

MUS 3605 – Vocal Techniques
FALL, 2016
Department of Music
Section 01, R 5:30-8:00 pm
Humanities Bldg., Rm. 331

Instructor: Dr. Molly M. Breckling
Office: Humanities rm. 333
Office Phone: 678-839-2432
Office Hours: MW: 9:00-10:00, 11:15-2:00, R: 11:15-5:00, F: 9:00-10:00
Email: mbreckli@westga.edu (ALWAYS TRY EMAIL FIRST!)

Credit Hours: 3

Required Materials:

- Meribeth Dayme & Cynthia Vaughn. *The Singing Book*, 3rd ed. Norton, 2014.
 - You must have a pencil with you for all class meetings.
- All materials are available at campus bookstore.

You will need to activate your UWG email account (if you have not already done so) and be able to access CourseDen.

Course Description:

Principles, fundamentals, pedagogy, and techniques for singing. Includes a survey of instructional materials and literature for voice.

Student learning outcomes

Each student will:

- become fluent in their knowledge of the function and anatomy of the vocal mechanism.
- establish ideal guidelines for teaching voice to singers of all types and ages
- learn 4 songs from the established vocal literature
- have the chance to teach their fellow students in class.

Course Evaluations – Method of Grading

Written Exams: 40%

Exam I (Sept. 8): 10%

Exam II (Sept. 29): 10%

Exam III (Oct. 27): 10%

Exam IV (Dec. 8, 5:00-7:00 pm): 10%

Performance Exams: 40%

Exam I (Sept. 15): 10%

Exam II (Oct. 13): 10%

Exam III (Nov. 10): 10%
Exam IV (Dec. 8, 5:00-7:00 pm): 10%
Class Participation and In-class assignments 20%

GRADE BREAKDOWN

A= 100 – 90 B= 89 – 80 C= 79 – 70 D= 69 – 60 F= 59

ASSIGNMENTS

Written Exams: Four written exams will be administered throughout the term. Each will test your comprehension of materials we have covered, as pertains to the singing mechanism, techniques of proper singing, and vocal literature. Exams will consist of short answer, fill in the blank, and essay questions.

Scantron is not used in this class.

Performance Exams: Four performance exams will be administered throughout the term. Exam I will consist of group (2-3 people) performances of Popular Song literature found in your textbook. Exam II will be performed as solos drawn from the Folk Song portion of the book. Exam III will be performed as solos in English from the Art Song portion of the book. Exam IV will be performed as solos in a foreign language from the Art Song portion of the book.

Class Participation and In-class assignments: We will work actively for a portion of every class meeting on singing techniques. Your participation will be evaluated on a score of 0-10 for each of those days, and that will comprise your Class Participation/Activity grade.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services](#).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success](#) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center](#) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

ONLINE COURSES

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online](#) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide](#).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares](#) site. [Online counseling](#) is also available for online students.

HONOR CODE

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia

assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

UWG EMAIL POLICY

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

CREDIT HOUR POLICY

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

FERPA

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, instructors cannot discuss any information pertaining to a student's grade via email or telephone unless the student signs an 1126 form waiving his or her FERPA rights

POLICIES

1. **Attendance Policy:** while I aim to treat you like responsible adults and do not like the notion of taking attendance, doing so is required for paperwork purposes. A class such as ours is also highly experiential, so missing class not only means losing the opportunity to learn, but the loss of that day's Class Participation/Activity grade. I will take attendance (either actively, in written form, or silently) at the beginning of class. Once class activity has begun, I will no longer mark you present. If you enter class late and wish to be marked present (albeit tardy), it will be your responsibility to speak to me AFTER class. That said, walking in late is disruptive to the instructor and your classmates. Don't do it. The daily class schedule has been changed to give you more time to walk between classes, so if you have back-to-back classes, plan accordingly.

If you are a student athlete, please submit your game schedule to your instructor within the first two weeks of class. You may not miss class due to practice, however, with the proper game schedule documentation, your instructor will work with you on your absences due to your games. You **may not**, however, submit late work due to a game or a practice. It is your responsibility to follow the course schedule and be aware of any class material and / or homework.

