



MUS 149, 151, 152, 351, 352, 551, 552

Applied Voice

Course Syllabus: Spring 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Leanne Scaggs, Instructor of Voice & Opera
Classroom Location:	Music Building, Room 197
Office Location:	Music Building, Room 197
Office Hours:	By appointment; email to schedule
Office Phone:	940-222-5008 (cell)
University E-mail:	Leanne.Scaggs@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	Email or Text
Communication Response Time:	48 hours

Course Information

Course Description

MUS 149 is applied music at the beginner level. Intended for students majoring in subjects other than Music.

MUS 151 One to four semester hours. Private instruction for music majors in keyboard, voice, instruments, or composition. The course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher-directed student evaluations and instructions. May be repeated for credit.

MUS 152 Principal Applied. One to four semester hours. Private instruction for music majors in keyboard, voice, instruments, or composition. This course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher-directed student evaluations and instructions. May be repeated for credit.

MUS 351 Private instruction for advanced music majors in keyboard, voice, instruments, or composition. This course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher-directed student evaluations and instructions. All students must pass the upper division barrier examination prior to enrollment. May be repeated for credit.

MUS 352 Principal Applied. One to four semester hours. Private instruction for advanced music majors in keyboard, voice, instruments, or composition. This course includes recitals and performance forums with teacher directed student evaluations and instructions. All students must pass the upper division barrier examination prior to enrollment. May be repeated for credit.

MUS 551 Applied Music. (Minor applied) One to four semester hours. Private instruction for graduate performance majors. Prerequisites: Satisfactory level assessed in the applied music performance audition.

MUS 552 Applied Music. (Principal applied) One to four semester hours. Private instruction for music majors in keyboard, vocal instrumental, conducting, or composition. May be repeated for credit.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

Minors

MUS 149: Students will perform selected repertoire with technique and musicianship suitable for a non-major and appropriate to the student's musical and developmental level. Students will memorize 3 pieces and perform 1 for their final jury.

MUS 151: Students will perform selected repertoire with basic technique and musicianship suitable for a secondary performance medium. Students will memorize 3 pieces and perform 1 for their final jury.

MUS 351: Students will perform selected repertoire with basic to intermediate technique and musicianship suitable for a secondary performance medium. Students will memorize 3 pieces and perform 1 for their final jury.

MUS 551: Students will perform selected repertoire with intermediate to advanced level technique and musicianship suitable for a minor applied lesson at the graduate level. Students will memorize 3 pieces and perform 1 for their final jury.

Majors

MUS 152: In level one principal applied lessons, students will perform selected repertoire suitable to the student's musical development with intermediate technique and musicianship in preparation for the upcoming junior level proficiency exam. Students in this level must memorize 4-5 pieces and will perform 2 for their final jury. In the 4th semester, the students will perform all pieces as a part of their JLPE.

MUS 352: In level three principal applied lessons, students will perform selected repertoire suitable to the student's musical development with advanced technique and musicianship in preparation for the upcoming junior or senior recital. Students in this level must memorize a minimum of 6 pieces and will perform 2 for their final jury.

MUS 552: In level five principal applied lessons, graduate students will perform selected repertoire suitable to the student's musical development with professional level technique and musicianship in preparation for the upcoming graduate recital. Students in this level must memorize a minimum of 6 pieces and will perform 2 for their final jury.

All major level applied vocal students will be required to take a Barrier Exam after eight (8) credits of voice are completed. The Barrier Exam ("JLPE"), typically taken during the spring semester of your sophomore year, must prove that the student is capable of:

- a) Accurately and expressively perform classic selections from the vocal Repertoire (min. 6 songs, It., Fr., Ger., and Eng. must be represented);
- b) Accurately and expressively prepare and perform without the assistance of an applied instructor a selection from the standard vocal repertoire;

- c) Demonstrate the capability of accurately pronouncing song texts in English, French, German, Italian and Latin using the International Phonetic Alphabet;
- d) Demonstrate the capability of accurately singing at sight a classic selection from the vocal repertoire.

Students have one chance to re-take any/ all portions of the JLPE, should they fail the first time. Any failed portions must be re-taken the following semester. The student must continue to enroll in Music 152 until all portions of the JLPE are passed. Then the student may enroll in Music 352 upon the recommendation of the voice faculty. See the Vocal Divisions Handbook for more detailed information.

Required Materials

Each student is required to purchase **music books** for their individual use. Books may vary by student and may be as few as one or as many as four or five books each semester. The student should budget \$100 per semester for the purchase of music books and other materials relevant to this course. (This amount is much less than the average cost of books for other courses and is very reasonable, considering that books may be used for several semesters and kept for future use in your future teaching and singing endeavors. This amount does not include accompanist fees.) I do try to assign as many songs as possible from the books you already have, but sometimes that is not possible.

