

**Humboldt State University
Department of Music**

Syllabus

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Office hours:
Mon. 2:00-3:00 pm
Thurs. 2:00-3:00 pm
and by appointment

**Music 108V-Beginning Voice
Fall 2016
MW 3:00 – 3:50 Room #109**

“Alas for those who never sing, but die with all their music in them.” – Oliver Wendell Holmes

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate beginning level aspects of healthy, fundamental vocal technique. Fundamental and healthy vocal technique includes a working knowledge of the physical instrument and how the different parts function interdependently. Specific topics will include breathing, physical alignment, phonation, resonance and articulation.
2. Demonstrate beginning level performance skills such as good tone, accurate pitch, accurate rhythm, dynamics and appropriate tempo. We will apply these performance skills to specific vocal literature, including literature in languages other than English.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the qualities that make a performance excellent. We will explore and experience the art of performing, including topics such as complete preparation, stage etiquette, expression and dramatic presentation, nerves, collaboration, and other related issues. We will discuss how to integrate these qualities to cultivate musical excellence.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability listen critically and give constructive feedback to themselves and others. We will discuss how to give and receive feedback in the context of in-class performances.

II. Class Activities

- A. Vocal and physical warm-up exercises
- B. Presentation and exploration of vocal topics listed under Objective 1
- C. Group and solo singing
- D. Discussion of voice related topics

III. Resource Materials

Required Texts:

- A. *The Singing Book* by Meribeth Dayme and Cynthia Vaughn
- B. *The Structures and Movements of Breathing* by Barbara Conable
- B. Class Handouts (Please save these to use as needed.)

IV. Course Requirements

1. Attend all class sessions on time and participate fully in all class activities with enthusiasm.
2. Engage in professional behavior at all times. Be courteous to students in and out of class.
3. Your phone should not be seen or heard in class. Texting is prohibited.
4. Turn in 2-3 page Evaluation paper on or before December 7
5. Stay current with all class assignments, including readings, short homework assignments (infrequent), and learning notes and rhythms for new repertoire.
6. Learn, memorize and perform two “new to you” songs from our class book in class on your scheduled days. At least one of these must be solo. You may choose any songs you like, including those we do together as a group.
7. Final exam: Attend one of the End-of-semester Voice program performances.

V. Attendance

Since this is a skills and participation-based class, punctual attendance is **required**. You are expected to be on time for all class sessions and stay for the entire period. Excessive tardiness or early departures from class will result in a lowered final grade. Weeks in which there are individual appointments instead of regular class meetings will be treated the same, and make-ups are at my discretion. Three absences are allowed without consequence; for each subsequent absence, your final grade is lowered by a third of a letter grade (i.e. B to B-). If you miss class for an excused absence (one that you have discussed with me prior to the date of the absence), it is your responsibility to turn in all assigned work prior to your absence. Note: Students missing more than six classes (excused or unexcused) will not be given a passing grade. If you miss your performance day you will receive a 0 (no credit) for that activity (See above under Course Requirements.)

VI. Grading Criteria

40%: Attendance and full participation in class (includes attendance at one concert featuring singing, your final “anything goes” performance, and final exam).

40%: Complete preparation and performance of 2 songs in class from our book (or handout), for memory, in class. One of these must be a solo.

20%: Written work includes initial questionnaire, song analyses, YouTube singer review, and 2-3 page self-evaluation paper.

NOTE: The paper will be due on December 7. No late papers will be accepted.

*You will have the opportunity to perform an additional song near the end of the semester. This song can be pretty much anything (does not have to be from the book – can be rock, hip hop, folk, whatever). You will not receive a letter grade for this performance, but you will receive credit for doing it.

In addition:

- You will be expected to read chapters from your book and participate in class discussions.
- We will also learn and sing many group songs, vocalises (voice strengthening exercises) and learn basic musical terminology. There are no written assignments for these activities but you are expected to participate fully and work on building your skills.

Vocal Performances at HSU this semester:

Saturday, Oct 21 @ 8:00 pm in Fulkerson RH – Annika Bäckström, soprano (faculty artist recital)

Saturday, November 5 @ 4:00 pm in FRH - Opera Workshop

Sunday, Dec 4 @ 8:00 pm in Fulkerson RH – Madrigal Singers and Mad River Transit Singers

Tuesday, Dec 6, 6:00 pm in KBR - Madrigal Dinner

Friday, Dec 9 @ 8:00 pm in Fulkerson RH – Univ. Singers & Humboldt Chorale w/Humboldt Symphony

Sunday, Dec 11 @ 8:00 pm Fulkerson RH – Univ. Singers & Humboldt Chorale w/Humboldt Symphony

Syllabus addendum on HSU policies:

Students have rights and responsibilities at HSU and there are many resources on campus to help students succeed. The link below includes information about Add/Drop Policy, Resources for Students with Disabilities, Academic Honesty Policy, Attendance and Disruptive Behavior Policy, Financial Aid, Emergency Procedures, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

<http://www2.humboldt.edu/academicprograms/syllabus-addendum-campus-resou...>

Student Learning Outcomes: Through this course you will make progress towards meeting the following Student Learning Outcomes:

Course SLOs:

- 1) Students will demonstrate improvement in technique, tone, musicianship, intonation and diction through collective singing.
- 2) Students will rehearse, polish and perform repertoire for concerts.

