

MUS-V101 – Voice Class

Fall 2021

T/Th 12:30-1:20 pm

MC 015

Instructor

Rachel Dunbar, Associate Instructor

Email

rsdunbar@iu.edu

Office Location & Hours

MU 337, 11-12 pm, T/Th

Description

This course is designed for beginning singers to learn the basics of vocal anatomy, vocal technique, and music literacy. A typical class will include some discussion, warm-ups and exercises, followed by group and solo song singing. What we learn and practice as a class will culminate in final memorized solo performances.

Course Objectives

- Understand the basics of a healthy vocal technique
- Understand basic vocal anatomy
- Develop kinesthetic awareness
- Learn and perform at least four songs
- Develop music reading and practice skills

Required Text

Dayme, Meribeth and Cynthia Vaughn. *The Singing Book*. Third ed., with accompaniment CD. New York: W.W. Norton, 2014.

*Second edition will not be acceptable.

Required Materials

- Pencil
- Recording Device (Phones are great!)
- Access to Canvas Course Online

Grading

Attendance and Participation	30%
In-Class Performances	30%
Performance 1 (5%)	
Performance 2 (Midterm 10%)	
Performance 3 (Final 15%)	
Assignments	20%
Practice Logs	10%
Performance Reflections	10%

Attendance

The importance of attending this class cannot be overstated. It is experiential and interactive! It is imperative that students arrive to class on time and prepared. Therefore, attendance is a third of your overall grade. One absence is permitted (unexcused or excused) without notifying the instructor, with the exception of in-class performance days. Make-ups for performance days will be given at the instructor's discretion. After your one permitted absence, you must notify the instructor by email of any further absences. For every two unexcused absences, the student's grade will drop by a letter. Five unexcused absences will result in an automatic failure.

In-Class Performances

There will be a total of three in-class performances. Students will perform songs for solo voice with accompaniment.

Performance 1: Students will sing a song of their choice. If you can't decide what to sing, please sing "Amazing Grace" (pg.111). You may perform from memory or with music.

Performance 2 (Midterm): Students will choose a song to sing from the ones we rehearse in class. This song will be performed from memory.

Performance 3 (Final): Students will be assigned two songs. One song will be in English, the other in a foreign language. You are encouraged to make suggestions. However, all song choices will need to be approved by me. Both songs will be performed from memory.

Performance Reflections

After each in class performance, you will reflect on what went well and what could use improvement. You should also address goals for the future and what you want to incorporate into your practice sessions moving forward. Be as honest and thoughtful as possible so that I can help you! Performance reflections are due a week after your in-class performance and are listed in the course schedule. Late work will not be accepted.

Practice Logs

You are expected to practice for a minimum of 30 minutes a day, five times a week. A typical practice session will include ten minutes of warm-up, ten minutes of notes/word/rhythm rehearsal, and ten minutes of singing through the song with accompaniment while thinking about proper vocal technique. Practice time should be consistent. It is better to do shorter practice sessions over many days, than long practice sessions once a week. Lopsided practice logs will lose points. Practice Logs are due the last class of each month.

Assignments

Four short written assignments will be given at the end of each unit. The purpose of these written assignments is to assess your understanding of vocal concepts. Assignments are worth five points each and are listed in the course schedule. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Classroom Etiquette

This class will require a high level of interaction. Students are expected to maintain respect and empathy for their peers and their work. If I feel that you are not maintaining that level of respect and empathy, you will be asked to leave the class and be marked as absent for that day. Disrespectful actions include but are not limited to using a phone during another student's performance, making rude comments about another's singing, and being disruptive. Let's support and lift each other up!

DISABILITY STUDENT SERVICES:

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities (e.g., mental health, learning, chronic health, physical, hearing, vision neurological, etc.) You must have established your eligibility for support services through the appropriate office that services students with disabilities. Note that services are confidential,

may take time to put into place and are not retroactive; Captions and alternate media for print materials may take three or more weeks to get produced. Please contact Disability Services for Students at <http://disabilityservices.indiana.edu> or 812-855-7578 as soon as possible if accommodations are needed. The office is located on the third floor, west tower, of the Wells Library, Room W302. Walk-ins are welcome 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. You can also locate a variety of campus resources for students and visitors that need assistance at: <http://www.iu.edu/~ada/index.shtml>

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are responsible for doing all class work honestly and independently except when part of a group project. Your responsibilities as a student are outlined at this link: <http://www.iu.edu/~code/>. “The purposes of Indiana University include the advancement of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students, and the promotion of the general well-being of society. As a community, we share a dedication to maintaining an environment that supports trust, respect, honesty, civility, free inquiry, creativity, and an open exchange of ideas.” [Preamble to the Indiana University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct]

ELECTRONICS:

This is an interactive class. There will be no time for you to have electronics out in class. If you want to use a laptop or an electronic device to take notes, please contact me before the class to inform me. Otherwise, use of electronic devices is forbidden and continued use will adversely affect your participation grade.

Course Schedule

*Changes may be made at any point in the semester

Week	Topic	Days	Due Dates
Week 1	Muscles/Balance/Posture	T–Aug 24 Th–Aug 26	
Week 2	Respiration	T- Aug 31 Th-Sep 2	Song Choice Performance #1 Due
Week 3	Respiration	T-Sep 7 Th-Sep 9	Performance #1
Week 4	Music Literacy	T-Sep 14 Th-Sep 16	Reflection #1 Due Assignment #1 Due
Week 5	Phonation	T-Sep 21 Th Sep 23	
Week 6	Phonation	T-Sep 28 Th-Sep 30	Practice Log Aug/Sep Due
Week 7	Phonation	T-Oct 5	Assignment #2 Due

Week	Topic	Days	Due Dates
		Th-Oct 7	
Week 8	Midterm Prep and Performance	T-Oct 12 Th-Oct 14	Performance #2
Week 9	Articulation	T-Oct 19 Th-Oct 21	Reflection #2 Due
Week 10	Vocal Hygiene	T-Oct 26 Th-Oct 28	Practice Log Oct Due
Week 11	Vocal Styles	T-Nov 2 Th-Nov 4	Assignment #3 Due
Week 12	Performance Practice	T-Nov 9 Th-Nov 11	
Week 13	Performance Practice	T-Nov 16 Th-Nov 18	Assignment #4 Due
Week 14	*Thanksgiving Break*	Nov 22-26	
Week 15	Final Prep	T-Nov 30 Th-Dec 2	Practice Log Nov Due
Week 16	Final Performances	T-Dec 7 Th-Dec 9	Performance # 3
Week 17	Finals Week No Classes	Dec 13-17	Practice Log Dec Due Reflection #3 Due All Work due by Dec 17