

UW-O MUSIC DEPARTMENT
APPLIED VOICE
Music-181/A01I-A02I-A04I-A05I (1, 2, and 4 credits)
Music-381/A01I-A02I-A04I (1, 2, and 4 credits)
SYLLABUS
FALL 2008/ SPRING 2009

INSTRUCTORS:
Frank Hoffmeister
(Coordinator)
Joyce Andrews

LESSON TIME: Arranged

PLACE: Studio of assigned instructor

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

- A. An on-going sequence of private instruction in lower (181) and upper (381) levels, encompassing vocal literature of all periods and styles, the study of vocal technique, performance practice, including vocal health and the prevention of performance injuries, and singing diction in English, Italian, German and French.
- B. Literature covered at the lower (181) level will be determined by the instructor, based on the individual student's experience, musical competence, vocal maturity, and linguistic background. The repertoire normally consists of songs in English representing various stylistic periods (e.g., Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Contemporary), Early Italian songs, and possibly German lieder and French m elodie may also be introduced. Simple musical theatre solos may be included as well as beginning duets or quartets from standard works. Assigned literature will include music from the WSMA Solo/Ensemble lists. **Note: Instructors will require students to provide themselves with specific volumes of songs from time to time throughout the sequence of voice study. The average voice major may expect to spend a minimum of \$100 per semester for printed music. Due to copyright issues, students should anticipate securing published editions rather than relying on xeroxed copies. Students preparing recitals must have all editions of recital music in their possession.**

After the student has been admitted to the upper level (381) (normally not before the end of the second year of study), literature studied will encompass recitative and aria from opera and oratorio; contemporary literature in English, and significant works and/or song cycles from all periods in Italian, German, French and Spanish. More sophisticated works from the musical theatre genre will be suggested, as well as more extensive ensemble and chamber works. Repertoire presented at the upper level will reflect moderate to advanced difficulty, and students will be expected to sing in several languages and styles. **See Applied Voice Competencies.**

- C. A continuous program in the development of vocal technique will extend from the lower through the upper level, and will encompass assimilation of the following aspects, which will be discussed with students both in individual lessons and in the vocal seminar group environment:
- 1) Tone Production
 - 2) Principles of Breath Management
 - 3) Singing Diction and Articulation in several languages
 - 4) Agility and Flexibility
 - 5) Intonation
 - 6) Phrasing
 - 7) Preparation and Interpretation of Texts, including translation and poetic sense
 - 8) Rhythmic and Melodic Accuracy
 - 9) Memorization
 - 10) Incorporation of IPA
 - 11) Vocal health and maintenance – one seminar per term will focus specifically on this subject
 - 12) Posture and Performance Etiquette

- D. Vocal Instructors have individualized studio policies regarding grading criteria, required recital attendance, and studio assignments. Students are responsible for this information, which will be distributed early in each semester. In addition, a weekly schedule for Vocal Seminars will be available with the syllabus at the beginning of the semester. **For the 2007/2008 academic year, students should take careful note of required recital attendance.**

II. EVALUATION

- A. Students are evaluated throughout the semester and faculty maintain a record of grades and critiques based upon weekly lessons, studio assignments or projects, periodic performances at seminars and convocations, and juries or recitals. Grades are normally made available to students at the conclusion of the semester, or upon student inquiry. (Students may discuss their progress with their instructor at any time throughout the semester). The final grade assigned each student is the average of all grades assigned, with jury (or recital) being weighted equally with the average of lesson grades. At the end of each semester, all students are required to perform for a jury consisting of all members of the voice faculty. One-credit students will perform two memorized selections in contrasting styles. Two- and four-credit students will perform three and four memorized selections respectively, representing English and two foreign languages. The applied instructors will evaluate the student's jury in writing and assign a grade for that specific presentation. Jury comments and Jury grades from other faculty are advisory to the instructor, and at his/her discretion may or may not influence the student's final grade.

Students normally receive 12 or 13 lessons per semester. Grades for each lesson are determined by assessment of the following:

- ❖ Assimilation of sufficient assigned repertoire in a timely fashion, including memorization when required;
 - ❖ Evidence of consistent practice habits including familiarity with and application of studio vocalises resulting in the development of vocal skills;
 - ❖ Adequate and accurate musical preparation before each lesson, including correction of errors by the following lesson;
 - ❖ Thorough text preparation including translation research and language diction practice as assigned by the instructor;
 - ❖ Sufficient ensemble rehearsal with accompanist in between lessons BUT NOT ON THE DAY OF THE LESSON, PLEASE. It is the responsibility of the vocal student to arrange, and maintain, adequate rehearsal times with his/her accompanist and instructor will verify these rehearsal arrangements;
 - ❖ Responsive attitude in lesson, including dialogue with instructor about vocal concerns or musical questions. A positive and inquisitive attitude usually expedites the learning process and makes the lesson time more enjoyable and productive for both parties.
 - ❖ Evidence of consistent habits regarding sound vocal health and vocal rest. STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO LESSONS PROPERLY PREPARED PHYSICALLY (as evidenced through ability to concentrate and physical stamina necessary for singing, including proper rest and nutrition). THE LESSON MAY BE DISCONTINUED IF INSTRUCTOR FEELS STUDENT IS NOT READY FOR THE LESSON. In this event, the lesson will not be made up.
 - ❖ Student's innate vocal ability, including natural coordination of the mechanism; ease of production; freedom of articulation; beauty of tone; size and projection of instrument; technical facility; and range extension.
- B. Juries also serve as examinations for progression to the upper (381) level, no earlier than the end of the sophomore year or later. If the progression is not approved at this time, the student must re-apply in the following semester. **According to Department of Music policy, a student may audition no more than twice for acceptance to Music-381.** If the student fails the second audition he/she will be redirected from their voice emphasis program. **A Jury cannot be canceled or postponed unless a medical excuse from a qualified physician is presented to the voice faculty and the applied instructor is notified in advance of the jury time. The instructor will notify the other applied faculty if the illness indicates a valid reason for missing the vocal**

