

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
Spring 2017
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. Stay current with all class assignments, including readings (primarily from the Conable book), short homework assignments (infrequent), and learning notes and rhythms for new repertoire.
5. Turn in YouTube singer review by February 22
6. Turn in 2-3 page Self-Evaluation paper on or before May 8
7. Attend one of the HSU choral concerts at the end of the semester (dates listed below).
8. 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.
9. 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 choral concert, 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, YouTube singer review, and 2-3 page self-evaluation paper. The final paper will be due on May 8. No late papers will be accepted.

In addition:

- You will be expected to read chapters from your books and participate in class discussions.
- You 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. You will take a basic music literacy quiz based on what you learn in class. You must receive an 80% or higher to pass the class. You may take the quiz at any time before the last day of class.

*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 specific grade for this performance, but you will receive participation credit for doing it.

Vocal Performances at HSU this semester:

Sunday, April 30 @ 8:00 PM in Fulkerson RH – Madrigal Singers and Mad River Transit Singers

Friday, May 5 @ 8:00 PM in Fulkerson RH – Humboldt Chorale and University Singers

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!