
- Discussion Board Posts
 - Every week there will be a video posted to Moodle. You will be required to post to the related discussion board **at least twice** every week. Some weeks you may have a prompt and some weeks you may not. You will have all week to post. Videos will go up on Sunday and you must submit your posts before Friday at 5:00 pm. There is no length requirement for your posts, but both of them should have some kind of substance.
- Take Home Assignments
 - There will be no written tests. Your “test” grades will be given on any take home work you are assigned throughout the semester. These assignments will probably be few and far between. Keep that in mind if you are tempted to skip one.

Expectations:

- Cell phones silenced and put away.
- Prepare and practice repertoire and vocal exercises outside of class.
- Complete all assignments.
- Come to class! Be on time and be prepared.
- Be professional. This includes treating your classmates with respect, especially in regards to performances. Rude, hurtful, or negative comments will not be tolerated.
- Dress appropriately for performances. We will have a short discussion on this topic in class.

Grading:

Participation (100 pts)
 Discussion Posts (120 pts)
 Critique (100 pts)
 Take Home Assignments (130 pts)
 Group Performances (120 pts)
 Solo Performances (120 pts)
 Final Performance (110 pts)
 Total: 800 pts

Grading Scale

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89 B = 83-86 B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79 C = 73-76 C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69 D = 63-66 D- = 60-62

F = Below 60

Attendance Policy

There is no maximum number of absences. However, know that you may not make up assignments or performances without a legitimate excuse (doctor's note, etc.). If you miss class it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed. Be nice to your classmates. Make a friend. Exchange emails.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting the instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Academic Misconduct

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 at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.