jury. An incomplete for the course can be given ONLY at the discretion of the applied vocal instructor; the make-up jury MUST BE SCHEDULED NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL JURY DATE AND IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT HIS/HER PROFESSOR TO INITIATE THIS. JURIES MAY NOT BE CANCELED DUE TO LACK OF PREPARATION. A GRADE OF 'F' FOR THE SEMESTER WILL BE ASSIGNED IF A STUDENT DOES NOT COMPLETE THE JURY.

- C. Students in all music programs (Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Arts in Music, Bachelor of Science in Music, Bachelor of Music in Performance and Bachelor of Music in Music Business/Recording Technology) must present a Senior Recital. One month prior to the senior recital a recital hearing will be held. (Recital hearing dates will be scheduled at the beginning of each semester so students will know their recital hearing date in advance.) At this hearing the student must present his/her recital repertoire in its entirety and have 2/3 of the recital memorized. The voice faculty will make random selections from the recital program to determine if the recitalist is ready to give a recital as scheduled. The faculty may also ask the auditionee to translate texts. When a student passes the recital hearing, they must make sure to fully complete all required departmental recital forms on-line in a timely fashion (including program preparation, stage crew and recording requests). **Students are required to prepare their own translations of recital literature.** In addition, students are required to prepare posters advertising their recital which must be proofed by their instructor and then displayed in the department NO LATER THAN ONE FULL WEEK prior to the recital date. **If a recital is not properly advertised, students' applied voice semester grade may be lowered.** If a recital is **not** approved: The recital requirement may be met through the presentation of a studio recital (in N28) which may be attended only by members of the music faculty, and invited guests of the recitalist, or
1. A public recital in the Music Hall may be rescheduled **once only in the following interim or semester.** In this event, a recital hearing one month prior to the rescheduled date will again be required.
 2. **According to Applied Music Recital Procedures (see appropriate departmental form), a student may present a recital hearing no more than two times.**
- D. Voice students in the B.M. (Performance) program will have the following requirements:
1. An audition and interview no earlier than at the end of the Freshman year for admission to the program. The audition should include five contrasting selections. Refer to departmental Applied Studies Policy. (Students may present no more than two performance auditions.) Entering students are initially programmed as Bachelor of Arts music majors, to allow for a period of acclimation to formal music study, and for the faculty to evaluate performance potential more accurately.
 2. An audition at the end of the Sophomore year for admission to the upper (381) level, and to determine readiness for the required Junior Recital.
 3. To perform both a Junior and Senior Recital.
 4. In addition, vocal performance students may have the following additional requirements during semesters in which they are enrolled for 4 credits of voice:
 - ❖ More repertoire prepared in each semester (normally 12 works); repertoire assigned may be of a higher level of musical and vocal difficulty;
 - ❖ Participation is required at auditions (such as NATS) and masterclasses, both on and off campus;
 - ❖ Research and preparation of program notes for recitals;
 - ❖ Maintenance of an ongoing and extensive repertoire list of all works studied, learned, and performed;
 - ❖ Additional assignments germane to vocal study, per teacher's direction, including but not limited to listening assignments; operatic character study and interpretation; diction and translation assignments.
- E. A Jury is not necessary in the semester that a student gives a Junior or Senior Recital.

- F. At the discretion of the instructor, other voluntary recitals may be programmed (i.e., one-half recital at Junior level or, in some instances, Sophomore level). Approval of instructor must be secured before a vocal student participates in another student recital. **Students are expected to prepare with or advise instructor of solo material being presented on campus for public performance, (i.e, choral solos, student recitals, and opera workshop performances).**

III. OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

A. Material (Repertoire)

1. All students studying Applied Voice, including those in the Performance, Music Education, Music Business/Recording Technology programs as well as voice minors, will be assigned literature from a wide range of styles, periods, and languages. This will include both vocal solo, small vocal ensemble, and chamber music literature. Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge of vocal literature through individual and ensemble performances, through observing and listening to others in studio and vocal division classes, seminars, and recitals, and through listening assignments of professional recordings. Refer to **Applied Voice Competencies** for specific literature, including composers and publications. Vocal literature for each student is generally recommended by the instructor and is selected on an individual basis to enhance and develop the voice and musicianship of each student as well as his or her historical knowledge of vocal music. Instructors also assign vocalises and it is the student's responsibility to notate, memorize and practice studio vocalises.