One notebook/3-ring binder, containing both music staff paper and regular notebook paper must be brought to each lesson for inspection and grading. Digital copies of music are permitted, so long as they are legally obtained, and the student can make markings on the score during the lesson.

An **audio/video recording device** (i.e: cell phone) must be brought to each lesson for recording and playback of your lessons.

A **pencil** with eraser (or stylus, in the case of digital sheet music) must be brought to each lesson, for note taking. Even if the sheet music is digitized, it is highly recommended to take notes with pencil and paper and keep the notes in the voice notebook.

An **accompanist** (for lessons, rehearsals, and performances) must be secured each semester. (See [Vocal Accompanist Policy](#) for more detailed information.)

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods

The student's work will be directed to three general areas of study: Vocal Production, Music Literacy, and Vocal Artistry/Creativity. In particular, attention will be given to Posture, Respiration, Phonation (including registration and resonance), Diction, Song Analysis, Music Scholarship, and Interpretation.

The applied instructor selects literature and plans lessons in a logical sequence specifically designed to prepare each student to meet the Student Learning Outcomes. Thus, the literature and skills addressed in each lesson will vary according to each student's experience in performance repertoire and technical strengths and weaknesses. In practice, after assessing a student's skill and needs in the early lessons, the applied instructor often provides a more detailed overview of the semester's activities. However, this overview is specific to that student and the sequential activities are contingent upon that student's continued progress.

Students enrolled in one credit hour will receive one 25-minute private lesson per week. Students enrolled in two credit hours will receive one 50-minute private lesson per week. Additionally, all students enrolled in this course will meet in a weekly joint class ("Studio") in the form of a masterclass. This means you will sometimes participate as a performer and at other times as an audience member. We will speak about topics involving everyone and each student will be scheduled to sing several times throughout the semester, thereby practicing the art of solo performance. **Each student is required to dress appropriately for performances when scheduled to sing.** (Business, business-casual, or "Sunday best" and dress shoes are expected; absolutely **NO JEANS or ATHLETIC SHOES** will be permitted.) Any student not in compliance with the performance dress code will not be allowed to perform and will receive a 0% for their missed performance.

All lessons will take place in Dr. Scaggs' office, room 197 in the Music Building.

Studio Class will meet from **5:00-5:50 pm every Monday in the Music Building.** We will discuss certain aspects of performance, technical, and collaborative efforts of each performer. All students are expected to perform throughout the semester.

The [Vocal Studies Handbook](#) should be printed out and kept in the student's voice notebook at all times.

Assessments

1. LESSON PREPARATION (30% of final grade)

- a) Student's **preparation** for class and learning of required repertoire;
 - Warm-up the **voice, body, and mind**, mentally focusing on what you wish to accomplish in the lesson. (Also budget the amount of other singing/ speaking used in the day so that you have sufficient voice left to sing in your lesson!)
 - Come to lessons with the notes, rhythms, and texts already learned.
 - All performance indications (tempo, mood, rubato markings) should be translated and considered. Keep this information in your voice notebook.
 - Prepare a word-for word translation, idiomatic/poetic translation, and IPA transcription for each foreign language piece and keep in your voice notebook. (IPASource.com and the Nico Castel Series of Libretto translations and IPA are wonderful resources to consult.)
- b) Student's **improvement** (technical progress, growth in musicianship, and overcoming of vocal faults) shown during the semester (EACH student is expected to practice on their own a MINIMUM of three hours per week PER CREDIT HOUR enrolled of voice).
- c) Student's **performance** in weekly lessons and assigned convocation.
- d) Student's **written word-for-word translations** in their music scores for foreign language pieces, and an **idiomatic translation** for pieces in the student's native language.

2. VOICE LESSON NOTEBOOK/PORTFOLIO (10% of final grade)

The student will prepare a portfolio (also called a voice notebook) which they will bring to each lesson. This notebook is where all the student's sheet music, translations, handouts received in lessons or studio, and information about the composers and poets will be kept. It is an evolving document that will be added to throughout the semester and will be a helpful resource for the student's future recital program notes.

Each aspect of the portfolio will be submitted for a grade on the D2L platform and is broken down into equally graded parts in the following way:

