



Graduate Vocal Literature and Repertoire for Elementary Music

MUS 526.01T

Darla Meek, instructor
June 9-20, M-F 12:00-2:30
SUMMER 2014

Office Location:	Music Building, Room 222
Classroom Location:	Mesquite Metroplex Center
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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.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with in-depth knowledge of choral techniques and literature for elementary students. The course is structured as a book study of Henry Leck's text, with supplemental readings and observations. Students will also prepare and teach choral pieces in a laboratory setting.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will: (assessment method in parentheses)

- understand the workings of the vocal instrument (closed-book exam)
- be able to sing in a manner consistent with healthy use of the voice (rubric)
- be able to select literature of high quality, and to program a well-balanced concert for elementary-aged children (programming assignment)
- have acquired tools for teaching students with special needs, including males with changing voices (class discussion)
- be able to conduct pieces with various dynamics and tempi (rubric)
- be able to structure an effective choral rehearsal, including choosing appropriate warm ups and sight-singing exercises (rubric)
- exhibit skills in the execution of effective rehearsal techniques, including the delivery of instruction, the elicitation of desired student responses, and the communication of appropriate feedback. (rubric)

Required Texts

Leck, Henry and Jordan, Flossie. (2009). *Creating artistry through choral excellence*. Hal Leonard: Milwaukee, WI, ISBN 978-1-4234-3711-6.

Rao, Doreen. (1993). *We will sing! Choral music experience for classroom choirs*. Boosey & Hawkes: New York, NY, ISBN 0-913932-50-7.

Selected octavos, TBD (We will purchase these in bulk.)

Required Materials

The student will organize a three-ring binder and ten dividers, labeled:

- I. Syllabus
- II. Resource List
- III. Choral Literature and Rehearsal Plans
- IV. Vocal Techniques for the Young Singer
- V. Director Preparation
- VI. Rehearsal Techniques
- VII. Conducting
- VIII. Singing in Harmony
- IX. Organization
- X. Observations (2 rehearsals and 2 performances)

Bring your notebook to each class session, as well as paper, a writing instrument for taking notes, and the music for pieces being studied. Please have this notebook ready by the second class session.

In order to be successful in this course, you will need to have access to a computer and email. **You will also need notation software, Finale preferred.**

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
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-c.edu

Attendance Policy

It is expected that, as working professionals, graduate music education students arrive to every class on time, with assignments completed.

Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work. **Due to its performance nature, CLASS WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than two classes.** Tardiness or leaving early will affect the daily classwork grade.

Students who miss a class when an assignment is due are expected to email the homework assignment in Word format as an attachment to an email to the instructor by 11:59 p.m. **on the due date**, with this subject line: MUSIC 465 Assignment #_, Student Name, Due Date. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to retrieve the information you missed, and to prepare your assignments, if any, for the following class.

In-class assessments and assignments missed because of absence cannot be made up. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please do not ask me to make an exception.

Classroom Expectations

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. These tenets are outlined in the *Student's Guide Handbook* under "Policies and Procedures: Conduct." The tenets also apply to all communication to me outside the classroom.

Please 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.

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. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins.

In this course, you will be very active...singing, moving, conducting, and improvising. All students are to be actively participating in each lesson, just as you expect your own students to be participating. Students are expected to 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.

One of the most important tools you will use with children is solfege with hand signs. Hand signs must be placed in the correct position in front of the body:

- do': arms above head
- ti: hands at forehead
- la: hands eye level
- sol: hands at chest
- fa: hands at diaphragm
- mi: hands waist level
- re: just below waist
- do,: arms at lower abdomen

Assignments

Since some class members will begin this course with more experience than others, the ability to sing well or conduct gracefully is not alone 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 choose several pieces to prepare:

- 2 unison pieces
- 2 two-part pieces
- 1 three-part piece
- 1 original arrangement: arrange a unison or SATB song for SA or SSA.

These will be taught to the class and instructor as if you were teaching children in a public school choral setting. All songs will have CD accompaniment, or an accompanist will be acquired.

KEEP ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON YOUR COMPUTER. You will turn in a copy of your assignment on the day it is due, and I will add any corrections or ideas. You will then correct your assignment, so that it is ready to be copied for your classmates and placed in their resource notebooks.

You will observe three elementary choral performances and complete a Choral Evaluation Form for each. You may view these performances live, on DVD, or on YouTube.

You will observe two choral rehearsals and complete a Lesson Observation and Reflection Form for each. You may view these rehearsals live, on DVD, or on YouTube.

Borrowing Materials

You have free access to all my personal books, CDs, and teaching materials. Several of these items will be placed under reserve in the library. These items are for use in the library only. Simply present your student ID card at the front desk.

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

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 do so 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.

Grading System

Daily Class Performance: 20% of the total grade

Mock Rehearsals: 30% of the total grade

Written quizzes and assignments: 30% of the total grade

Notebook: 10% of the total grade

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.

NOTICE!

- Each class period, I will distribute the outline for that day's class and the assignments that will be due the following class.
- Students are encouraged to seek out the instructor for assignment clarification and/or personal assistance.
- The syllabus and course outline are subject to be amended at any time.

