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 (see Master Class syllabus) or to borrow it from the library and to have original copies in their possession whenever they are performing in public. *See the Vocal Master Class Syllabus for details of what each level must purchase.

*Students must provide copies of their music for their teachers and accompanists.

*A Notebook with your music for the semester will be kept in Dr. Bentz’s Studio. **Students are required** to learn their own music. This includes pitches, rhythms, accompaniments, (IPA) correct language pronunciations and translations. IPA and Translations will be completed by the fourth week of classes, recorded in your music and evaluated by your instructor. 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 BA 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 10 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 and link. 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 the fourth week of classes.**

*Students are required to inform their teachers of all solo performances during the semester.

*Students are required to sight sing as part of each voice lesson. This material will come from your 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 one week prior to the final jury for a grade.

*Journaling -Journaling teaches you to reflect on what and how you are learning and to document your development as a singer, an artist and a technician. It is an important 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. Growth in the vocal area is directly related to the amount and quality of time you spend in the practice room putting into practice what you learned in your lessons, preparing your diction, technique, and interpretation. Journal entries should be written with attention to good grammar and sentence structure, be legible and make sense to the reader. It is a means of letting your instructor know how you are working, and what you are comprehending or not comprehending on your journey to become a singer. Content is crucial. *See Journal below.

*Accountability
Students must observe another voice student’s lesson four times a semester. This may be in your own studio or in Mr. Ambert’s studio. Students will also be assigned by their instructor to practice a task in front of another student from your
own studio six times a semester. Each time with a different student. The purpose of these two exercises is to make students accountable for their practice and to listen with discernment to others.

III. Outcomes and Assessment
The Studio grade given by your private instructor is worth 65% of the total studio grade. The other 25% is your Memorization Grade and 10% is your coaching attendance grade. Studio Lesson Grade -see below.

Preparation (5pts. each) .................................................................................................................................................45%

____ *IPA (phonetics) completed and turned in within the first three weeks of classes. (due by 9/14/18)

____ *Translations completed and written into your music in the first four weeks of classes. (due by 9/21/18)

____ *Punctuality with regard to your lesson, timely notice to your instructor of sickness or absences (24hrs.) Students must inform instructors of all outside solo performances.

____ *Evidence of regular practicing – rhythms and notes are learned at home. Daily practice 1hr BA, Med, 2hrs. VP

____ *Evidence of practice and progress in Sight Singing. Sight Singing is required during each lesson.

____ *Research of song literature and poetry – ready to discuss.

____ *Evidence of progress in interpretation and presentation skills

____ *Student comes to lesson with a plan about what they need to accomplish.

____ *Timely preparation of all vocal lit prior to the memorization test.

Journal (2pts. each) .....................................................................................................................................................5%

____ *Kept up to date and turned in when asked and one week prior to juries for final grading.

____ *Journals should be kept with you while practicing and in the studio.

____ *Evidence of recording lessons and listening to them should be reflected in your journals

____ *Daily entries will reflect the work you are doing

____ *Assignments from lessons as well as questions for the Instructor should be recorded and will be turned in one week before juries.

Listening (1 pt. each) ....................................................................................................................................................10%

____ *10 song assignment completed and turned in by the fourth week of classes. (due 9/21/18)

Accountability .........................................................................................................................................................5%

____ *4 observations (in another lesson – may also be from another studio)

____ *6 working together (assigned by your teacher within your own studio)

V. Grading Scale

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VI. Conduct
The 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog of Westminster College 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 expect 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 as well as the Student Handbook and on the Westminster College website. 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.