



MUS 589
Performance Practice in Opera
Course Syllabus: Spring 2024

Instructor Information

Instructor:	Dr. Leanne Scaggs, Instructor of Voice & Opera
Classroom Location:	Music Building, Concert Hall & Room 158
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

This class is an ensemble course that provides intensive training and performance experience in musical theatre, opera, and general stage performance. Enrolled students will prepare and produce one fully staged musical theatre production in late January and one operatic scenes program will be presented in mid-April.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, graduate students will:

1. Gain knowledge and skills performing selected operatic and musical theatre repertoire suitable to the student's musical development with semi-professional level technique and musicianship.
2. Synthesize the art of singing with the art of acting and movement.
3. Learn to create believable characters for the stage at a semi-professional level, suitable for graduate-level study.
4. Acquire skills that both free a singer-actor from entanglements and increase flexibility and methods of expression.
5. Acquire skills in stage production. Each student will serve on at least one crew.
6. Complete graduate-level class assignments and/or perform singing memorization exams utilizing semi-professional level vocal technique and musicianship.

Required Textbook

Course materials to be provided by the instructor.

Recommended Course Materials

It is recommended that each student read and study David F. Ostwald's *Acting for Singers:*

Creating Believable Singing Characters (Oxford University Press, 2005). A (free) digital copy is available for check-out at the following link after you sign up for a free library account:

<https://archive.org/details/actingforsingers0000ostw/mode/2up?view=theater>

Course Requirements

Instructional Methods

Instructional time will consist of rehearsing production materials, both from a musical and staging aspect. Oftentimes, there will be two groups of students working simultaneously in different rooms on music and staging. Crew responsibilities will also be included in instructional time. *Students may be scheduled for extra coaching times throughout the week at the instructor's discretion if it is deemed necessary for the success of the show.* Students will be expected to be "off-book" for staging rehearsals. The instructor will provide a detailed staging schedule well in advance so the students may adequately prepare for those rehearsals.

Assessments

Students' vocal progress, performance level, and attendance will be monitored regularly by the instructor. Additionally, there will be two (2) singing exams to verify memorization of the musical score. The first singing exam will be in November, just before Thanksgiving break. The second singing exam will be during the final class meeting time. The entire score must be memorized by the final singing exam, but the sooner it can be memorized, the better off everyone will be. For students only assigned to technical crew(s) and not performing in the show, relevant graduate-level class assignments will be given in lieu of the singing exams.

Grading

Your final grade will be computed as follows:

• Performance Level	40%
• Progress	20%
• Attendance and Promptness	20%
• Singing Memorization Exams/Class Assignments	20%
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TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or below

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

As this course is an ensemble, it is imperative that each student attend every rehearsal to which they are called. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. Any unexcused absence will result in an automatic grade letter reduction and may result in removal from an assigned role in the show(s). Excused absences must be communicated with the instructor well in advance of the missed rehearsal date and will be examined on a case-by-case basis.

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](#)

Additional Course Policies

Any of the following actions may result in a student being removed from their assigned role(s) and/or lowering of the semester grade:

1. Failure to learn music, text, or staging satisfactorily.
2. Failure to make appropriate vocal progress.
3. Failure to honor commitments to the schedule or to colleagues.

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.