# WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
# MUSIC DEPARTMENT
# VOCAL AREA

# APPLIED VOICE SYLLABUS

Spring 2012

Studio of Dr. Anne Hagan Bentz

**MUS 391A, 381A and 380A**
**Lesson Times Arranged**
**Studio D**

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**I. Course Description**

Voice lessons are designed for both performers, music educators and other interested students. The development of the vocal instrument with regard to its proper use and function focusing on technique with regard to posture, breath use, correct resonance and diction, the study of style and vocal literature and interpretation are the goals of these lessons.

**II. Requirements and Required Materials**

**Students are required** to purchase their own music or to borrow it from the library and to have original copies in their possession whenever they are performing in public. Please refer to the new literature requirement section of the Vocal Master Class Syllabus for details of what each level must purchase. Students must also provide copies of their music for their teachers and accompanists. One Notebook with your music for the semester will be labeled and kept in Dr. Bentz's Studio.

**Students are required** to learn their own music. This includes pitches, rhythms, accompaniments, correct language pronunciations and translations. This learning will be assisted in the studio, but the majority of this preparation occurs in the practice room outside of the studio. Regular time in the practice room will be evident in the quality of your preparation. Vocal Performance majors should be spending 2 hours daily in practice, Music Education and Bachelor of Arts majors should be practicing at least one hour a day. Discipline is part of being a musician.

**Students are required** to attend all lessons, to be punctual and prepared. In the case of sickness or any potential conflict students are required to notify their teachers 24 hours in advance.

**Students are required** to listen to 15 vocal selections including art song, aria, and oratorio and to record these selections and their observations about the singers, technique and impressions that these recordings made on them. They should be labeled as to the song title, composer and performer. Each student should look for recordings that benefit their development, i.e. recording artists of like voice, recordings of your songs to be studied, etc. This study will be directed by your voice teacher. This assignment is due one week before final juries.

**Students are required** to inform their teachers of all solo performances that they will be doing during the semester.

**Students are required** to sight sing as part of each voice lesson. This material will be provided by the instructor.

**Students are required** to keep a journal which documents their reflections as they practice and which will be turned in at the Instructor's request during and at the end of the semester prior to the final jury for a grade.

*** Journaling**

The purpose of journaling is to provide a written record of your development as a singer, to reflect on what and how you are learning and to document your development as a singer, an artist and a technician. Growth in any area is directly related to the amount and quality of time you invest in a subject. Since the growth of a singer is one that requires a large amount of time spent in the practice room working with your own voice, documenting what and how you learn, what you put into practice from your lessons, how successfully you are able to execute tasks, and the amount of effort it takes to accomplish tasks in diction, technique, and interpretation, teach you not only about yourself, but help you remember moments of "learning" when you suddenly understand a concept. This is important as a reference tool for your own teaching and for when you find yourself vocally at point where you have, for lack of continuous practice, sickness or some other reason, forgotten how to do something vocally. Journaling demands that you take time to reflect on your own learning and your commitment to your art.

Journaling is not lists of exercises and repertoire practiced. Journaling is lists of exercises and repertoire followed by evaluations of their purposes, how you practiced repertoire, and the results of your practice. It is a measure of your success.

Journal entries should be written with the same attention to good grammar and sentence structure as a formal essay. Since the journal will be read and evaluated by your instructor, it must be legible and make sense to the reader. It is a means of letting your instructor know how you are working, how effective he/she is and what you are understanding or not comprehending in your journey to become a singer. Content is crucial.

Each journal entry should include the date and amount of time you practiced, what occurred in the practice session your achievements or struggles and frustrations and your plans for the next session. It is a running commentary on your work during the semester and should be kept in a notebook and carried with you to lessons and practice sessions.

Sample entries will be posted on the shared folder for Voice Lessons to give you an idea of what constitutes a successful entry. Please also refer to (title of book) for samples of journaling for singers available for purchase and on hold in the music library.

## III. Course Objectives

The development of the vocal instrument with regard to its proper use and function focusing on technique with regard to posture, breath use, correct resonance and diction, the study of style and vocal literature and interpretation are the goals of these lessons.

## IV. Outcomes and Assessment

**This portion of your Studio grade is determined by your private instructor and based on a 100 percent scale. It makes up 70% of the total studio grade. See below**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Mid Semester Memorization Grade** | **_____X 25%=_____** |
| **Coaching (based on attendance)** | **_____X 5%=_____** |
| ***Studio lesson grade from Instructor** | **_____X 70%=_____** |
| | **Total:_____** |

**The breakdown of the *Studio lesson grade is as follows:**

**Preparation……85%**

*coming to your lesson on time.
*timely notice to your instructor of sickness or absences.
*Vocal Literature is practiced and rhythms and notes are learned.
*Recording lessons and listening to them
*Evidence of regular practicing – minimum of 1 hour daily BA,

Music Ed., 2 hours Vocal Performance
*research of song literature and poetry – ready to discuss

**Journal……10%**
*Kept up to date and turned in when asked and one week prior to juries for final grading.
*This is evidence of your development a s a singer and as such should be kept with you at all times, while practicing and in the studio.
*Your lesson recordings will help you to remember what went on during your lessons and should be recorded in your journals as well.
***See explanation below after VIII.**

**Listening……5%**
* kept up to date and turned in one week prior to juries

***At the end of each semester students will receive the above breakdown with comments.**

**The *Studio grade_____X (60%), Master Class (10%), and Jury(30%) make up the final grade.**
*** See Master Class Syllabus for a more complete breakdown.**

**V. Grading Scale**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 93-100 | A | 77-79 | C+ | 60-62 | D- |
| 90-92 | A - | 73-76 | C | 0-59 | F |
| 87-89 | B+ | 70-72 | C- | | |
| 83-86 | B | 66-69 | D+ | | |
| 80-82 | B- | 63-65 | D | | |

**VI. Conduct**
**The 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog of Westminster College (Pg. 10) states:** "The mission of Westminster College is to help men and women develop competencies, commitments, and characteristics, which have distinguished human beings at their best."

The abuse of alcohol and other drugs serves only to undermine the achievement of these goals. The faculty therefore expects all students, as they do of themselves, to take seriously the implications of such risk taking behaviors in their pursuit of a Westminster education.

**VII. Academic Integrity**
This policy is readily available in the First year guide (pg. 159) as well as the Student Handbook (pg. 22) and on the Westminster College web-site. Each student should become acquainted with this policy.

**VIII. Students with Disabilities -** Westminster College is committed to providing services and support for students with physical, psychological, visual, hearing or learning disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students who seek accommodations for diagnosed disabilities should contact the director of the Office of Disability Resources for further information.