Syllabus for Students enrolled in
MUS 152/352/552 (Vocal Music Major)
MUS 151/351/551 (Music Minor & Secondary)
MUS 149 (Non-Major)

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Office Hours: By appointment.

LESSONS

Course Outline/Objectives:
Lessons at the beginning of the semester will allow the applied instructor to assess the
student’s skills and needs. Thus, the literature assigned throughout the remainder of the
semester will vary from student to student and be heavily contingent on the student’s
activities, strength and weaknesses, and personal progress.

1. To gain a better understanding of healthy vocal production
   a. posture
   b. breath control
   c. phonation
2. In depth study of vocal repertoire appropriate to the student’s voice type and career
   path
   a. diction
   b. song analysis
   c. interpretation

Repertoire:
Repertoire requirements for students enrolled in voice lessons are as follows:

*First-Year MUS 152 – Minimum of four selections, memorized each semester.*
*Second-Year MUS 152 – Minimum of five selections, memorized each semester.*
*MUS 352/552 – Minimum of six selections, memorized each semester.*
*MUS 149/151/351/551 – Minimum of three selections, memorized each semester*

In the last semester of voice study at Texas A&M University-Commerce, all Voice
Performance and Education Majors must present a complete repertoire list. This document
must be in the student’s official file before graduation.

Total of 42 songs/arias: minimum of 6 pieces each in English, Italian, German, & French.
**Practice:**
Voice students at all levels are expected to practice a minimum of three hours per week PER CREDIT HOUR of voice.

**Accompanist:**
Students are required to hire an accompanist. See Piano Accompanist Handbook

**Cancellation Policy and Absences:**
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 misses a lesson without notifying the instructor, the lesson will not be made-up. A student can only have three absences total (excused or unexcused). After the third absence you will be dropped from the class roster. Please come and speak to me if you have a special circumstance before you reach your absence quota.

**GRADING**

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**Jury (40%)**
The student will perform a final exam/jury for the voice faculty during final exam week. Students enrolled in MUS 152/352/552 will begin with a song of his/her choice. The faculty will then choose one or more songs from your repertoire list. Students enrolled in MUS 149/151/351/551 will perform a song of his/her choice.

**Studio (50%)**

1. **Attendance** – Please read the Attendance Policy (above) carefully. Unexcused absences will severely affect your grade.
   a. Studio Class will meet every Thursday afternoon from 4-5pm either in the Choir Room or Recital Hall (please check the calendar for details).
2. **Attitude and Initiative**
3. **Thoroughness of preparation:**
   a. Always bring your music to your lessons.
   b. Provide copies of all your music for your pianist immediately.
   c. Prepare a word-for-word translation and IPA for each foreign language piece.
   d. Learn your notes and rhythms during your private practice time.
   e. Bring a recording device to record each lesson.
4. **Performance**
   a. Studio – Each student will perform a total of 3 times in Studio Class throughout the semester
   b. Departmental Recital Hour – All students, except first semester freshman, are required to perform at least once during the semester.
c. Mock Jury – All students will be required to sing a Graded Mock Jury (this will not count towards your required Studio Class Performances).

**Recital Attendance (10%)**
All Music-Voice Majors are required to attend all voice student and faculty recitals. Failure to do so will result in a Letter-Grade lowering of your overall grade. See Voice Departmental Handbook regarding policy and procedures.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Barrier Exam**
Applied Vocal Students will be required to take a Barrier Exam after 8 credits of voice have been completed. The Barrier Exam is generally taken during the spring semester of the student’s Sophomore Year. The student will be graded on the following:

1) Accurately and expressively perform classic selections from the Vocal Repertoire (min. 6 songs - It., Fr., Gr., and Eng. must be represented);
2) Accurately and expressively prepare and perform without the assistance of an applied instructor a selection from the standard vocal repertoire;
3) Demonstrate the capability of accurately pronouncing song texts in English, French, German, Italian and Latin using the International Phonetic Alphabet;
4) Demonstrate the capability of accurately singing at sight a classic selection from the vocal repertoire.

**Recitals**
If you are seeking a BS or BM Degree, with or without certification, a Junior Level Joint Recital (25 minutes of music memorized) is required. The recital must represent at least three languages, time periods, and styles. (See Vocal Handbook for more information) After a full semester following the half recital, Vocal Performance majors are required to present a full recital (at least 50 minutes of music). At least four languages, time periods, and styles are required and selections are chosen from the Standard Vocal Repertoire. No more than 25% of the recital can consist of Opera or Oratorio Arias.

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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._
University Accommodation Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please contact Dr. Chris White 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886–5150.

University Behavior Policy

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)