Westminster College  
School of Music  
Opera Workshop MUS 425 and 525  
Spring 2018  
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Anne Hagan Bentz  
PH Studio D  
Pianist: Marie Libal-Smith  
Conductor: Mihai Valcu  
PH 51(MW), 53 (MWF) and Orr Auditorium  
Office Hours: MW 9:30-10 and TR 10:30-11  
MWF 3:10-4:50  * see below  
bentzah@westminster.edu  
724-946-6045  
724-728-3832  
724-658-4328  
The Opera is a two semester commitment.  
*End Rehearsals evenings 4/2 to 4/6 and Final  
Performance Saturday 4/7, 2018

I. Course Description
Opera Workshop is designed for students of singing to provide them with the techniques necessary in preparing an operatic role for performance. Students will study the principles of movement, body language, verbal and non-verbal communication, stage directions that enhance a singer’s performance, stage dance, and the process of learning to re-act as well as to “act” while singing. This is the second semester of the two-semester project “The Marriage of Figaro

II. Required Materials
1. Rehearsal clothes that allow you to move and appropriate shoes. No sneakers
2. Students may be expected to provide their parts of their costumes.
3. Score to The Marriage of Figaro

III. Course Objectives
Students will learn the necessary skills to prepare and execute a role within an operatic scene as well as the necessary “stage techniques” that a singer needs in order to be an effective performer.

IV. Outcomes and Assessments
1. Each student will attend all classes. Failure to attend class will result in lowering of your grade. No production can take place without a total commitment of the entire cast. In cases of sickness, students must have a documented excuse from a doctor and must have informed the instructor of a potential absence 24 hours in advance so that there is time to make adjustments in the rehearsal schedule. (prepared and on time to rehearsals, dressed in rehearsal attire and ready to sing/rehearse at 3:10), with a work attitude and behavior that helps rehearsals move ahead quickly

Additionally, Each student will be evaluated on their preparation in coachings and rehearsals. Coaches and Stage Director will evaluate each student based on attendance and preparation. Nr.of Rehearsals, Classes Attended and /Total Nr. Rehearsals Attended and Degree of Prep. X 15% =____%.

2. Each student is assigned to the completion of and preparation in writing – of the
“Synopsis form” which will be made available the first day of classes. (10%) 

3. Excellence in English Diction – Students will receive continuous feedback on their English Diction and must demonstrate improvement during follow up Rehearsals. (10%) 

4. Each student will be assigned a non performance task (program production, props, lighting/sound, set construction, advertising, etc.) (5 pts.) Based on thoroughness of task. (Scale of 1-5) (5pts.) Evidence of task’s timely completion. (Scale of 1-5) (10%) 

4. Role Execution (20%) Performance April 7, 2018 

5. Memorization of Blocking Acts I, II, III and IV (20%) 

6. Construction/ Set Up and Clean Up (each part is worth 15%) 

V. Basis for Grading 
* Weekly Attendance and Preparation for staging. 15% 
* Synopsis/ Preparation form 10% 
* Excellence in English Diction 10% 
* Non Performance Task for the Opera 10% 
* Memorization of Blocking Act I, II, III and IV 20% 
* Role Execution April 7, 2018 20% 
* Construction/ Set Up and Clean Up 15% 

***Those who are taking the course for “0” credit (MUS 525) with Instructor's permission only, are graded P/F and are obligated to do the same work as those taking it for credit. 

VI. Grading Scale 
93-100 A 77-79 C+ 60-63 D- 
90-92 A- 74-76 C 0-59 F 
87-89 B+ 70-73 C- 
83-86 B 67-69 D+ 
80-82 B- 64-66 D 

VII. Academic Integrity 

Academic integrity is central to the purpose of any academic community. We ask that you read the section in the catalog entitled "Academic Integrity" which includes the following definition:

"Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of the expected code of behavior. It can take several forms, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, purposely altering the work of another (without that person's permission), misrepresentation of attendance in class or at college events, misrepresentation of work, facts, or experimental results, unauthorized use of or intentional intrusion into another's computer files and/or programs, intentional damage to a computer system, and
unauthorized use of library materials and privileges, or engaging in any activity which attempts to alter or harm another's academic standing...

Of special concern is the issue of plagiarism, which is defined as leading your reader or listener to believe that what you have written or said is your own work, when, in fact, it is not. The range of plagiarism includes word-for-word copying of another's text, to even the unquoted borrowing of apt phrases or terms. All of these degrees of plagiarism are equally unethical and may be penalized with failure for the assignment, or, in extreme cases, failure for the course.

VIII. Conduct
"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."

Note: Documented disabilities and accommodations must be discussed with the instructor at the beginning of the course.