



RESEARCH IN MUSIC EDUCATION

MUS 589.005

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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

The purpose of this course is to bridge research with practicality through studying the theoretical basis of the Kodaly approach, observing demonstrations, actively participating in lessons, and then creating and teaching lessons for use in an elementary classroom setting.

Course Outcomes

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

- discriminate rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic musical stimuli that are presented aurally

- sing unfamiliar selections from written notation accurately
- gesture to indicate tempos, dynamics, articulations and entrances
- demonstrate traditional folk songs, rhymes, singing games, and other classroom materials appropriate for early-childhood music curriculum in a Kodaly-inspired classroom
- describe folksong genres of traditional music in North America
- evaluate oral, aural, and written song sources for authenticity and accuracy using criteria presented
- collect and notate traditional rhyme and song material using guidelines presented
- create visuals to foster success in the elementary music classroom
- craft lesson plans of high quality and detail based on the Kodaly pedagogical order of preparation, presentation, practice, and assessment
- demonstrate facility in the use of Kodaly methods and teaching tools.

Required Texts

- Eisen, Ann and Robertson, Lamar. (2010.) *An American Methodology: An Inclusive Approach to Musical Literacy, second edition*. Sneaky Snake Publications. ISBN: 1-889967-12-2. Order from West Music: <http://www.westmusic.com/p/american-methodology-2nd-edition.htm>
- Kodaly, Zoltan. *333 Reading Exercises (Choral Method)* 2004. Boosey & Hawkes. ISBN-13:978-1-4234-3895-3 (order on Amazon)
- Lund, Floice R. ((2007.) *research and Retrieval: Music Teacher's Guide to Material Selection and Collection*, second edition. Pro Canto Press. ISBN: 2810050-025957

Required Materials:

- 2" three-ring notebook with dividers
- Materials for creating visuals and manipulatives
- A = 440 tuning fork

Technology Requirements

The student will need access to the University library's electronic features, as well as to a word processor and printer to prepare the thesis proposal.

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@tamuc.edu

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>

Attendance Policy

Class meetings will be determined by the student and the instructor. Attendance is expected at every class meeting.

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.

Texas 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.

Developing Musicianship

You will need to have excellent musicianship skills as a music educator. During this course, you will work daily on singing and sight-singing technique.

One of the highest priorities of the semester will be developing an excellent singing voice, with good vocal tone, clarity, articulation, and intonation. If singing is not a strength for you, vocal exercises are available on our class Dropbox so that you can practice daily.

Throughout the semester, you will be evaluated on sight-singing with solfege and hand signs. Practice these exercises with staff notation AND stick notation. You will encounter both as a teacher of young children. In order to receive full credit, 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 abdomen

Gathering Resources

For this course you will begin to gather a collection of songs and other activities for children. You will categorize them in several ways, melodically, rhythmically, and according to other skills taught. This will be a valuable resource for you as you begin teaching, one that you will continue through your career.

Borrowing Materials

Students 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.

Assignments

Assignments will be chosen from the following:

- complete classification sheets for folk song material

- craft 5 lesson plans using specific criteria
- complete 5 master copies using specific criteria
- prepare a score to conduct
- set up Song Collection Indices
- demonstrate progress in sight singing (following given testing schedule)
- prepare and teach a traditional children’s singing game, including lesson plan
- create and teach a lesson on contrasts (opposites) for Kindergarten children, including lesson plan
- create a power point or SmartBoard presentation to present or practice *la-sol-mi*
- in a given children’s song
- create a power point or SmartBoard presentation to present or practice simple
- rhythms in a given children’s song
- teach an upper-level rhythm lesson, using an authentic folk song from another country, including lesson plan
- teach a folk dance, including lesson plan
- teach a traditional song using only solfege
- create an assessment tool for young children
- create flashcards for teaching comparatives
- create visuals for a vocal exploration lesson

Grading System

Musicianship:	20% of the total grade
Folk Song Materials:	20%
Conducting:	20%
Pedagogy:	20%
Special Topics:	10%
Folk Song Collection:	10%

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.