



GRADUATE PRINCIPAL APPLIED VOICE

Texas A&M University-Commerce

MUS 552.01B

SPRING 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Darla Meek
Webpage:	www.darlameek.com
Classroom Location:	Mesquite Metroplex Center, Room 228
Day/Time:	Mondays 5:00-6:30 pm
Office Location:	Music Building, Room 222
Office Phone:	903-886-5294
Office Fax:	903-468-6010
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Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	48 hours, or please email again.
Office Hours:	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by appointment

Course Information

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to enhance students' ability to use their singing voices in the healthiest manner possible, to develop their communication and performance skills, and to expand their knowledge of vocal literature.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

- describe the workings of the vocal instrument with accurate terminology, including the physiology of respiration, phonation, and resonance,
- sing in a manner consistent with healthy use of the voice, including respiration, phonation, resonance, and diction,
- discuss appropriate ways to care for the voice

- accurately and expressively perform at least six classic songs from the vocal repertoire, which may include English or Italian art songs, German Lieder, French chansons, operatic arias, sacred works, or musical theater,
- demonstrate the ability to perform vocal selections in front of an audience in a recital setting with confidence.

REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to:

- study and memorize a minimum of two songs
- translate all foreign language pieces word-for-word, and write IPA symbols in music
- practice with care and diligence daily
- perform in a recital setting

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Basics of Singing, sixth edition, by Jan Schmidt and Heidi Counsell Schmidt (ISBN-10: 0495115312 | ISBN-13: 978-0495115311)

It is strongly suggested that students organize a three-ring binder and dividers, labeled:

1. Syllabus
2. Foundations of Good Singing
3. Respiration (motor)
4. Phonation (vibrator)
5. Resonation
6. Articulation (diction)
7. Vocal Health
8. Repertoire

Bring your notebook to each class session, an instrument for taking notes (paper or a laptop), and the music for pieces being studied. Please have this notebook ready by the first class session.

It is also strongly suggested that students use a recording device for their individual practice sessions. This aid will be invaluable in detecting errors and improving performance.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements:

- LMS Requirements:
<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>
- LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

- YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:
<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

OTHER RESOURCES

- Quicktime (www.apple.com), RealPlayer (www.real.com), and Windows MediaPlayer 11.0 (www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download) will enable you to view videos.

Proposed Course Structure

MODULE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS	READINGS <i>(Read the selection from Basics of Singing. Additional information can be found in the following chapters.)</i>
1	Posture and Respiration	Individual repertoire selection: choose two pieces that represent a high level of challenge for you Posture and Respiration Test Feb 12	Basics of Singing, Chapters 1 and 3 <i>The Singing Book</i> , Chapters 7 and 8 <i>Steps to Singing</i> , pages 24-41 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapters 3-4 <i>Singing and Teaching Singing</i> , Chapters 3 and 4
2	Phonation	Write the IPA symbols in your music for every syllable.	Basics of Singing, Chapter 2 <i>The Singing Book</i> , Chapter 9 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 5 through p 66

		Phonation Test March 4	<i>Singing and Teaching Singing</i> , Chapter 5
3	Resonation and Registers, Voice Classifications	Complete translation and summarization Resonation and Registers Test April 1	<i>Basics of Singing, Chapter 5</i> <i>The Singing Book</i> , Chapter 10 <i>Steps to Singing</i> , pages 47-62 <i>Adventures in Singing</i> , Chapters 6 and 8 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 7 <i>Singing and Teaching Singing</i> , Chapter 6
4	Articulation and Expression, Stage Presence	Video one song of choice and complete self-evaluation.	<i>Basics of Singing, Chapter 7</i> <i>Steps to Singing</i> , pages 82-88 <i>Adventures in Singing</i> , Chapter 7 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 5, pp. 67-89 <i>Steps to Singing</i> , pages 2-9 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 9 <i>The Singing Book</i> , Chapter 11 <i>Steps to Singing</i> , pages 67-76, 98-100, 113-136 <i>Adventures in Singing</i> , Chapter 9 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 6 <i>Singing and Teaching Singing</i> , Chapters 7 and 8
5	Vocal Health	Video second song and complete self-evaluation. Vocal Health Test April 22	<i>Basics of Singing, Chapter 6</i> <i>The Singing Book</i> , Chapter 12 <i>Adventures in Singing</i> , Chapter 4 <i>Vocal Technique</i> , Chapter 8 <i>Voice for Non-Majors</i> , Chapter 10

Attendance and Engagement Policy

This course is in hybrid format. Though all material on for course can be found in D2L, students are expected to come to the classroom for face-to-face instruction:

- Jan 29
- Feb 12
- Feb 26
- Mar 4
- Apr 8
- Apr 29

It is expected that, as professional educators, graduate students model professional and courteous behavior by attending every class regardless of modality and arriving to class on time. Unexcused absences, or excused absences without proper communication, will not be tolerated. Excused absences include illness with a doctor's note, jury duty, or the death of an immediate family member.

Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. If for any reason you are not able to attend class (for example, because of sudden illness or car trouble), you are expected to communicate with the instructor via email at darla.meek@tamuc.edu before class begins you MUST contact your instructor. To avoid an absence, you may attend class virtually via Zoom. Students attending synchronous classes should have their video turned on and remain actively engaged throughout the entire class period.

Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work unless proof of excused absence is provided. Failure to provide a physician's note, jury summons, or other proof confirming the legitimacy of the absence will result in the classification of that absence as unexcused.

Due to its performance nature, face-to face class attendance cannot be made up. **The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than one class.** If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade.

Please do not schedule any personal obligations during class time.

Tardiness or leaving early will affect the daily classwork grade. Two instances will equal one absence. Failure to sign the sign-in sheet will result in that day being counted as an absence.

If a test is missed because of an excused absence (illness with doctor's note, jury summons, or death of an immediate family member), the test must be completed within **two days**. It is the student's responsibility to reschedule a test.

For more information about the University attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Classroom Expectations

COURSE ENGAGEMENT – DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

Engagement in the course is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to fully participate in the courses whether face-to-face or in a virtual modality. It is also imperative students and faculty communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you, the student, are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you **MUST** contact your instructor. Engagement and participation will be assessed per the individual instructor.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

- Download the materials from D2L and organize them in an orderly fashion.
- Attend every face-to-face class and perform to the best of your ability.
- Prepare all assignments and readings thoroughly and completely.
- Practice singing skills daily outside of class.
- Refer to MyLeo Online/D2L Brightspace for assignment instructions.
- Contact the instructor with any questions.

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

The tenets apply to all communication to the instructor and your classmates.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Demonstrate commitment to your course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting your peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques graciously. Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins, and should be concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. DO bring a bottle of water, but please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins.

This is a performance-based class. All students are to be actively participating in each lesson. Please wear comfortable but modest clothing in which you can move around easily.

Please be careful with our classroom materials and use them only when instructed.

Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered classwork grade. Daily grades will be given according to the instructor's discretion:

- An A will be earned by the student who arrives early with all materials, exhibits superior attentiveness, is fully prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and acts as a leader and role model to others.
- A B will be earned by the student who exhibits excellent attentiveness, is prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a valued asset to the ensemble.
- A C will be earned by the student who exhibits average attentiveness, preparation, and class participation.
- A D will be earned by the student who exhibits little attentiveness, preparation, and participation.
- An F will be earned by the student who exhibits no attentiveness, preparation and participation. This student will be removed from the cohort.

Assignments

1. IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) is a system in which sounds are represented by symbols. It is used all over the world by linguists, actors, musicians, students of foreign languages, and the like. You will be learning the rudiments of IPA as we progress. For each song you are assigned, **you will write the appropriate symbols for every syllable of text in your music.**

2. In order to effectively convey your message when singing foreign language songs, you will need to know every word you are singing. Oftentimes, an English translation can be found printed underneath the foreign language text in a piece of music. Though this translation will help you understand the overall meaning of the original text, it will not be enough to ensure that you understand each and every word you are singing. For this reason, **you will write a word-for-word translation for each song** that is not in English, IN your music.
3. In addition, **you will write a summarization for every piece**, whether in a foreign language or in English. The summarization should provide an overall description of the intent of the piece, the circumstances in which it was written, perhaps the setting and the motivation of the character(s). Please include multiple sources in APA or Chicago format at the bottom of the page. Summarizations must be typed.

Under "Motivation for the singer/actor," include your personal motivation for singing the song along with any information you find from your sources. Write about how you will interpret the song, and the message you are trying to convey. Use a personal experience from your own background. The Summarizations should be carefully and thoroughly written in paragraph form.

Repertoire

Since some class members will begin this course with more experience than others, the ability to sing beautifully is not a necessity for, or an insurance of, a high grade. The ability to work to improve the abilities already possessed and to learn new skills will be the foundation of the grade received.

Each student will be assigned pieces to prepare over the semester. All songs will have accompaniment. You may provide your own sheet music or may check out books from my collection.

You will be given time during class for individual practice. I will work with you one-on-one on your specific literature. Please have notes and rhythms learned before scheduling a time with me.

FINAL REPERTOIRE PERFORMANCE

You will perform your assigned pieces from memory, with excellent posture, vocal technique, diction, and stage presence. Video your performance and upload the link to D2L.

Borrowing Resources

You have free access to my personal books and teaching materials. If you would like to borrow a resource overnight that I keep in my office, simply sign the **Resource Checkout** book. Since other students may need the same item, please return any item you borrow the following class session. **You**

must not lend any items checked out to any other individual. You yourself must check them back in by writing the date and your initials in the resource checkout notebook.

If a resource checked out to you is lost or damaged, you are expected to replace it as soon as possible. If you fail to return the item before the end of the semester, **a hold will be placed on your account and you will receive an Incomplete for this course.**

Please take care that you observe the copyright laws, and the limits of fair use.

University and Department Information

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

STUDENTS REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO DISABILITIES

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, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination

on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained. Please let me know what pronouns you would prefer I use for you in class and in conversation.

MUSICIAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Valuable information and resources are provided on the Music Education website to assist the musician in the prevention of injury and to provide a resource for discovering information about injury assessment and injury recovery.

For more information, go here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/music/musicianHealthSafety.aspx>

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT

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 Carrying Concealed Handguns on Campus (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/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.

Grading System

Daily Class Performance:	30%
Assignments:	30%
Tests:	20%
Final Repertoire Performance:	20%

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

Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.
