



MUS 100
Musical Theater / Opera Ensemble
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Patrick McNally, Assistant Professor of Voice & Director of Opera and Musical Theatre

Classroom Location: Music Building, Concert Hall & Room 158

Office Location: Music Building, Room 197

Office Hours: By appointment; email to schedule

Office Phone: 617.447.5017

University E-mail: patrick.mcnally@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 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 opera scenes production in January and one musical theater work will be presented in April.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will:

1. Gain knowledge and skills in performing operatic and musical theater repertoire.
2. Synthesize the art of singing with the art of acting and movement.
3. Acquire skills that both free a singer-actor from entanglements and increase flexibility and methods of expression.
4. Acquire skills in stage production. Each student will serve on at least one crew.
5. Learn to create believable characters for the stage.

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>

The syllabus / schedule are subject to change

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 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%

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.

School of Music Mission Statement

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University 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.

University Mission Statement

East Texas A&M University provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

ETAMU Attendance Policy

For more information about the 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>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Students with 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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

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

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling

services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and 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.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook. 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>

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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.

Technical Support

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>

Health and Wellness

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

Academic Content, Professional Conduct, and Respect for Persons

This course is taught in accordance with System Policies 08.01 and 12.01 and all applicable state and federal law. Course content is limited to material that is **discipline-grounded, empirically supported, historically significant, and directly related to the approved learning outcomes** of the course.

As part of meeting these objectives, the course may include discussion of **historical, legal, artistic, cultural, or social realities involving people of diverse races, sexual orientations, gender expressions, and identities**, when such discussion is **relevant to the body of knowledge of the discipline**. The inclusion of such material **does not constitute advocacy**, nor does it require students to adopt, affirm, or reject any personal belief, identity, or ideological position.

Consistent with System Policy 12.01, the instructor **does not require ideological agreement**, does not evaluate students based on personal beliefs, and does not ridicule or penalize students for holding differing viewpoints. Assessment is based solely on students' demonstrated understanding of course material, critical engagement with assigned content, and fulfillment of academic requirements.

At the same time, the classroom is a **professional academic environment**. Statements or conduct that deny the **legal existence, historical presence, or basic human dignity** of individuals or groups, or that target individuals based on race, sexual orientation, gender expression, or other protected characteristics, fall outside the scope of reasoned academic discourse and may be redirected by the instructor to maintain alignment with course objectives and university policy.

Students are encouraged to engage thoughtfully with complex and sometimes challenging material, to ask questions, and to express perspectives respectfully. Discomfort alone does not constitute policy violation; however, students are never required to disclose personal beliefs or identities, nor to endorse the views of others, including the instructor.

Questions or concerns regarding course content should be addressed through established university procedures.