APPLIED VOICE SYLLABUS
MU 8301
Graduate Majors

Course Goal:
To provide instruction for the student to develop their level of singing appropriate to the Master of Music in Performance through technical exercises, repertoire study, and performances before faculty and peers. Implicit in the selection of this course by the student is his/her intent to enhance the ability to use the singing voice as a critical tool in a career as a performer and educator.

Learning Objectives:
As a result of applied voice study, the student will be able to perform memorized a minimum number of songs and demonstrate appropriate and improving competencies listed below.

- Sings on pitch with correct rhythms
- Observes dynamics and musical symbols in the score
- Employs good breath management with loose yet energetic breathing
- Demonstrates good diction including crisp consonants and clear vowels
- Performs the assigned literature from memory (when appropriate)
- Prepares adequately for lessons and performances
- Displays confidence and relative ease in lessons and performances
- Presents a professional attitude toward performing including promptness and appropriate dress
- Exhibits enthusiasm about learning the music and participating in the musical experience
- Interprets score markings with appropriate awareness of style and historical practice
- Uses body and facial expression to demonstrate involvement with the musical message
- Demonstrates attention to the accompaniment and ability to sing in relation to it
- Displays general knowledge of the overall structure and meaning of text and music

Course Procedures:
Students enrolled in this course will receive an hour lesson each week plus one large group experience per week in either Studio Class (one teacher with only their students) or Performance Class (all voice faculty with all students present). Your Performance Class requirement is as follows:

- Vocal Performance Majors: 3 performances each semester
- Vocal Education Majors: 2 performances each semester

After arranging a voice lesson time with your assigned teacher as soon as possible in the semester, you will be assigned repertoire according to the guidelines agreed upon by the voice faculty. To allow sufficient time for preparation for required juries each semester, you will receive your repertoire assignments no later than the third week of the semester. Your instructor will assign repertoire relating your past experience to undergraduate repertoire requirements for juries as listed in the Vocal Area Student Policies and Procedures.
**Principal Resource Materials:**
Classic solo literature from most periods of music history; folk songs and music from the stage (opera, musical theatre) included at the instructor’s discretion. **Music performed in Performance class and repertoire submitted for juries must be memorized.**

**Evaluation:**
*Attendance:* Attendance at 80% of scheduled private lessons is required in order to receive a passing grade. If you must cancel a lesson, you must provide reasonable notice – this means you must call or e-mail your instructor at least 24 hours prior to your lesson time (extenuating circumstances may exist). Your instructor is obligated to make-up only one student-initiated excused absence per semester. Additional make-ups are by the instructor’s discretion. If your instructor must cancel your lesson, however, the lesson will be made up. If extenuating circumstances exist that force several student absences throughout a semester (legitimate illness, etc.), the instructor will make every attempt to make them up.

*Grading:* Your weekly voice lessons count as 70% of your Applied Voice grade. Specific factors taken into consideration while determining that grade include attendance, preparation, engagement, application of technical and performance concepts and overall improvement from week-to-week. Details of these factors are listed in the Applied Voice Rubric in the Voice Area Student Policies and Procedures.

The jury counts as 30% of the Applied Voice grade. Specific factors taken into consideration while determining that grade include vocal technique, intonation, musical accuracy, commitment to performance (text/character), and memorization. Details of these factors are listed in the Vocal Jury Rubric in the Voice Area Student Policies and Procedures.

**University grading scale:**

- A = 93.0%
- A- = 90.0%
- B+ = 87.0%
- B = 83.0%
- B- = 80.0%
- C+ = 77.0%
- C = 73.0%
- C- = 70.0%
- D+ = 67.0%
- D = 63.0%
- F = below 60.0%

*Having and maintaining a healthy instrument is an important aspect of a singer’s development. The following topics will be covered in voice studio classes and lessons: Importance of a healthy diet, sleep patterns and their effect on your voice, importance of a healthy speaking voice, lifestyle patterns, importance of exercise, side effects of medications, and how to take care of yourself when you have a cold.*

For more information on vocal musculoskeletal health and injury prevention please consult the following link:


*The following link is to University Policy Statements:*
[http://www.d.umn.edu/academic-affairs/academic-policies/classroom-policies/recommended-syllabi-policy-statements](http://www.d.umn.edu/academic-affairs/academic-policies/classroom-policies/recommended-syllabi-policy-statements)