- a) **Voice Student Questionnaire (10 points)**
 - Complete the Voice Student Questionnaire and submit the completed version on D2L.
 - New students must fill it out completely. Returning students may complete only relevant sections.
- b) **Semester Progress Tracker (10 points)**
 - Download and complete the Semester Progress Tracker on D2L. Submit the completed version to the designated assignment on D2L.
- c) **Hand-written Word-for-Word Translations (20 points)**
 - Hand-written word-for-word translations in music scores for all pieces studied this semester must be written in the music score and kept in the student's voice notebook/portfolio.
 - Students should scan a copy of their hand-written translations and submit it via D2L on the corresponding assignment by the given due date.
- d) **Idiomatic/Poetic Translations (20 points)**
 - An idiomatic translation is a way to put the meaning of the song text in the student's own words. Find a way to make the word-for-word translations make sense to both you and the audience. This may look like rearranged words or changing phrases altogether to get the meaning across.
 - For pieces in the student's native language(s), the student should still provide a 'translation' by stating the meaning of the texts clearly in their own words.
 - This should be done for all pieces studied this semester, written in the music score, and kept in the student's voice notebook/portfolio.
 - Students can either scan a copy of their hand-written idiomatic translations or type up their idiomatic translations.
 - It must be submitted via D2L on the corresponding assignment by the given due date.
- e) **Sheet music with IPA transcriptions (20 points)**
 - Students must write-in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols above the words of their music.
 - Once the IPA has been written on the student's music, the student must scan a copy and submit it to D2L by the given due date. The paper copy must be kept in the student's Voice Lesson Notebook and brought to every lesson and referenced as needed throughout the semester.
- f) **Composer AND poet Biographies (20 points)**

- As part of the student's voice lesson notebook/portfolio, they must include composer AND poet biographies written in the student's own words (one paragraph is sufficient.)
- Bios should include the birth and death dates, information on the piece of theirs the student is working on, and at least one interesting fact about the person, piece, or setting that an audience would enjoy learning.
- Students must submit a typed copy of this information to D2L by the given due date. A copy must also be kept in the student's Voice Lesson Notebook for reference.

3. RECITAL ATTENDANCE (10% of final grade)

Music majors are required to attend all student and faculty recitals performed on campus. Attendance will be taken at each recital by the Opera Graduate Assistant and will be reported to each applied faculty at the end of the semester.

If you must miss a recital for any reason, you must discuss it with your applied professor at least a week in advance. It is also courteous to send a note to the performer to wish them luck and express your regrets for being unable to attend.

I require **ALL** of my students to attend voice recitals held on campus, regardless of major field of study. It is an important part of the learning process.

4. STUDIO CLASS PERFORMANCES (5% of final grade)

All students are required to perform in studio class throughout the semester. Students are graded on their presentation, performance, interpretation, and memorization when applicable. If a student is unable to perform due to illness or other circumstances, they must contact Dr. Scaggs and work to find another student to trade performance days with. If there is no effort to do either task, the student will receive a zero for that studio class performance.

5. MOCK JURY (5% of final grade)

Each student performs a mock jury in the week leading up to juries. It takes place in the Recital Hall and each student is scheduled for a performance time, in coordination with their pianist. Students are graded by Dr. Scaggs in the same way a regular jury would be graded. The student will choose their first piece to sing and Dr. Scaggs will choose a second piece from the provided repertoire list for the student to sing. Students must be fully memorized on all pieces.

6. JURY PERFORMANCE/FINAL EXAM (40% of final grade)

The student will perform a final exam/ jury for the vocal faculty during final exam week. Jury performance grades attribute 40% to your final grade for this course. Students enrolled in two credit hours will first perform from memory one song of their choice from their prepared repertoire list, and then at least one additional selection chosen by the vocal faculty from the remaining prepared repertoire. Students enrolled in one credit

hour will perform a piece of their choice only. Each student must complete their jury sheets online at <https://www.academicjury.com> using their own personal registered account.

Grading

The instructor's semester grading will be based on the following:

1. Lesson Preparation	30%
2. Voice Lesson Notebook/Portfolio	10%
3. Recital Attendance	10%
4. Studio Class Performances	5%
5. Mock Jury	5%
6. Final Exam (Jury)	40%
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TOTAL:	100%

Grading Scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Course and University Procedures / Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance

Attendance Policy

It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor at least 24 hours in advance if you are going to miss a lesson. Make-up lessons will be given at the instructor's discretion, only with proper notice. If a student does not show for a lesson, without contacting the instructor, the lesson **will not** be made-up. A student may only have **three** absences total (excused or unexcused) in a regular long semester. After the third absence, the student may receive a failing grade for the semester. Please contact me if you have a special circumstance before you reach your absence quota.

If I am unable to teach your lesson, I will notify you via email, text, or phone call in advance, and will make it up at a later time.

Late Assignments or Work

Students needing extra time to complete an assignment must communicate with the instructor in advance. A moment of forgetfulness is not a valid reason for a due date extension.

Accompanist Policy

Students are required to hire an accompanist each semester. To secure an accompanist, first read the [Accompanying Policies and Procedures](#). Then, fill out this [Vocal Accompanist Request Form](#) and you will be assigned a pianist based on availability. Keep in mind that you do not get to choose whether you hire a professional or student, so you should budget for the maximum fee, just in case.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures: [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu; online at [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#); or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

Tenets of Common Behavior

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook);

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.