Music Major SLOs:

- 1) Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2) Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 3) Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

You are strongly encouraged to educate yourself on repetitive and overuse injuries. Please go to the music department's website for helpful information.

Best wishes for a wonderful semester – I look forward to working with you!

Area C Goals

The Arts and Humanities seeks to integrate intellect, imagination, sensibility and receptivity in reflection upon human experience. Courses in Area C should assist and inspire students to cultivate and refine their affective and cognitive responses so they can consciously recognize and embody their experiences and their expressions of human existence. Through studying and responding to the great works of human imagination, and through experiencing individual aesthetic and creative processes, students can gain balance through integration of their intellectual, emotional, and creative responses, thereby, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of human life.

Area C Objectives

All courses shall accomplish the following in a discipline-specific manner.

1. To understand human experience through the development of the ability to recognize and test relationships between particular instances and facts, and general principles and concepts.
2. To develop and/or increase one's subjective responses to humanistic and/or artistic works, including analysis of disciplinary standards of judgment (contemporary and/or historically) in humanistic and artistic areas.
3. To highlight varied factors in the personal nature of human beings' production and response to artistic and humanistic works including (but not limited to) gender, culture or ethnicity.
4. To provide an understanding of the nature and scope of perspectives and scholarship within the arts/humanities and to appreciate the importance of these perspectives and scholarship toward understanding of human experience

Area C Measurable Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of and ability to apply discipline-specific vocabulary. Written, tangible, or presentational assignments will demonstrate application of concepts and principles to a specific instance. (Objective 1)
2. Through written, tangible, or presentational assignments, students will demonstrate an integrated response of affective subjectivity and collective standards of judgment in relation to an artistic or humanistic work. (Objective 2)
3. Through written, tangible or presentational assignments, students will demonstrate their ability to critically evaluate the production of humanistic or artistic works through the lenses of (but not limited to) gender, culture, or ethnicity. (Objective 3)
4. Students will articulate in written, tangible, or presentational assignments the particular contribution(s) that a discipline within the Arts and Humanities can bring to understanding human experience. (Objective 4)

HSU Learning Outcomes

This course explicitly contributes to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these HSU Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

Effective communication through written and oral modes.

Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues.

Competence in a major area of study.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.

Music Department Learning Outcomes

In addition, this course will contribute to your acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to these Music Department (and National Association of Schools of Music) learning Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.

Students will demonstrate improvement in their performing skills – both in the quality of their performance and the difficulty of the repertoire that they can perform.

Course Calendar

Week	Monday	Wednesday
Wk 1	1/18 Intros, syllabus, ice breakers Hand out Questionnaire Intro to the Voice HW: Read pp. 1-3, Questionnaire	1/20 Healthy Singing: Body Mapping and Alignment, Breathing Questionnaire due HW: Read Conable
Wk 2	1/25 Breathing, Body Mapping HW: Read Conable	1/27 Finish Breathing, Body Mapping How to learn a song/reading a score HW:
Wk 3	2/1 Individual appointments	2/3 Individual appointments
Wk 4	2/8 Phonation, Resonance and Articulation	2/10 Phonation, Resonance and Articulation, IPA
Wk 5	2/15 Interpretation and Communication	2/17 Interpretation and Communication
Wk 6	2/22 Nerves!, Performance Etiquette	2/24 travel ACDA?
Wk 7	2/29 1 st In-Class Performance	3/2 1 st In-Class Performance
Wk 8	3/7 Different styles of vocal production and singing	3/9 Different styles of vocal production and singing
SPRING BREAK		
Wk 9	3/21 Introduction to Sight Singing	3/23 Critical listening of yourself and others
Wk 10	3/28 Individual appointments	3/30
Wk 11	4/4 University Singers Tour No class, or... Elisabeth?	4/6
Wk 12	4/11 Back to Basics: Getting the most out of the musical score	4/13
Wk 13	4/18 2 nd In-Class Performance	4/20 2 nd In-Class Performance
Wk 14	4/25 Revisiting topics of interest	4/27
Wk 15	5/2 Final paper due	5/4
	Final Exam	

YouTube Assignment 1-2 pages, double spaced

Watch two different videos of solo singers. One must be a classical performance of a classically trained singer singing either an art song or an aria. The second can be any style except classical. For each, please discuss the following:

- 1) Did you enjoy the performance? What was most striking to you about it?
- 2) Do you think the singer sang expressively? What specific aspects of the performance can you attribute this to?
- 3) Observe the singer's breathing. What do you notice? Be as specific as you can.
- 4) Observe the singer's body alignment. Does he/she look grounded? Do you notice any physical "quirks" or possible bodily tension?
- 5) Observe the singer's face and expressive gestures (use of hands, movement, etc.). Do they look natural? Do they enhance the performance?