2. Observance of Religious Holidays – Students may miss class to observe religious holidays under the following circumstances:

- Student must notify instructor in writing during the first two weeks of the semester
- Make-up work or alternate assignments will be provided. Students must submit make-up work by the assigned due date or they will not be accepted.

3. Late work Policy

Assignments must be turned in on time. Work that is submitted after that time, but within 24 hours will be deducted 10% of the final grade. Each 24 hours after the due date that passes before work is submitted will drop the grade by a further 10%. Work more than 10 days overdue will not be accepted. If extreme circumstances prevent you from submitted an assignment on time, contact the instructor as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements for turning in your work.

4. Make-Up Exam Policy

Make-up exams will not be offered except under extreme, documented circumstances. If you are unable to attend an exam, you must contact me by the end of that day to make alternate arrangements. If I do not hear from you by 11:59pm on the day of the exam, you will not be allowed to make it up. You will only be allowed one make-up exam during the course of the term, and only if you provide sufficient documentation to warrant to make-up.

In class participation grades cannot be made up.

5. Other Classroom policies

Cell phones and laptops are NOT allowed in the classroom. They provide more of a distraction than a benefit to learning, so respect those around you, and do not use them. If I find you using these items, I will ask you to put them away, further instances will be met with a written warning, and a third will result in your withdrawal fro the course. BTW, holding your phone in your lap and texting during class is easy to spot from the front of the room. You're not fooling anyone. So, don't insult my intelligence, and I won't embarrass you in front of your classmates.

Accessibility Services: <https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php>

Accessibility Services is available for students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability. To determine eligibility, contact the office 123 Row Hall, Main Campus; Phone: 678-839-6428; Fax: 678-839-6429. Students registered with Accessibility Services must make arrangements with me in advance in order to receive accommodations. I will not seek you out, and I cannot arrange certain accommodations without advanced warning, so if you require such services, let me know ASAP.

Writing Center - <http://www.westga.edu/writing/index.php>

Students are greatly encouraged to consult the Writing Center on any written projects for this course.

At the University Writing Center, faculty and graduate tutors assist students with all areas of the writing process.

We offer free 30-minute and hour-long individual tutorials and welcome students from all disciplines, at any level.

Phone: 678-839-6513

Email: writing@westga.edu

COURSE OUTLINE: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. NOTE: Reading and listening assignments must be completed BEFORE the listed course meeting.

Thur. 8/11: Course introduction. Syllabus.

Thur. 8/18: Part I, Chapter 1
Healthy Singing

Thur. 8/25: NO CLASS MEETING. Get together with your Performance Exam groups. Select a song, and begin rehearsing.

Thur. 9/1: Part I, Chapter 2
Preparing To Sing

Thur. 9/8: Part I, Chapter 3
Selecting Music To Sing
LAST HOUR OF CLASS: **Written Exam I** (Pt. I, Ch 1-3)

Thur. 9/15: BEGINNING OF CLASS: **Performance Exam I** (Small groups, Popular Songs)

Pt. 1, Chapter 4
Learning Music Efficiently

Thur. 9/22: Pt. 1, Chapter 5
Practice Habits

Thur. 9/29: Part 1, Chapter 6
Performing
LAST HOUR OF CLASS: **Written Exam II** (Pt. I, Ch. 4-6)

Thur. 10/6: NO CLASS MEETING. HAPPY FALL BREAK!

Thur. 10/13: BEGINNING OF CLASS: **Performance Exam II** (Solo, Folk Songs)

Thur. 10/20: Pt. III, Chapter 7
Muscles and Physical Balance

Thur. 10/27: Pt. III, Chapter 8
Breathing

Thur. 11/3: Pt. III, Chapter 9
Making Sound
LAST HOUR OF CLASS: **Written Exam III** (Pt. III, Ch. 7-9)

Thur. 11/10: BEGINNING OF CLASS: **Performance Exam III** (Solo, English Art Songs)
Pt. III, Chapter 10
Voice Quality and Resonance

Thur. 11/17: Pt. III, Chapter 11
Articulation and Expression

Thur. 11/24: NO CLASS MEETING. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Thur. 12/1: Pt. III, Chapter 12
Maintaining a Healthy Voice

Thur, 12/8 (5:00-7:00 pm): Performance and Written Exams IV