2. Normal minimum literature requirement for each semester is as follows:

(In all cases, repertoire requirements are determined by the individual instructor)

- a) One credit: four - five songs (at least three memorized)
- b) Two credits: eight - ten songs (at least six memorized)
- c) Four credits (B.M. Performance majors only): a minimum of 12 songs and arias including English, Italian, French, and German. Included in the total should be at least one oratorio aria and one opera aria, with recitative. Two-thirds of the selections should be memorized.

B. Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at all scheduled lessons is required.
2. Lessons missed by students will be made up only under the following conditions:
 - a) Instructor is notified at least 24 hours in advance (emergencies excepted).
 - b) The instructor approves the reason for missing the lesson, noting the absence "excused".
3. **Students may be excused from a lesson for personal reasons or class trips; however, make-up lessons will generally not be given in these circumstances.**

It is the student's responsibility to request and schedule makeup lessons with his/her instructor in a timely fashion. As a general rule, no makeup lessons will be given during the last two weeks of the semester.

4. An unexcused lesson receives an F; therefore, per the Applied Studies Policy, more than three (3) unexcused absences in a semester will result in failure of the applied class for that semester.
5. A cold or sore throat may not be sufficient reason to cancel or postpone a lesson. Work on memorization, translations, pronunciation, etc. can be performed at the lesson in lieu of actual singing. The applied teacher will determine the extent to which a student should sing.
6. Should an instructor be forced to miss a lesson, the lesson will be re-scheduled and made up.
7. **Three (3) unexcused absences will result in an "F" grade for the semester.**
8. **In addition, students are required to attend special concerts or master classes as detailed in the syllabus and vocal seminar schedule each semester.**

C. Practice Requirement

As stated in the Music Department Student Handbook, students are expected to practice a minimum of six hours per week for each credit attempted. If this requirement is consistently met, the average student can be expected to make satisfactory progress. Many students find it difficult to organize and sustain a regular and productive practice routine. The student must continually evaluate his/her use of practice time, and seek the assistance of the instructor in improving practice efficiency. Students are expected to practice individually on a daily basis, as well as on a weekly basis with their accompanist in order to prepare for the lesson.

D. Accompaniment

1. Each student is responsible for securing an accompanist (this may be a student or a professional accompanist). An adequate accompanist is absolutely essential to a voice student's progress.
2. **The accompanist must be approved by the instructor.** These arrangements must be completed as early in the semester as possible, but no later than the end of the **third week in the term**. **A student's grade will be affected by an inability to secure and rehearse with an accompanist or perform literature with an accompaniment.**
3. The accompanist must attend at least 8 lessons prior to the Jury for coaching. This requirement would also apply to any other scheduled performances such as a convocation appearance or vocal seminar.
4. Student accompanists can be expected to charge an appropriate fee for their service. Rates vary depending on the level of experience and facility of the pianist. Instructors do not regulate the fees of student or professional accompanists. While some pianists charge by the hour, others may charge one set fee for the semester. The pianist's responsibility includes lesson time, one rehearsal per week, performance(s) in vocal seminar and/or convocation, and jury.

E. Vocal Seminar

1. All Music-181 and Music-381 students are required to attend vocal seminars.
2. Vocal seminar is a performance and repertoire class for the vocal students at UW Oshkosh. ALL applied voice students are to reserve the seminar hour in their schedule as attendance is REQUIRED. If a student has a class that must be scheduled at vocal seminar time, he/she may be excused from the seminar ONLY with written permission from the Department Chairperson, which then must be conveyed to the applied instructor.
3. There are a minimum of 7 vocal seminar classes during each semester and attendance is taken for each individual studio. A missed vocal seminar must be made up through a makeup assignment which may be a comparable listening experience and a written or oral evaluation. The conditions of the assignment are up to the individual instructor. If a student is ill and must miss a seminar, he/she may be excused from the makeup assignment ONLY by providing verification of illness from a physician or qualified health professional. MAKEUP ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN 2 WEEKS FOLLOWING THE MISSED SEMINAR.

IV. Goals of Attendance at Vocal Seminar:

1. To learn basic performance skills
2. To learn song repertoire
3. To learn to listen critically and to use discretion in offering comments to the performer
4. To provide support for your peers
5. To foster a sense of community and pride within the vocal department
6. To gain confidence in your singing
7. To practice in a collegial environment all the components of the art of singing

In addition to regular academic fees, an applied music instruction fee of \$90 per unit (credit hour) will be charged to all students enrolled in applied study. This fee is waived for students registered in a large ensemble (choir, band, or orchestra). The applied fee is not assessed at the time of enrollment but will appear on the 2nd billing statement (after the 4th week of the term).