Westminster College
Department of Music
Vocal Pedagogy MUS 206-Syllabus
Fall 2018

MUS-206    Vocal Pedagogy Rm. 53    Instructor: Dr. Anne Hagan Bentz
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:50-12:30    Tel.: 724-946-6045
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:00, M 2-3 and by apt.    email: bentzah@westminster.edu

I. Course Description
This course is designed for music education and performance majors. Emphasis will be placed on the study of vocal production as it relates to singing and the specific principles of teaching voice. Students will also learn knowledge of the voice through studio teaching and observations of other voice instructors. Also included are the fundamentals of phonetics, articulation, and pronunciation of English. A student’s learning will be, as always, primarily a function of student effort and preparation.

II. Required Materials
Texts: The Singing Book by Meribeth Dayme & Cynthia Vaughn
Recording Device – Cellphone or other

III. Objectives
Students will develop an understanding of the physical and acoustical aspects of vocal production, the relationship and techniques used in one to one teaching. Students will accumulate sufficient resources for repertoire lists and books on singing and programming. Students will understand and be able to apply the principles of the International Phonetic Alphabet for the English Language.

IV. Topics for the semester
Mechanism of the voice    Diagnosing problems
Principles of production and vocalization    Classification of voices
One to one teaching    Knowledge of various vocal styles and
The changing voice    repertoire
Phonetics and English pronunciation

V. Content and Organization:
Teaching methods to be used: lectures, class demonstrations, class participation, video recordings, textbook readings and lesson observations and recital critiques.

VI. Assignments and Assessment:
Each student will prepare and be evaluated on the preparation of three songs (the final song is a part of the final examination); each more difficult depending on the ability of the student and assigned by the instructor. All songs will be chosen from The Singing Book. All Songs will be memorized and will focus on the various aspects of the vocal process.

Four scheduled Quizzes will be given and a final. The final examination will consist of two parts: 1. A vocal performance (Song #3) and 2. A written examination on material covered during Student Teaching observations in class. Quizzes and examinations may be made up only in cases of illness or emergency and must be pre-approved and accompanied by a doctor's excuse.

Each student will observe the teaching of 2 students this semester (one male and one female) by two different Westminster College staff instructors, and submit a two page, double-spaced, type-written report of your observations and evaluations of each lesson in essay format.
Each student will teach a voice student this semester beginning after the Mid Term Exam. Each student will select their student with approval of the instructor, teach their respective student at least six lessons and teach a lesson to this student in front of the class. Lesson plans for each lesson will be submitted at the time of your teaching presentation and the final lesson plan must be provided for the class members to see on the Elmo projector on the day of your in-class teaching. Students must make sure that your student is available at the time of your formal class teaching.

Each student will attend one classical solo vocal event and turn in a two-page, double-spaced typewritten critique of their observations and critique of each performance as related to what you have learned and discussed in class. Include the program. See your instructor for approved recitals to attend. Colloquium/Formal Performances at Colloquium reviews of at least two singers is one possibility as well as attendance at Vocal Masterclass if, and only if your own private instructor will permit this.

*Note: Identify each assignment with Name/Vocal Pedagogy/Critique or Observation #1or #2/ Date. These assignments will be turned in online and in paper form.

VII. Student’s Role
Preparedness: Be prepared for class (have practiced with you partner when assigned and on your own) and be on time.
Student behavior: *leaving in the middle of class is disruptive and rude. Discuss any sickness prior to the start of class and sit away from other students. Bring your materials (books) to class, plan ahead to use the rest rooms and turn in all material by the deadlines on your calendar.
Attendance: mandatory
Attitude: Be eager to learn, open to constructive criticism, willing to participate and to perform and teach individually in front of others.
Take Notes: Writing down important points reinforces what you have heard and practiced in class and is directly related to retention of material.

VIII. Basis for Grading
10% Class Participation & Worksheets
40% Quizzes
10% Final Examination –Written and Recital(Song 3)
10% 2 Songs
15% Practice Teaching-Lesson Plans, Execution of Lessons
10% Observations
5% Critique

IX. Grading Scale

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X. Reading and Assignment Preparation
The assigned reading, worksheet and practice assignments for a particular date should be completed prior to attending that day’s class. Your ability to comprehend lectures and benefit from discussion will be enhanced by having completed this work. Inability to address assigned material or failure to come with completed worksheets will be the basis for reduction in the participation grade.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day noted. Do not miss class trying to complete an assignment. It will already be too late.

Makeup Examinations – Make-up exams will only be given in the event of 1.) a doctor’s excuse verified illness or 2.) authorized and verified college-related activities. A make-up examination for the final examination will be given only due to illness verified by a doctor’s excuse. Note: sick in room is not an acceptable excuse.
Incomplete Grades – Incomplete grades will be awarded only when students contact Dr. Bentz in advance of assigned due dates and explain the reasons for their failure to complete the assigned work on time. Failure to do so will result in a lowered grade for the assignment. Unless all course requirements are fulfilled (or other arrangements are made) by the end of the term you will receive an “F” for the course.

Absences - Because this is a participatory class, one must be present to participate. Therefore, attendance is mandatory to receive a good grade. More than two absences will result in demotion of one full grade.

XI. 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.”

College Handbook

In order to ensure that the classroom environment is both pleasant and conducive to learning, it will be expected that each student will conduct themselves in class in a manner that is respectful of both instructor and other students. A student who insists on making the learning environment hostile or unpleasant for others will be excused from class and will receive a “0” for class participation grade. Further instances of such behavior are grounds for expulsion from class.

XII. 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...

College Handbook

Of special concern is the issue of plagiarism, which is defined as leading your read 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.

In cases of cheating and plagiarism a grade of “0” will be issued for that assignment for a first offense and the dean will be notified of this grievance. Any further instances of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for the course and possible suspension from the college.

Please Note: If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the course.