

Spring 2-1-2016

MUSE 123.01: Techniques - Voice

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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kimberly James
 Contact: Room 212, kimberly.james@umontana.edu
 Office Hours: by appointment

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 anatomy and mechanics of the classical singing voice; this is primarily accomplished through assigned readings and lecture materials
- have developed a notebook of suitable exercises for addressing the primary physical processes of singing; these exercises will be obtained through course materials and in-class work or presentations on voice exercises that target specific physical processes of singing
- begin to articulately assess and analyze the classical singing voice; this involves audio & visual recordings, lesson & concert observations, and in-class work
- have accumulated a repository of practical information that will assist them in future voice teaching endeavors; this is accomplished through the exercise notebook and by encouraging students to keep good notes in preparation for quizzes and exams (all open notebook); the Moodle course page is another major resource for your record of the class

ASSESSMENT & GRADING:

Students receive a final grade at the end of the semester based on proficiency, progress, work effort, and successful completion of assignments in this course. Be advised that late work is generally not accepted (exceptions may be made for serious illness 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. The techniques classes 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.

Practicum (see Moodle)	10%	Assignments (see Moodle)	25%
Exercise notebook (due at final exam)	20%	Final exam (open notes)	20%
Quizzes (3, see Moodle for dates)	25%	* See checklist on Moodle!! *	

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 your assignments, your final grade BEGINS at 55% (F). If you sleep through the final exam or decide to leave town before the final exam, your final grade BEGINS at 80% (B-). **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 to NOT show up or complete work. ☹ Show up; do your work – you will succeed! ☺

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

- 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.
- Attend class and be an active participant – if you are not interested in attending or participating in a meaningful way, you should discuss your coursework and degree plan with your advisor as soon as you can. See attendance policy below, and feel free to contact me with any concerns.
- Utilize the Moodle course supplement – you can't get around this expectation and pass the course.
- Please don't distract yourself or your neighbors with your devices; you can't learn and update your FB status simultaneously!
- 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, and all e-mails sent to the class via Moodle go to University e-mail.
- 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*, Barbara Conable's *The Structures and Movement of Breathing*

SUGGESTED: James McKinney's *The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults*; Joan Boytim's *The Private Voice Studio Handbook*

IMPORTANT POLICIES (please read carefully):

Attendance

Attendance is seriously considered in the final determination of grades. If your grade is a 69.3, I may bump you up to the C- required to pass the course if your attendance, effort, and classroom participation has been good.

- 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 when I am notified in advance.
- Absence due to acute illness will only be excused with a note from a doctor.
- Should you choose or need to miss class, check with a classmate to see what you missed and to obtain your assignments. Your professor is not responsible for what you have missed due to excused or unexcused absences. Assignments are still expected on time.
- It is possible that students with too many excused (and certainly unexcused) absences will not be able to continue in the course. Students who regularly attend and participate tend to do well in this course.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule is posted on Moodle and is subject to change. Most assignments appear on Moodle, but a few additional assignments may be made in class.

IMPORTANT DATES:

3/31 – Dr. James is out of town; class meets

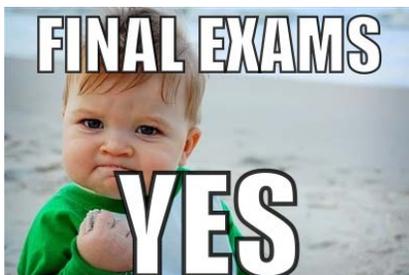
4/4-9 – Spring Break!

4/29 – Dr. James is out of town; class meets

5/5 – last class of the semester!



FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 10, 2016 –1:10am -3:10pm



- Open notes (not open book)
- Cumulative
- Please do not schedule your jury or other appointments/meetings/work/travel during final exam times
- To see the final exam schedule, [click here](#)